

Descriptions of Paradise

from

The Qur'aan and Hadeeth

Collected and Compiled by

Dr. 'Abdullah 'Abdurrahman Al-Shimemeri

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	ii
The Creation of Paradise	1
The Gates of Paradise	3
Paradise - That Which Has Never Been Imagined by a Human Being	6
The Rivers of Paradise	7
The Fountains of Paradise	8
The Gardens and Trees of Paradise	10
The Shade of Paradise	13
The Atmosphere of Paradise	15
The Market of Paradise	16
The Bounty of the People of Paradise	17
The Food and Drink of Paradise	19
The Vessels and Plates of Paradise	23
The Dwellings of the People of Paradise	24
The Thrones of the People of Paradise	26
The Reception of the People of Paradise	28
The People of Paradise	30
The Women of Paradise	34
The Garments of Paradise	37
The Bracelets of the People of Paradise	39
The Youthful Servants of Paradise	41
The Activities of the People of Paradise	42
The Ranks of Paradise	44
The Lowest Rank in Paradise	47
Everlasting Life in Paradise	50
The Greatest Thing in Paradise	53
References for the Collection	56

FOREWORD

Certainly the ultimate goal of every Muslim is Paradise. As with all aspects of the Unseen, it can only be imagined through analogy, yet its realities are far beyond description in any human language. Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) has prepared for His servants "what no eye has seen and no ear has heard and has never occurred to a human heart."¹ This eternal home is not limited to what is described here of material and spiritual enjoyments, for it includes "all the soul has longed for" and finally, the greatest and most complete pleasure beyond all imagination - the presence and nearness of the Creator Himself.

Who are the inheritors of such blessing? Who are the souls worthy of such reward?

It is common belief among Muslims today that anyone who professes "*La Ilaha ill-Allah*" and "*Muhammadun Rasoolullah*" will enter Paradise. Yet this testimony is more than a statement of the tongue. It is an oath, a commitment that must be fulfilled. It has conditions and requirements which affect all aspects of life. It concerns authority - what actually governs our behavior and deeds. The Arabs of Quraish who refused to pronounce this *kalimah* did so because they fully understood its implications. Yet Muslims repeat it today without a second thought, their actions and life styles bearing witness to something totally different. And they expect Paradise!

In the Qur'aan, Allah (swt) has warned against complacency in religion like that of the Jews and Christians who mistakenly claim that God has favored them over others and that Paradise is theirs alone: **"It is not by your wishes, nor the wishes of the People of the Scriptures. Whoever does a wrong shall be punished for it, and he will not find other than Allah as protector or helper."**²

Yet many of today's Muslims consider themselves a chosen people, while neglecting the commands of their Lord, turning their backs on the *sunnah* of their Prophet (peace be upon him) and insisting on a secular life far from the blessings of divine law... perhaps even going so far as to deny certain aspects of that law. Customs and traditions, materialism, man-made social systems, national leaders and even their own inclinations are now sharing the authority

¹ Narrated by Bukhaari, Muslim and others.

² Soorah Al-Nisaa', 4:123.

which rightfully belongs exclusively to our Creator, Owner of the Day of Judgement.

The reward of Paradise is too great not to have a price. That price is true faith which is proven by obedience to Allah and His Messenger. The Qur'aan states, **"And whoever desires the Hereafter and exerts the effort due to it while being a believer - those are the ones whose effort is appreciated [by Allah]."**³

We must return to the Qur'aan, not simply in an emotional or academic manner, but with a sense of instruction for obedience and action. We must find out what kind of people Allah has asked us to be and then become as such. This is the road to Paradise.

THE CREATION OF PARADISE

Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said:

"When Allah created Paradise and Hellfire, He sent Gabriel to Paradise, saying, 'Look at it and at what I have prepared therein for its inhabitants.' So Gabriel went to it and looked at it and at what Allah had prepared therein for its inhabitants. Then Gabriel returned to Allah and said, 'By Your glory, no one hears of it without entering it.' So Allah ordered that it be encompassed by forms of hardship,¹ and He said, 'Return to it and look at what I have prepared therein for its inhabitants.' So Gabriel returned to it and found that it was encompassed by forms of hardship. Then he returned to Allah and said, 'By Your glory, I fear that no one will enter it.' Allah said, 'Go to Hellfire and look at it and at what I have prepared therein for its inhabitants.' Gabriel found that it was in layers, one above the other. Then Gabriel returned to Allah and said, 'By Your glory, no one who hears of it will enter it.' So Allah ordered that it be encompassed by lusts. Then He said, 'Return to it.' And Gabriel returned to it and said, 'By Your glory, I am frightened that no one will escape from entering it.'"²

Masruuq said:

"We asked [or I asked]³ 'Abdullah [Ibn Mas'ood] about this verse: **"And do not regard those who have been killed in the cause of Allah as dead, rather, they are alive with their Lord and being provided for."**⁴ He said, 'We asked about that and the Prophet said, "Their souls are in the insides of green birds, having lanterns suspended from the Throne, roaming freely in Paradise where they please, then taking shelter in those lanterns. Their Lord cast a glance at them and said, 'Do you wish for anything?' They said, 'What shall we wish for when we

³ Soorah Al-Israa', 17:19.

¹The Arabic word used here is *makaarih*, literally, "things that are disliked." In this context it refers to positive and negative forms of religious discipline that one often finds difficult.

²Related by At-Tirmidhi, Abu Dawood and An-Nasaa'i.

³An alternative reading.

roam freely in Paradise where we please?' And He did that with them three times. When they saw that they would not be spared from being asked [again], they said, 'Oh Lord, we would like for You to put our souls back into our bodies so that we might fight for Your sake once again.' When Allah saw that they were not in need of anything, they were let be."⁵

THE GATES OF PARADISE

"Gardens of perpetual bliss - they shall enter them, as well as the righteous among their fathers, their spouses and their offspring. And angels shall enter upon them from every gate."⁶

جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا وَمَنْ صَلَحَ مِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ
وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ يَدْخُلُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ بَابٍ ﴿٢٢﴾

"This is a reminder. Verily, for the righteous is a beautiful place of [final] return - gardens of eternity, whose doors will [always] be open to them."⁷

هَذَا ذِكْرٌ وَإِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ لَحُسْنَ مَآبٍ ﴿٤١﴾ جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ مَفْرُوحَةٍ
لَهُمْ الْأَنْبُوبُ ﴿٥٠﴾

"And those who feared their Lord will be led to the Garden in crowds, until behold, they arrive there. Its gates will be opened, and its keepers will say, 'Peace be upon you! Well have you done, so enter it, abiding [in it] eternally.'"⁸

وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا رَبَّهُمْ إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ زُمَرًا حَتَّى إِذَا جَاءُوهَا
وَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ طِبْتُمْ
فَادْخُلُوهَا خَالِدِينَ ﴿٧٢﴾

Sahl bin Sa'd reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"Paradise has eight gates, and one of them is called *ar-Rayyaan*, through which none will enter but those who observe fasting."⁹

Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"Whoever spends two things in the way of Allah will be called

⁶Soorah Al-Ra'd, 13:23.

⁷Soorah Saad, 38:49-50.

⁸Soorah Al-Zumar, 39:73.

⁴Soorah Aali 'Imraan, 3:169.

⁵Related by Muslim, At-Tirmidhi, An-Nasaa'i and Ibn Maajah.

from the gates of Paradise and will be addressed, 'Oh slave of Allah, here is prosperity!' So whoever was among the people who used to offer their prayers will be called from the gate of the prayer; and whoever was among the people who used to participate in *jihad* will be called from the gate of *jihad*; and whoever was among those who used to observe fasts will be called from the gate of *ar-Rayyaan*; and whoever was among those who used to give in charity will be called from the gate of charity." Abu Bakr said, "Let my parents be sacrificed for you, Oh Allah's Apostle! No distress or need will befall him who will be called from those gates. Will there be anyone who will be called from all these gates?" The Prophet (peace be upon him) replied, "Yes, and I hope you will be one of them."¹⁰

'Uqba bin 'Aamir said:

"We were entrusted with the task of tending the camels. On my turn, when I came back in the evening after grazing them in the pastures, I found Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) stand and address the people. I heard these words of his, 'If any Muslim performs ablution well, then stands and prays two *rak'ahs*, setting about them with his heart as well as his face, Paradise will be guaranteed to him.' I said, 'What a fine thing this is!' A narrator who was before me said, 'The first was even better than this.' When I cast a glance, I saw that it was 'Umar who said, 'I see that you have just come and observed. If anyone among you performs the ablution, completes the ablution well and says, "I testify that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the servant of Allah and His Messenger," then the eight gates of Paradise will be opened for him and he may enter by whichever of them he wishes."¹¹

⁹Related by Al-Bukhaari.

¹⁰Related by Al-Bukhaari.

¹¹Related by Muslim.

Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said:

"The gates of Paradise will be opened on Mondays and on Thursdays, and every servant [of Allah] who associates nothing with Allah will be forgiven, except for the man who has a grudge against his brother. [About them] it will be said, 'Delay these two until they are reconciled. Delay these two until they are reconciled. Delay these two until they are reconciled.'"¹²

¹²Related by Muslim, Maalik and Abu Dawood.

PARADISE - THAT WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN IMAGINED BY A HUMAN BEING

"Be foremost [in seeking] forgiveness from your Lord. And a garden [of bliss], the width of the heavens and the earth, prepared for those who believe in Allah and His messengers - that is the grace of Allah, which He bestows on whom He pleases, and Allah is the Lord of abounding grace."¹³

سَابِقُوا إِلَى مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا كَعَرْضِ السَّمَاءِ
وَالْأَرْضِ أُعِدَّتْ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ ذَلِكَ فَضْلُ
اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ ﴿١٣﴾

Abu Hurayrah reported that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said that Allah said:

"I have prepared for My righteous servants what no eye has seen and no ear has heard, nor has it occurred to the human heart. Thus, recite if you wish, 'And no soul knows what joy has been kept hidden for them.'¹⁴

Sahl bin Sa'd narrated that Allah's Apostle (peace be upon him) said:

"A place in Paradise equal to the size of a lash is better than the whole world and whatever is in it."¹⁵

¹³ Soorah Al-Hadeed, 57:21.

¹⁴ Related by Al-Bukhaari, Muslim, At-Tirmidhi and Ibn Maajah. The Qur'aanic quote is from Soorah Al-Sajdah, 32:17.

¹⁵ Related by Al-Bukhaari.

THE RIVERS OF PARADISE

"[Here is] a parable of the Garden which the righteous are promised. In it are rivers of water, incorruptible; rivers of milk of which the taste never changes; rivers of wine, delicious to those who drink; and rivers of honey, pure and clear. In it there are for them all kinds of fruits and forgiveness from their Lord. [Can those in such bliss] be compared to such as shall dwell for ever in the Fire? [Those to whom shall] be given boiling water to drink, [it will be so hot that] it cuts up their bowels [to pieces]."¹⁶

مَثَلُ الْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي وَعَدَ الْمُتَّقُونَ فِيهَا أَنْهَارٌ مِّن مَّاءٍ غَيْرِ آسِنٍ وَأَنْهَارٌ مِّن لَّبَنٍ لَّمْ يَتَغَيَّرْ طَعْمُهُ
وَأَنْهَارٌ مِّن خَمْرٍ لَّذَّةٍ لِلشَّارِبِينَ وَأَنْهَارٌ مِّن عَسَلٍ مُصَفًّى وَلَهُمْ فِيهَا مِن كُل الثَّمَرَاتِ وَمَغْفِرَةٌ مِّن
رَّبِّهِمْ كَمَنْ هُوَ خَالِدٌ فِي النَّارِ وَسُقُوا مَاءً حَمِيمًا فَقَطَّعَ أَمْعَاءُهُمْ ﴿١٦﴾

"As for the righteous, they will be in the midst of gardens and rivers, in an assembly of truth, in the presence of a Sovereign Omnipotent."¹⁷

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَنَهَرٍ ﴿١٦﴾ فِي مَقْعَدِ صِدْقٍ عِندَ مَلِكٍ مُّقْدِرٍ ﴿١٧﴾

"Verily, Allah will admit those who believe and do righteous deeds to gardens beneath which rivers flow. While those who reject Allah will enjoy [this world] and eat as cattle eat. The Fire will be their abode."¹⁸

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُدْخِلُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا
يَتَمَنَّوْنَ أَن يَكُونُوا كَمَا تَأْكُلُ الْأَنْعَامُ وَالنَّارُ مَطْوًى لَهُمْ ﴿١٧﴾

Abu Hurayrah reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"The Saihaan, Jaihaan, Euphrates and Nile are all among the rivers of Paradise."¹⁹

¹⁶ Soorah Muhammad, 47:15.

¹⁷ Soorah Al-Qamar, 54:54-55.

¹⁸ Soorah Muhammad, 47:12.

¹⁹ Related by Muslim.

THE FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE

"The righteous will be amid gardens and springs. [They will be greeted], 'Enter here in peace and security.' And We shall remove from their hearts any lurking sense of injury. [They will be] brothers facing each other on thrones."²⁰

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ ﴿١٥﴾ أَذْخُلُوها سَلَامًا أَمِينٍ ﴿١٦﴾
وَنَزَعْنَا مَا فِي صُدُورِهِمْ مِنْ غَلٍّ إِخْوَانًا عَلَى سُرُرٍ مُتَقَابِلِينَ ﴿١٧﴾

"Their thirst will be slaked with pure wine, sealed. The seal will be of musk. For this, let the competitors compete. With it [will be given] a mixture of *Tasneem*,²¹ a spring from which those nearest to Allah drink."²²

يُسْقَوْنَ مِنْ رَحِيقٍ مَخْتُومٍ ﴿٢٥﴾ خَتَمُهُ مِنْسُوكٌ وَفِي ذَلِكَ فَلْيَتَنَافَسِ
الْمُنَافِسُونَ ﴿٢٦﴾ وَمِنْ أَجْزَاهُ مِنْ تَسْنِيمٍ ﴿٢٧﴾ عَيْنًا يَشْرَبُ بِهَا الْمُقَرَّبُونَ

"A fountain there, called *Salsabeel*."²³

عَيْنًا فِيهَا تُسَمَّى سَلْسَبِيلًا ﴿١٨﴾

"Therein will be a flowing spring."²⁴

فِيهَا عَيْنٌ جَارِيَةٌ ﴿١٩﴾

"In them [i.e. each garden] will be two springs, flowing [freely]."²⁵

فِيهِمَا عَيْنَانِ تَجْرِيَانِ ﴿٢٠﴾

²⁰ Soorah Al-Hijr, 15:45-47.

²¹ The highest spring in Paradise.

²² Soorah Al-Mutaffifeen, 83:25-28.

²³ Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:18.

²⁴ Soorah Al-Ghaashiyah, 88:12.

²⁵ Soorah Al-Rahmaan, 55:50.

²⁶ A cool and refreshing drink.

"As for the righteous, they shall drink from a cup in which is a mixture of *kaafoor*²⁶ - a fountain from which the [righteous] servants of Allah drink, causing it to burst forth [simply by their will]."²⁷

إِنَّ الْأَبْرَارَ يَشْرَبُونَ مِنْ كَأْسٍ كَانَ مِزَاجُهَا كَافُورًا ﴿٥﴾
عَيْنًا يَشْرَبُ بِهَا عِبَادُ اللَّهِ يُفَجِّرُونَهَا تَفْجِيرًا ﴿٦﴾

²⁷ Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:5-6.

THE FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE

"The righteous will be amid gardens and springs. [They will be greeted], 'Enter here in peace and security.' And We shall remove from their hearts any lurking sense of injury. [They will be] brothers facing each other on thrones."²⁰

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ ﴿١٥﴾ أَذْخُلُوهَا بِسَلَامٍ ءَامِنِينَ ﴿١٦﴾
وَنَزَعْنَا مَا فِي صُدُورِهِمْ مِنْ غَلٍّ إِخْوَانًا عَلَى سُرُرٍ مُتَقَابِلِينَ ﴿١٧﴾

"Their thirst will be slaked with pure wine, sealed. The seal will be of musk. For this, let the competitors compete. With it [will be given] a mixture of *Tasneem*,²¹ a spring from which those nearest to Allah drink."²²

يُسْقَوْنَ مِنْ رَحِيقٍ مَخْتُومٍ ﴿٢٥﴾ خَتَمُهُ مِسْكٌ وَفِي ذَلِكَ فَلْيَتَنَافَسِ
الْمُنَافِسُونَ ﴿٢٦﴾ وَمِمَّا جَاءَهُ مِنْ تَسْنِيمٍ ﴿٢٧﴾ عَيْنًا يَشْرَبُ بِهَا الْمُقَرَّبُونَ

"A fountain there, called *Salsabeel*."²³

عَيْنًا فِيهَا تُسَمَّى سَلْسَبِيلًا ﴿١٨﴾

"Therein will be a flowing spring."²⁴

فِيهَا عَيْنٌ جَارِيَةٌ ﴿١٩﴾

"In them [i.e. each garden] will be two springs, flowing [freely]."²⁵

فِيهِمَا عَيْنَانِ تَجْرِيَانِ ﴿٢٠﴾

²⁰Soorah Al-Hijr, 15:45-47.

²¹The highest spring in Paradise.

²²Soorah Al-Mutaffifeen, 83:25-28.

²³Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:18.

²⁴Soorah Al-Ghaashiyah, 88:12.

²⁵Soorah Al-Rahmaan, 55:50.

²⁶A cool and refreshing drink.

"As for the righteous, they shall drink from a cup in which is a mixture of *kaafoor*²⁶ - a fountain from which the [righteous] servants of Allah drink, causing it to burst forth [simply by their will]."²⁷

إِنَّ الْأَبْرَارَ يَشْرَبُونَ مِنْ كَأْسٍ كَانَ مِزَاجُهَا كَافُورًا ﴿٥﴾
عَيْنًا يَشْرَبُ بِهَا عِبَادُ اللَّهِ يُفَجِّرُونَهَا تَفْجِيرًا ﴿٦﴾

²⁷Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:5-6.

THE GARDENS AND TREES OF PARADISE

"Verily, for the righteous there will be attainment of security - gardens enclosed and grapevines."²⁸

إِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ مَفَازًا (٣١) حَدَائِقَ وَأَعْنَابًا (٣٢)

"In them will be two pairs of every fruit."²⁹

فِيهِمَا مِنْ كُلِّ فَاكِهَةٍ زَوْجَانِ (٣٣)

"They will recline on carpets whose linings will be of rich brocade. The fruit of the gardens will be hanging near [and in easy reach]. Then which of the favors of your Lord will you deny?"³⁰

مُتَّكِئِينَ عَلَى فُرُشٍ بَطَاطِنُهَا مِنْ إِسْتَبْرَقٍ وَجَنَى الْجَنَّتَيْنِ دَانٍ (٣٤)
فِي أَيِّ أَلَاءٍ رَبِّكُمَا تُكْذِبَانِ (٣٥)

"In them will be fruits and dates and pomegranates."³¹

فِيهِمَا فَاكِهَةٌ وَنَخْلٌ وَرُمَّانٌ (٣٦)

"The companions of the right hand - what are the companions of the right hand? [They will be] among lote trees without thorns, among *talh*³² trees with flowers [or fruits] piled one above another, and in shade long-extended, by water flowing [constantly] and fruit in abundance whose season is not limited nor [supply] forbidden."³³

وَأَصْحَابُ الْيَمِينِ مَا أَصْحَابُ الْيَمِينِ (٣٧) فِي سِدْرٍ مَخْضُودٍ (٣٨) وَطَلْحٍ مَّنْضُودٍ (٣٩) وَظِلٍّ
مَّمْدُودٍ (٤٠) وَمَاءٍ مَّسْكُوبٍ (٤١) وَفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ (٤٢) لَا مَقْطُوعَةٍ وَلَا مَمْنُوعَةٍ (٤٣)

"And its shades will come low over them, and the bunches [of

fruit] will hang low in compliance."³⁴

وَدَانِيَةً عَلَيْهِمْ ظِلُّهَا وَذُلِّلَتْ قُطُوفُهَا تَذْلِيلًا (٤٤)

Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"In Paradise there is a tree under the shadow of which a rider can travel for a hundred years." [Through another chain of transmitters the following words were added], "He will not be able to cover this distance."³⁵

Sahl bin Sa'd reported that Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said:

"In Paradise there is a tree under the shadow of which a rider can travel for a hundred years without covering [the distance] completely."³⁶

Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri narrated that Allah's Apostle (peace be upon him) said:

"In Paradise there is a tree under the shadow of which a rider of a fine and swift-footed horse can travel for a hundred years without covering the distance completely. There will be the pleasure of Allah for the inhabitants of Paradise, and he will never be annoyed with them."³⁷

Anas bin Maalik reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"There is a tree in Paradise [which is so large that] if a rider traveled in its shade for one hundred years, he would not be able to cross it."³⁸

Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"There is a tree in Paradise [which is so large that] a rider could travel in its shade for a hundred years. And if you wish, you

²⁸Soorah Al-Naba', 78:31-32.

²⁹Soorah Al-Rahmaan, 55:52.

³⁰Soorah Al-Rahmaan, 55:54-55.

³¹Soorah Al-Rahmaan, 55:68.

³²Said to be a banana, but Allah knows best.

³³Soorah Al-Waaqi'ah, 56:27-33.

³⁴Soorah Insaan, 76:14.

³⁵Related by Muslim.

³⁶Related by Muslim.

³⁷Related by Muslim.

³⁸Related by Al-Bukhaari.

can recite: "In shade long-extended."³⁹ A place in Paradise equal to an arrow bow of one of you is better than [the whole earth] on which the sun rises and sets."⁴⁰

وِظَلٍّ مَّتْدُورٍ

THE SHADE OF PARADISE

"The parable of the Garden which the righteous are promised - beneath it flow rivers. Perpetual is the enjoyment thereof and the shade therein. Such is the end of the righteous. The end of the unbelievers is the Fire."⁴¹

مَثَلُ الْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي وَعِدَ الْمُتَّقُونَ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ أُكُلُهَا دَائِمٌ وَظِلُّهَا تِلْكَ عُقْبَى الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا وَعُقْبَى الْكَافِرِينَ النَّارُ ﴿٢٥﴾

"As for the righteous, they shall be amid [cool] shades and springs [of water] and fruits, all they desire. 'Eat and drink to your heart's content because of what you used to do.' Thus do We certainly reward the doers of good."⁴²

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي ظِلِّلٍ وَعُيُونٍ ﴿٤١﴾ وَفَوْكَةٍ مِمَّا يَشْتَهُونَ ﴿٤٢﴾ كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٤٣﴾ إِنَّا كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿٤٤﴾

"And its shades will come low over them, and the bunches [of fruit] will hang low in compliance."⁴³

وَدَائِيَّةٌ عَلَيْهِمْ ظِلُّنَّهَا وَذُلِّلَتْ قُطُوفُهَا تَذْلِيلًا ﴿٤٥﴾

"[They will be] among lote trees without thorns, among *talh*⁴⁴ trees with flowers [or fruits] piled one above another, and in shade long-extended, by water flowing [constantly] and fruit in abundance whose season is not limited nor [supply] forbidden."⁴⁵

وَأَصْحَابُ الْيَمِينِ مَا أَصْحَابُ الْيَمِينِ ﴿٢٧﴾ فِي سِدْرٍ مَخْضُودٍ ﴿٢٨﴾ وَطَلْحٍ مَّنْضُودٍ ﴿٢٩﴾ وَظِلِّ مَّتْدُورٍ ﴿٣٠﴾ وَمَاءٍ مَّسْكُوبٍ ﴿٣١﴾ وَفِكَهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ ﴿٣٢﴾ لَا مَقْطُوعَةٍ وَلَا مَمْنُوعَةٍ ﴿٣٣﴾

⁴¹ Soorah Al-Ra'd, 13:35.

⁴² Soorah Al-Mursalaat, 77:41-44.

⁴³ Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:14.

⁴⁴ Said to be a banana, but Allah knows best.

³⁹ Soorah Al-Waaqi'ah, 56:30.

⁴⁰ Related by Al-Bukhaari.

can recite: "In shade long-extended."³⁹ A place in Paradise equal to an arrow bow of one of you is better than [the whole earth] on which the sun rises and sets."⁴⁰

وِظَلٍّ مَّمْدُودٍ

THE SHADE OF PARADISE

"The parable of the Garden which the righteous are promised - beneath it flow rivers. Perpetual is the enjoyment thereof and the shade therein. Such is the end of the righteous. The end of the unbelievers is the Fire."⁴¹

مَثَلُ الْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي وَعَدَ الْمُتَّقُونَ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ أُكُلُهَا دَائِمٌ وَظِلُّهَا
تِلْكَ عُقْبَى الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا وَعُقْبَى الْكَافِرِينَ النَّارُ ﴿٢٥﴾

"As for the righteous, they shall be amid [cool] shades and springs [of water] and fruits, all they desire. 'Eat and drink to your heart's content because of what you used to do.' Thus do We certainly reward the doers of good."⁴²

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي ظِلِّلٍ وَعُيُونٍ ﴿١١﴾ وَفَوَاكِهَ مِمَّا يَشْتَهُونَ ﴿١٢﴾ كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا
بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٣﴾ إِنَّا كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿١٤﴾

"And its shades will come low over them, and the bunches [of fruit] will hang low in compliance."⁴³

وَدَانِيَةً عَلَيْهِمْ ظِلُّنَّهَا وَذُلِّلَتْ قُطُوفُهَا تَذَلُّلًا ﴿١٤﴾

"[They will be] among lote trees without thorns, among *talh*⁴⁴ trees with flowers [or fruits] piled one above another, and in shade long-extended, by water flowing [constantly] and fruit in abundance whose season is not limited nor [supply] forbidden."⁴⁵

وَأَصْحَابُ الْيَمِينِ مَا أَصْحَابُ الْيَمِينِ ﴿٣٧﴾ فِي سِدْرٍ مَخْضُودٍ ﴿٣٨﴾ وَطَلْحٍ مَّنْضُودٍ ﴿٣٩﴾ وَظِلٍّ
مَّمْدُودٍ ﴿٤٠﴾ وَمَاءٍ مَّسْكُوبٍ ﴿٤١﴾ وَفَنَكِهِةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ ﴿٤٢﴾ لَا مَقْطُوعَةٍ وَلَا مَمْنُوعَةٍ ﴿٤٣﴾

⁴¹Soorah Al-Ra'd, 13:35.

⁴²Soorah Al-Mursalaat, 77:41-44.

⁴³Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:14.

⁴⁴Said to be a banana, but Allah knows best.

³⁹Soorah Al-Waaqi'ah, 56:30.

⁴⁰Related by Al-Bukhaari.

"They and their spouses will be in [cool] shade, reclining on thrones. [Every] fruit [i.e. enjoyment] will be there for them, and they shall have whatever they call for. 'Peace!' - a word [of salutation] from a Lord most merciful."⁴⁶

هُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُهُمْ فِي ظِلِّلٍ عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ مُتَكُونَ ﴿٥٦﴾ لَهُمْ فِيهَا فَاكِهَةٌ وَلَهُمْ مَا يَدْعُونَ ﴿٥٧﴾ سَلَامٌ قَوْلًا مِنْ رَبِّ رَحِيمٍ ﴿٥٨﴾

"But those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, We shall soon admit to gardens with rivers flowing beneath - abiding there forever. Therein they shall have pure companions. We shall admit them to shades, cool and ever-deepening."⁴⁷

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ سُدَّ خَلْفُهُمْ جَنَّتْ تَجْرَى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا لَهُمْ فِيهَا أَزْوَاجٌ مُطَهَّرَةٌ وَتُدْخِلُهُمْ ظِلًّا ظَلِيلًا ﴿٥٧﴾

⁴⁵ Soorah Al-Waaqi'ah, 56:28-33.

⁴⁶ Soorah Yaa Seen, 36:56-58.

⁴⁷ Soorah Al-Nisaa', 4:57.

"Reclining on raised thrones, they will see therein neither [burning] sun nor [freezing] cold."⁴⁸

مُتَّكِئِينَ فِيهَا عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ لَا يَرَوْنَ فِيهَا شَمْسًا وَلَا زَمْهَرِيرًا ﴿١٣﴾

"Faces that day will be joyful - pleased with their striving - in a garden on high, where they shall hear no bad speech."⁴⁹

وَجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ نَاعِمَةٌ ﴿٨﴾ لِسَعْيِهَا رَاضِيَةٌ ﴿٩﴾ فِي جَنَّةٍ عَالِيَةٍ ﴿١٠﴾ لَا تَسْمَعُ فِيهَا لَغِيَةً ﴿١١﴾

"They will say, 'Praise be to Allah who has removed from us [all] sorrow, for our Lord is indeed oft-forgiving, appreciative, who has settled us in the house of lasting residence out of His bounty. No toil nor sense of weariness shall touch us therein.'"⁵⁰

وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَذْهَبَ عَنَّا الْحَزْنَ إِنَّ رَبَّنَا لَغَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ ﴿٣١﴾ الَّذِي أَحْطَا دَارَ الْمَقَامَةِ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ لَا يَمَسُّنَا فِيهَا نَصَبٌ وَلَا يَمَسُّنَا فِيهَا الْغُوبُ ﴿٣٥﴾

⁴⁸ Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:13.

⁴⁹ Soorah Al-Ghaashiyah, 88:8-11. What has been translated as "bad speech" includes: insult, falsehood, harm, immorality, pointless talk, etc.

⁵⁰ Soorah Faatir, 35:34-35.

THE MARKET OF PARADISE

Anas bin Maalik reported that Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said:

"In Paradise there is a street to which they [the inhabitants of Paradise] will come every Friday. The north wind will blow and will scatter fragrance on their faces and on their clothes. This will add to their beauty and loveliness. Then they will go back to their family after having an added luster to their beauty and loveliness, and their family will say to them, 'By Allah, you have been increased in beauty and loveliness after leaving us.' They [the ones who had been scattered with fragrance] will say, 'By Allah, you have also increased in beauty and loveliness after us.'"⁵¹

⁵¹Related by Muslim.

THE BOUNTY OF THE PEOPLE OF PARADISE

"But after them"⁵² there followed a posterity who neglected prayer and followed after lusts. Soon, then, will they face destruction - except those who repent, believe and work righteousness. These will enter the Garden and will not be wronged in the least - gardens of eternity, those which [Allah], Most Merciful, has promised to His servants in the Unseen. His promise must come to pass. They will not hear therein any vain discourse, but only salutations of peace. They will have therein their sustenance, morning and evening. Such is the Garden which We give as an inheritance to those of Our servants who are God-fearing."⁵³

فَخَلَفَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ خَلْفٌ أَضَاعُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَاتَّبَعُوا الشَّهْوَاتِ فَسُوفَ يَلْقَوْنَ غِيًّا ﴿٥١﴾
إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَآمَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَأُولَٰئِكَ يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ وَلَا يُظْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا ﴿٥٢﴾
جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ الَّتِي وَعَدَ الرَّحْمَنُ عِبَادَهُ بِالْغَيْبِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ وَعْدُهُ مَأْتِيًّا ﴿٥٣﴾ لَا يَسْمَعُونَ
فِيهَا لَغْوًا إِلَّا سَلَامًا وَلَهُمْ فِيهَا رِزْقٌ غَيْرٌ مَبْكُورٌ وَعَشِيًّا ﴿٥٤﴾ تِلْكَ الْجَنَّةُ الَّتِي نُورِثُ مِنْ
عِبَادِنَا مَنْ كَانَ تَقِيًّا ﴿٥٥﴾

"He that works evil will not be requited but by the like thereof. And he that works a righteous deed - whether male or female, and is a believer - such will enter the Garden. Therein they will have provision without measure."⁵⁴

مَنْ عَمِلَ سَيِّئَةً فَلَا يُجْزَى إِلَّا مِثْلَهَا وَمَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِمَّنْ ذَكَرُوا أَنْتُمْ
وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَٰئِكَ يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ يُرْزَقُونَ فِيهَا بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ ﴿٥٦﴾

"But give glad tidings to those who believe and work righteousness, that they will have gardens beneath which rivers flow. Every time they are provided with fruits

⁵²Refers to the prophets and their righteous followers.

⁵³Soorah Maryam, 19:59-63.

⁵⁴Soorah Ghaafir, 40:40.

therefrom, they say, 'Why, this is what we were provided with before,' for they are given things in resemblance. They have therein pure companions, and they abide therein forever."⁵⁵

وَبَشِّرِ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرَى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا
الْأَنْهَارُ كُلَّمَا رُزِقُوا مِنْهَا مِنْ ثَمَرَةٍ رِزْقًا قَالُوا هَذَا الَّذِي رُزِقْنَا مِنْ قَبْلُ
وَأُتُوا بِهِ مُتَشَابِهًا وَلَهُمْ فِيهَا أَزْوَاجٌ مُطَهَّرَةٌ وَهُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿٢٥﴾

"But the sincere [and devoted] servants of Allah, for them is a sustenance determined - fruits [i.e. delights] and, they shall be honored in gardens of felicity."⁵⁶

إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلَصِينَ ﴿١٠﴾ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ رِزْقٌ مَعْلُومٌ ﴿١١﴾
فَوَكَّهَهُمْ وَهُمْ مُكْرَمُونَ ﴿١٢﴾ فِي جَنَّاتِ النَّعِيمِ ﴿١٣﴾

"That is what you are promised for the Day of Account! Truly, such will be Our bounty [to you]. It will never cease."⁵⁷

هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِيَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ ﴿٥٢﴾ إِنَّ هَذَا لَرِزْقُنَا مَا لَهُمِنْ نَفَادٍ ﴿٥١﴾

⁵⁵ Soorah Al-Baqarah, 2:25.

⁵⁶ Soorah Al-Saaffaat, 37:40-43.

⁵⁷ Soorah Saad, 38:53-54.

"Such will be the Garden which you have inherited because of what you used to do. You shall have therein abundance of fruit from which you shall eat."⁵⁸

وَبَلَدِكَ الْجَنَّةُ الَّتِي أَوْثَمْتُمْوهَا بِمَا كُنْتُمْ
تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٧٢﴾ لَكُمْ فِيهَا فَاكِهَةٌ كَثِيرَةٌ مِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ ﴿٧٣﴾

"And We shall provide them with fruit and meat, anything they shall desire. They shall exchange with one another a cup free of frivolity, free of sin."⁵⁹

وَأَمَدَدْنَاهُمْ فِيهَا كَأْسًا لَا لَغْوٌ فِيهَا وَلَا تَأَنٍّ ﴿٧٤﴾ يَتَّخِذُونَ فِيهَا كَأْسًا لَا لَغْوٌ فِيهَا وَلَا تَأَنٍّ ﴿٧٥﴾

"As for the righteous, [they will be] in a position of security among gardens and springs, dressed in fine silk and in rich brocade, facing each other. And We shall join them to companions with beautiful, big and lustrous eyes. There they can call for every kind of fruit, in peace and security."⁶⁰

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي مَقَامٍ أَمِينٍ ﴿٥١﴾ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُوتٍ ﴿٥٢﴾ يَلْبَسُونَ مِنْ سُندُسٍ
وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ مُتَقَابِلِينَ ﴿٥٣﴾ كَذَٰلِكَ وَزَوَّجْنَاهُمْ بِحُورٍ عِينٍ ﴿٥٤﴾ يَدْعُونَ
فِيهَا بِكُلِّ فَاكِهَةٍ ءَامِنِينَ ﴿٥٥﴾

"[Every] fruit [i.e. enjoyment] will be there for them, and they shall have whatever they call for."⁶¹

لَهُمْ فِيهَا فَاكِهَةٌ وَلَهُمْ مَا يَدْعُونَ ﴿٥٧﴾

"As for him who will be given his record in his right hand, he will say, 'Ah here! Read my record! I certainly knew that I

⁵⁸ Soorah Al-Zukhruf, 43:72-73.

⁵⁹ Soorah Al-Tuur, 52:22-23.

⁶⁰ Soorah Al-Dukhaan, 44:51-55.

would be meeting my account!" So he will be in a life of bliss, in a garden on high, the fruits hanging in bunches [low and near]. 'Eat and drink with full satisfaction because of the [good] that you sent before you in the days past!'"⁶²

فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَوْفَىٰ كِتَابَهُ بِرِسْمِهِ فَيَقُولُ هَٰؤُلَاءِ مِمَّا كُنْتُ أَتِيًّا ۖ إِنِّي طَنَنْتُ آبِي مُلْقِي حِسَابِيَّةَ ۖ فَهُوَ فِي عِيشَةٍ رَّاضِيَةٍ ۖ فِي جَنَّةٍ عَالِيَةٍ ۖ قُطُوفُهَا دَانِيَةٌ ۖ كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا أَسْلَفْتُمْ فِي الْأَيَّامِ الدَّالِيَةِ ۖ

"And among them will be circulated vessels of silver and glasses of crystal - crystal-clear, made of silver which they will determine the measure thereof [according to their wishes]. They will be given a cup in which is a mixture of *zanjabeel*⁶³ from a fountain called *Salsabeel*. Around them, youths of perpetual [freshness] will serve. If you see them, you will think they are scattered pearls. When you look there [i.e. Paradise], you will see bliss and a magnificent realm. Upon them⁶⁴ will be green garments of fine silk and heavy brocade. They will be adorned with bracelets of silver, and their Lord will give them a pure drink. 'Verily, this is a reward for you, and your endeavor has been appreciated.'"⁶⁵

وَيُطَافُ عَلَيْهِمْ ثَابِتَةً ۖ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ وَأَكْوَابُ كَانَتْ قَوَارِيرًا ۖ قَوَارِيرًا مِنْ فِضَّةٍ قَدَرُهَا وَقْدِيرًا ۖ وَيُسْقَوْنَ فِيهَا كَأْسًا كَانَ مِزَاجُهَا زَجْجًا ۖ عَيْنًا فِيهَا تُسَمَّىٰ سَلْسَبِيلًا ۖ وَيَطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ زِلْفَانٌ تَحْمِلُونَ إِذَا رَأَوْهُمْ حَبِيبَتَهُمْ لَوْ لَوْ أَمْتُورًا ۖ وَإِذَا رَأَيْتَ نَعِيمًا وَمُلْكًا كَبِيرًا ۖ عَلَيْهِمْ ثِيَابٌ مُسْنَدِينَ خَضَرًا مُتَّبِقًا ۖ وَحُلُوعًا أَسَاوِرًا مِنْ فِضَّةٍ وَسَقَمَهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ شَرَابًا طَهُورًا ۖ إِنَّ هَٰذَا كَانَ لَكُم جَزَاءً وَكَانَ سَعْيُكُمْ مَشْكُورًا ۖ

⁶¹Soorah Yaa Seen, 36:57.

⁶²Soorah Haaqqah, 69:19-24.

⁶³Ginger.

⁶⁴The people of Paradise.

⁶⁵Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:15-22.

"The companions of the right hand - what are the companions of the right hand? [They will be] among lote trees without thorns, among *talh*⁶⁶ trees with flowers [or fruits] piled one above another, and in shade long-extended, by water flowing [constantly] and fruit in abundance whose season is not limited nor [supply] forbidden. And [they will be] on thrones [of dignity] raised high."⁶⁷

وَأَصْحَابُ الْيَمِينِ مَا أَصْحَابُ الْيَمِينِ ۖ فِي سِدْرٍ مَخْضُودٍ ۖ وَطَلْحٍ مَنضُودٍ ۖ وَظِلٍّ مَمْدُودٍ ۖ وَمَاءٍ مَّسْكُوبٍ ۖ وَفِكَهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ ۖ لَا مَقْطُوعَةٍ وَلَا مَمْنُوعَةٍ ۖ وَفُرُشٍ مَّرْفُوعَةٍ ۖ

"As for the righteous, they shall be amid [cool] shades and springs [of water] and fruits, all they desire. 'Eat and drink to your heart's content because of what you used to do.' Thus do We certainly reward the doers of good."⁶⁸

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي ظِلِّلٍ وَعُيُونٍ ۖ وَفَوَاحٍ مِمَّا يَشْتَهُونَ ۖ كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ۖ إِنَّا كَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ ۖ

"As for the righteous, they shall drink from a cup in which is a mixture of *kaafoor*."⁶⁹

إِنَّ الْأَبْرَارَ يَشْرَبُونَ مِنْ كَأْسٍ كَانَ مِزَاجُهَا كَافُورًا ۖ

"Therein will they recline [at ease]. Therein they can call [at pleasure] for fruit in abundance and [delicious] drink."⁷⁰

مُتَّكِئِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفِكَهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ ۖ

⁶⁶Said to be a banana, but Allah knows best.

⁶⁷Soorah Al-Waaqi'ah, 56:27-34.

⁶⁸Soorah Al-Mursalaat, 77:41-44.

⁶⁹Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:5. Kaafoor is a cool and refreshing drink.

⁷⁰Soorah Saad, 38:51.

would be meeting my account!' So he will be in a life of bliss, in a garden on high, the fruits hanging in bunches [low and near]. 'Eat and drink with full satisfaction because of the [good] that you sent before you in the days past!'"⁶²

فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَوْفَىٰ كِتَابَهُ بِرَبِّهِ، فَيَقُولُ هَؤُلَاءِ أَقْرَبُ وَأَكْنِيبُ ﴿١٩﴾ إِنِّي ظَنَنْتُ أَنِّي مُلَاقٍ حِسَابِيَّةٍ ﴿٢٠﴾ فَهُوَ فِي عِيشَةٍ رَاضِيَةٍ ﴿٢١﴾ فِي جَنَّةٍ عَالِيَةٍ ﴿٢٢﴾ قُطُوفُهَا دَانِيَةٌ ﴿٢٣﴾ كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا أَسْلَفْتُمْ فِي الْأَيَّامِ الْخَالِيَةِ ﴿٢٤﴾

"And among them will be circulated vessels of silver and glasses of crystal - crystal-clear, made of silver which they will determine the measure thereof [according to their wishes]. They will be given a cup in which is a mixture of *zanjabeel*⁶³ from a fountain called *Salsabeel*. Around them, youths of perpetual [freshness] will serve. If you see them, you will think they are scattered pearls. When you look there [i.e. Paradise], you will see bliss and a magnificent realm. Upon them⁶⁴ will be green garments of fine silk and heavy brocade. They will be adorned with bracelets of silver, and their Lord will give them a pure drink. 'Verily, this is a reward for you, and your endeavor has been appreciated.'"⁶⁵

وَيُطَافُ عَلَيْهِمْ بِبَنَاتٍ مِّنْ فَضَّةٍ وَأَكْوَابٍ كَانَتْ قَوَارِيرًا ﴿١٥﴾ قَوَارِيرًا مِّنْ فِضَّةٍ قَدَّرُوهَا تَقْدِيرًا ﴿١٦﴾ وَيُسْقَوْنَ فِيهَا كَأْسًا كَانَ مِزَاجُهَا زَنْجَبِيلًا ﴿١٧﴾ عَيْنَانِ فِيهَا تُسَمَّى سَلْسَبِيلًا ﴿١٨﴾ وَيَطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ وِلْدَانٌ مُّخَلَّدُونَ إِذَا رَأَيْتَهُمْ حَسِبْتَهُمْ لُؤْلُؤًا مَّنشُورًا ﴿١٩﴾ وَإِذَا رَأَيْتَ نَعِيمًا وَمَلَكًا كَبِيرًا ﴿٢٠﴾ عَلَيْهِمْ ثِيَابٌ مِّنْ سُندُسٍ خُضْرٍ وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ وَهَلْ أَوْسَاوَرٌ مِّنْ فِضَّةٍ وَسَقَاهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ شَرَابًا طَهُورًا ﴿٢١﴾ إِنَّ هَٰذَا كَانَ لَكُم جَزَاءً وَكَانَ سَعْيُكُمْ مَشْكُورًا ﴿٢٢﴾

⁶¹Soorah Yaa Seen, 36:57.
⁶²Soorah Haaqqah, 69:19-24.
⁶³Ginger.
⁶⁴The people of Paradise.
⁶⁵Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:15-22.

"The companions of the right hand - what are the companions of the right hand? [They will be] among lote trees without thorns, among *talh*⁶⁶ trees with flowers [or fruits] piled one above another, and in shade long-extended, by water flowing [constantly] and fruit in abundance whose season is not limited nor [supply] forbidden. And [they will be] on thrones [of dignity] raised high."⁶⁷

وَأَصْحَابُ الْيَمِينِ مَا أَصْحَابُ الْيَمِينِ ﴿٢٧﴾ فِي سِدْرٍ مَّخْضُودٍ ﴿٢٨﴾ وَطَلْحٍ مَّنضُودٍ ﴿٢٩﴾ وَظِلٍّ مَّمْدُودٍ ﴿٣٠﴾ وَمَاءٍ مَّسْكُوبٍ ﴿٣١﴾ وَفِكَهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ ﴿٣٢﴾ لَا مَقْطُوعَةٍ وَلَا مَمْنُوعَةٍ ﴿٣٣﴾ وَفُرُشٍ مَّرْفُوعَةٍ ﴿٣٤﴾

"As for the righteous, they shall be amid [cool] shades and springs [of water] and fruits, all they desire. 'Eat and drink to your heart's content because of what you used to do.' Thus do We certainly reward the doers of good."⁶⁸

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي ظِلِّ وَعُيُونٍ ﴿٤١﴾ وَفَوْكَةٍ مِّمَّا يَشْتَهُونَ ﴿٤٢﴾ كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٤٣﴾ إِنَّا كَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿٤٤﴾

"As for the righteous, they shall drink from a cup in which is a mixture of *kaafoor*."⁶⁹

إِنَّ الْأَبْرَارَ يَشْرَبُونَ مِّنْ كَأْسٍ كَانَتْ مِزَاجُهَا كَافُورًا ﴿٥٠﴾

"Therein will they recline [at ease]. Therein they can call [at pleasure] for fruit in abundance and [delicious] drink."⁷⁰

مُتَكِّينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفِكَهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ ﴿٥١﴾

⁶⁶Said to be a banana, but Allah knows best.
⁶⁷Soorah Al-Waaqi'ah, 56:27-34.
⁶⁸Soorah Al-Mursalaat, 77:41-44.
⁶⁹Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:5. *Kaafoor* is a cool and refreshing drink.
⁷⁰Soorah Saad, 38:51.

"As for the righteous, they will be in gardens and feel happiness, enjoying what their Lord has given them. And their Lord had [already] prevented them from the penalty of the Fire. [To them it will be said], 'Eat and drink with satisfaction because of what you used to do.'"⁷¹

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَنَعِيمٍ ﴿١٧﴾ فَكِهِينَ بِمَاءٍ أَنَّهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ
وَوَقَّهَهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ ﴿١٨﴾ كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا
كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٩﴾

Abu Sa'eed narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"The first meal which the people of Paradise will take will be the caudate [extra] lobe of the liver of a fish."⁷²

⁷¹ Soorah Al-Tuur, 52:17-19.

⁷² Related by Al-Bukhaari.

"Around them will circulate eternal youths with goblets, beakers and cups [filled] from clear-flowing fountains - no after-ache will they receive therefrom, nor will they suffer intoxication."⁷³

يُطَوَّفُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَدُنُّ مُخَلَّدُونَ ﴿١٧﴾ بِأَكْوَابٍ وَأَبَارِيقَ وَكَأْسٍ مِنْ مَعِينٍ
لَا يُصَدَّعُونَ عَنْهَا وَلَا يُنْزَفُونَ ﴿١٨﴾

"To them will be passed dishes and goblets of gold. There will be all that the soul could desire and all that the eyes could delight in, and you shall abide therein eternally."⁷⁴

يُطَافُ عَلَيْهِمْ بِصِحَافٍ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَأَكْوَابٍ وَفِيهَا مَا شَتَّاهِ الْآنَفُسُ
وَتَلَذُّ الْأَعْيُنُ وَأَنْشُرُ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿١٩﴾

"And among them will be circulated vessels of silver and glasses of crystal - crystal-clear, made of silver which they will determine the measure thereof [according to their wishes]."⁷⁵

وَيُطَافُ عَلَيْهِمْ بِثَانِيَةٍ مِنْ فِضَّةٍ وَأَكْوَابٍ كَانَتْ قَوَارِيرًا ﴿٢٠﴾ قَوَارِيرًا مِنْ فِضَّةٍ قَدَّرُوهَا تَقْدِيرًا ﴿٢١﴾

"Verily, for the righteous there will be attainment of security - gardens enclosed and grapevines, companions of equal age and a cup full [to the brim]."⁷⁶

إِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ مَفَازًا ﴿٢١﴾ حَدَائِقَ وَأَعْنَابًا ﴿٢٢﴾ وَكَوَاعِبَ أَتْرَابًا ﴿٢٣﴾ وَكَأْسًا دِهَاقًا ﴿٢٤﴾

⁷³ Soorah Al-Waaqi'ah, 56:17-19.

⁷⁴ Soorah Al-Zukhruf, 43:71.

⁷⁵ Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:15-16.

⁷⁶ Soorah Al-Naba', 78:31-34.

THE DWELLINGS OF THE PEOPLE OF PARADISE

"Allah has promised to believers, men and women, gardens under which rivers flow to dwell therein eternally and good homes in gardens of everlasting bliss. But the pleasure of Allah is greatest. That is the supreme triumph."⁷⁷

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَمَسَاكِنَ طَيِّبَةً فِي جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ وَرِضْوَانٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿٧٢﴾

"Companions restrained [as to their glances] in pavilions."⁷⁸

حُرٌّ مَقْصُورَةٌ فِي الْحَيَامِ ﴿٧٢﴾

Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri reported that Allah's Apostle (peace be upon him) said:

"The believers, after being saved from the Hellfire, will be stopped at a bridge between Paradise and Hell, and mutual retaliation will be established among them regarding wrongs they have committed in the world against one another. After they are cleansed and purified [through the retaliation], they will be admitted into Paradise. By Him in whose hand Muhammad's soul is, everyone of them will know his dwelling in Paradise better than he knew his dwelling in this world."⁷⁹

'Abdullah bin Qais Al-Ash'ari narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"A tent [in Paradise] is like a hollow pearl which is thirty miles in height. On every corner of the tent the believer will have a family that cannot be seen by the others." [Narrated Abu 'Imraan in another narration, "(The tent is) sixty miles (in height)."]⁸⁰

⁷⁷ Soorah Al-Tawbah, 9:72.

⁷⁸ Soorah Al-Rahmaan, 55:72.

⁷⁹ Related by Al-Bukhaari.

It is reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"While I was asleep, I saw myself in Paradise, and there I beheld a woman making ablution beside a palace. I asked, 'To whom does this palace belong?' Somebody said, 'To 'Umar bin Al-Khattab.' Then I remembered 'Umar's *ghairah*⁸¹ [concerning women], and so I quickly went away from that palace." [When 'Umar heard this from the Prophet (peace be upon him)], he wept and said, "Do you think it is likely that I feel *ghairah* because of you, Oh Allah's Apostle?"⁸²

On the authority of his father, Abu Bakr bin Abu Moosa bin Qais narrated that Allah's Apostle (peace be upon him) said:

"There will be a tent made of a pearl whose height towards the sky will be sixty miles. In each corner, there will be a family of the believer, out of sight of the others."⁸³

Abu Bakr bin 'Abdullah bin Qais reported on the authority of his father that Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said:

"In Paradise there will be a tent made of a single hollowed pearl, the width of which will be sixty miles from all sides. There will live a family in each corner, and the other will not be able to see the believer who goes around to them."⁸⁴

⁸⁰ Related by Al-Bukhaari.

⁸¹ Jealousy.

⁸² Related by Al-Bukhaari.

⁸³ Related by Muslim.

⁸⁴ Related by Muslim.

THE THRONES OF THE PEOPLE OF PARADISE

"Therein will be thrones raised on high, goblets placed [ready], cushions set in rows and rich carpets spread out."⁸⁵

فِيهَا سُرُرٌ مَّرْفُوعَةٌ ۖ وَأَكْوَابٌ مَوْضُوعَةٌ ۚ وَنَارٌ مَّصْفُوعَةٌ ۚ وَزَرَارِيٌّ مَبْثُوثَةٌ ۖ

"Truly, the righteous will be in bliss. On thrones they will command a sight [of all things]. You will recognize in their faces the beaming brightness of bliss."⁸⁶

إِنَّ الْأَثَرَارَ لَفِي نَعِيمٍ ۚ عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ يَنْظُرُونَ ۚ تَعْرِفُ فِي وُجُوهِهِمْ نَضْرَةَ النَّعِيمِ ۚ

"They will recline [with ease] on thrones arranged in ranks. We shall join them with companions with beautiful, big and lustrous eyes."⁸⁷

مُتَّكِنِينَ عَلَى سُرُرٍ مَّصْفُوعَةٍ وَزَوْجَنَّهُمْ بِحُورٍ عِينٍ ۚ

"Reclining on raised thrones, they will see therein neither [burning] sun nor [freezing] cold."⁸⁸

مُتَّكِنِينَ فِيهَا عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ لَا يَرَوْنَ فِيهَا شَمْسًا وَلَا زَمْهَرِيرًا ۚ

"They and their spouses will be in [cool] shade, reclining on thrones."⁸⁹

هُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُهُمْ فِي ظِلَالٍ عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ مُتَّكِفُونَ ۚ

"[They will be] on thrones encrusted [with gold and precious stones], reclining on them, facing each other."⁹⁰

عَلَى سُرُرٍ مَوْضُوعَةٍ ۚ مُتَّكِنِينَ عَلَيْهَا مُتَقَابِلِينَ ۚ

"They will recline on carpets whose linings will be of rich

brocade. The fruit of the gardens will be hanging near [and in easy reach]."⁹¹

مُتَّكِنِينَ عَلَى فُرُشٍ ۚ بَطَائِنُهَا مِنْ إِسْتَبْرَقٍ وَجَنَى الْجَنَّتَيْنِ دَانٍ ۚ

"But on this day the believers will laugh at the unbelievers. On thrones they will command a sight [of all things]. Are the unbelievers not rewarded [finally] for what they used to do?"⁹²

فَالْيَوْمَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنَ الْكُفَّارِ يَضْحَكُونَ ۚ عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ يَنْظُرُونَ ۚ

هَلْ ثُوبَ الْكُفَّارِ مَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ ۚ

⁸⁵ Soorah Al-Ghaashiyah, 88:13-16.

⁸⁶ Soorah Al-Mutaffifeen, 83:22-24.

⁸⁷ Soorah Al-Tuur, 52:20.

⁸⁸ Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:13.

⁸⁹ Soorah Yaa Seen, 36:56.

⁹⁰ Soorah Al-Waaqi'ah, 56:15-16.

⁹¹ Soorah Al-Rahmaan, 55:54.

⁹² Soorah Al-Mutaffifeen, 83:34-36.

THE RECEPTION OF THE PEOPLE OF PARADISE

"And those who feared their Lord will be led to the Garden in crowds, until behold, they arrive there. Its gates will be opened, and its keepers will say, 'Peace be upon you! Well have you done, so enter it, abiding [in it] eternally.'"⁹³

وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا رَبَّهُمْ إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ زُمَرًا حَتَّى إِذَا جَاءُوهَا وَفُتِحَتْ
أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ طِبْتُمْ فَادْخُلُوهَا خَالِدِينَ ﴿٧٣﴾

"Gardens of perpetual bliss - they shall enter them as well as the righteous among their fathers, their spouses and their offspring. Angels shall enter unto them from every gate [with the salutation], 'Peace unto you for what you endured in patience! Now, how excellent is the final home!'"⁹⁴

جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا وَأَمَّا آبَائِهِمْ وَآزْوَاجُهُمْ وَذُرِّيَتُهُمْ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ
يَدْخُلُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ بَابٍ ﴿٧٤﴾ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِمَا صَبَرْتُمْ فَنِعْمَ عُقْبَى الدَّارِ

"But those who believed and worked righteousness will be admitted to gardens beneath which rivers flow to dwell therein forever by permission of their Lord. Their greeting therein will be, 'Peace!'"⁹⁵

وَأُدْخِلَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرَى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا
الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ تَحِيَّتُهُمْ فِيهَا سَلَامٌ ﴿٧٥﴾

"Their salutation on the day they meet Him will be 'Peace!,' and He has prepared for them a generous reward."⁹⁶

تَحِيَّتُهُمْ يَوْمَ يَلْقَوْنَهُ سَلَامٌ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَرِيمًا ﴿٧٦﴾

⁹³ Soorah Al-Zumar, 39:73.

⁹⁴ Soorah Al-Ra'd, 13:23-24.

⁹⁵ Soorah Ibraaheem, 14:23.

⁹⁶ Soorah Al-Ahzaab, 33:44.

"No frivolity will they hear therein nor anything sinful - only the saying, 'Peace! Peace!'"⁹⁷

لَا يَسْمَعُونَ فِيهَا لَغْوًا وَلَا تَأْثِيمًا ﴿٧٧﴾ إِلَّا قِيلًا سَلَامًا سَلَامًا ﴿٧٨﴾

"[Every] fruit [i.e. enjoyment] will be there for them, and they shall have whatever they call for. 'Peace!' - a word [of salutation] from a Lord most merciful!"⁹⁸

لَهُمْ فِيهَا فَاكِهَةٌ وَلَهُمْ مَّا يَدْعُونَ ﴿٧٩﴾ سَلَامٌ قَوْلًا مِنْ رَبِّ رَحِيمٍ ﴿٨٠﴾

"Certainly, those who believe and work righteousness - their Lord will guide them because of their faith. Beneath them will flow rivers in gardens of bliss. Their prayer therein will be, 'Subhaanak Allahumma' ('Glory be to You, Oh Allah'), and their greeting therein will be, 'Salaam' ('Peace'). And the last of their prayers will be, 'Praise be to Allah, Lord of the worlds!'"⁹⁹

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ يَهْدِيهِمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِإِيمَانِهِمْ تَجْرَى مِنْ
تَحْتِهِمُ الْأَنْهَارُ فِي جَنَّاتِ النَّعِيمِ ﴿٨١﴾ دَعْوُهُمْ فِيهَا سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ وَتَحِيَّتُهُمْ فِيهَا
سَلَامٌ وَآخِرُ دَعْوَاهُمْ أَنِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٨٢﴾

⁹⁷ Soorah Al-Waaqi'ah, 56:25-26.

⁹⁸ Soorah Yaa Seen, 36:57-58.

⁹⁹ Soorah Yoonus, 10:9-10.

THE PEOPLE OF PARADISE

"You will recognize in their faces the beaming brightness of bliss."¹⁰⁰

تَعْرِفُ فِي وُجُوهِهِمْ نَضْرَةَ النَّعِيمِ ﴿٢١﴾

"Some faces, that day, will beam [in happiness], looking at their Lord."¹⁰¹

وُجُوهُ يَوْمٍ ذُنُوبًا يَأْتِزُّهَا إِلَىٰ رَبِّهَا نَاظِرَةٌ ﴿٢٢﴾

"The righteous will be amid gardens and springs. [They will be greeted], 'Enter here in peace and security.' And We shall remove from their hearts any lurking sense of injury. [They will be] brothers facing each other on thrones. There, no sense of fatigue shall touch them, nor shall they [ever] be evicted."¹⁰²

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ ﴿٢٣﴾ أَذْخُلُوهُم بِسَلَامٍ ءَامِنِينَ ﴿٢٤﴾ وَنَزَعْنَا مَا فِي صُدُورِهِمْ مِنْ غَلٍّ إِخْوَانًا عَلَىٰ سُرُرٍ مُّقْتَصِلِينَ ﴿٢٥﴾ لَا يَمَسُّهُمْ فِيهَا نَصَبٌ وَمَا هُمْ مِنْهَا بِمُخْرَجِينَ ﴿٢٦﴾

"Faces that day will be joyful - pleased with their striving - in a garden on high, where they shall hear no bad speech."¹⁰³

وُجُوهُ يَوْمٍ ذُنُوبًا يَأْتِزُّهَا إِلَىٰ رَبِّهَا نَاظِرَةٌ ﴿٢٧﴾ لَسَعِيَهَا رَاضِيَةٌ ﴿٢٨﴾ فِي جَنَّةٍ عَالِيَةٍ ﴿٢٩﴾ لَا تَسْمَعُ فِيهَا لَغِيَةً ﴿٣٠﴾

Abu Hurayrah reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, created Adam in His own image with his length being sixty cubits. As He created him, He told him to greet that group (a party of angels sitting there) and listen to the response that they gave him, for it would form his greeting and that of his offspring. He then went away and said, 'Peace be upon you!' They [the angels] said, 'May there

¹⁰⁰ Soorah Al-Mutaffifeen, 83:24.

¹⁰¹ Soorah Al-Qiyaamah, 75:22-23.

¹⁰² Soorah Al-Hijr, 15:45-48.

THE PEOPLE OF PARADISE

be peace upon you and the mercy of Allah,' and they made an addition of 'mercy of Allah.' So all those who enter Paradise will be in the form of Adam, his length being sixty cubits. Then the people who followed him continued to diminish in size up to now."¹⁰⁴

Abu Hurayrah narrated that Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said:

"There will enter Paradise people whose hearts will be like those of the hearts of birds."¹⁰⁵

Sahl bin Sa'd narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"Seventy-thousand or seven-hundred thousand of my followers [the narrator is in doubt as to the correct number] will enter Paradise holding each other till the first and the last of them enter Paradise at the same time. Their faces will have a glitter like that of the moon at night when it is full."¹⁰⁶

Sahl bin Sa'd reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"Verily, 70,000 or 700,000 of my followers will enter Paradise altogether so that the first and the last among them will enter at the same time. Their faces will be glittering like the bright full moon."¹⁰⁷

Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"The first batch [of people] who will enter Paradise will be

¹⁰³ Soorah Al-Ghaashiyah, 88:8-11. What has been translated as "bad speech" includes: insult, falsehood, harm, immorality, pointless talk, etc.

¹⁰⁴ Related by Muslim.

¹⁰⁵ Related by Muslim. This *hadeeth* beautifully sums up the qualities of the people of Paradise. Just as the hearts of birds are free from every tint of jealousy, in the same way the hearts of the people of Paradise will be free from jealousy, rancor, deceit and hatred. Secondly, just as birds are always alert and cautious of any danger, in the same way the hearts of the people of Paradise will also be wakeful. Thirdly, just as the birds trust in Allah for their food, in the same way the people of Paradise will have complete trust in Allah regarding their sustenance, rather, their very existence. (Paraphrased commentary of 'Abdul Hamid Siddiqi)

¹⁰⁶ Related by Al-Bukhaari.

¹⁰⁷ Related by Al-Bukhaari.

[glittering] like the full moon, and the batch next to them will be [glittering] like the most brilliant star in the sky. Their hearts will be as the heart of a single man, for they will have neither enmity nor jealousy among themselves. Everyone will have two wives from the *houris* [who will be so beautiful, pure and transparent that] the marrow of the bones of their legs will be seen through the bones and the flesh."¹⁰⁸

Abu Hurayrah reported that Allah's Apostle (peace be upon him) said:

"The first group [of people] who will enter Paradise will be [glittering] like the moon when it is full. They will not spit or blow their noses or relieve nature. Their utensils will be of gold and their combs of gold and silver. In their censers, the aloewood will be used, and their sweat will smell like musk. Everyone of them will have two wives. The marrow of the bones of the wives' legs will be seen through the flesh because of excessive beauty. They [the people of Paradise] will neither have differences nor hatred among themselves. Their hearts will be as one heart, and they will be glorifying Allah in the morning and in the evening."¹⁰⁹

Abu Hurayrah narrated that Allah's Apostle (peace be upon him) said:

"The first batch [of people] who will enter Paradise will be [glittering] like a full moon, and those who will enter next will be [glittering] like the brightest star. Their hearts will be like the heart of a single man, for they will have no enmity among themselves. Everyone of them shall have two wives, each of whom will be so beautiful, pure and transparent that the marrow of the bones of their legs will be seen through the flesh. They will be glorifying Allah in the morning and evening. They will never fall ill, blow their noses or spit. Their utensils will be of gold and silver and their combs will be of gold. The matter used in their censers will be the aloewood, and their sweat will

¹⁰⁸Related by Al-Bukhaari.

¹⁰⁹Related by Al-Bukhaari.

smell like musk."¹¹⁰

Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"Paradise and Hellfire disputed together and Hellfire said, 'In me are the mighty and haughty.' Paradise said, 'In me are the weak and the poor.' So Allah judged between them [saying], 'You are Paradise, My mercy. Through you I show mercy to those I wish. And you are Hellfire, My punishment. Through you I punish those I wish, and it is incumbent upon Me that each of you shall have its full.'"¹¹¹

Haarithah bin Wahb narrated that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said:

"May I tell you who the dwellers of Paradise are? [They are] every person who is considered weak and is despised, and who, if he takes an oath of reliance upon Allah, will fulfill it. Now may I tell you who the people destined for Hell are? [They are] everyone who is ignorant, impertinent, proud and arrogant."¹¹²

¹¹⁰Related by Al-Bukhaari.

¹¹¹Related by Muslim, Al-Bukhaari and At-Tirmidhi.

¹¹²Related by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim.

THE WOMEN OF PARADISE

"But give glad tidings to those who believe and work righteousness, that they will have gardens beneath which rivers flow. Every time they are provided with fruits therefrom, they say, 'Why, this is what we were provided with before,' for they are given things in resemblance. They have therein pure companions, and they abide therein forever."¹¹³

وَبَشِّرِ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرَى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا
الْأَنْهَارُ كُلَّمَا رُزِقُوا مِنْهَا مِنْ ثَمَرَةٍ رَزَقُوا قَالُوا هَذَا الَّذِي رُزِقْنَا مِنْ
قَبْلُ وَأُتُوا بِهِ مُتَشَبِهًا وَلَهُمْ فِيهَا أَزْوَاجٌ مُطَهَّرَةٌ وَهُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿٢٥﴾

"And [there will be] companions with beautiful, big and lustrous eyes - likened to well-guarded pearls, a reward for what they used to do."¹¹⁴

وَحُورٌ عِينٌ ﴿٢٢﴾ كَأَمْثَلِ اللَّوْلِيِّ الْمَكُونِ ﴿٢٣﴾ جَزَاءً لِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٢٤﴾

"And beside them will be chaste women restraining their glances, (companions) of equal age."¹¹⁵

وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَصِيرَتُ الطَّرْفِ أَنْرَابُ ﴿٥٢﴾

"In them will be chaste [maidens] restraining their glances, whom no man or *jinn* before them has touched."¹¹⁶

فِيهِنَّ قَصِيرَتُ الطَّرْفِ لَمْ يَطْمِثْهُنَّ إِنْسٌ قَبْلَهُمْ وَلَا جَانٌ ﴿٥٦﴾

"In them will be fair [companions], good and beautiful."¹¹⁷

فِيهِنَّ خَيْرَاتٌ حَسَنَاتٌ ﴿٧٠﴾

"We have created [their companions] of special creation and made them virgins, loving [by nature] and equal in age for the

THE WOMEN OF PARADISE

companions of the right hand."¹¹⁸

إِنَّا أَنشَأْنَهُنَّ إِنشَاءً ﴿٢٥﴾ جَعَلْنَهُنَّ أَبْكَارًا ﴿٢٦﴾ عُرُبًا أَتْرَابًا ﴿٢٧﴾ لِأَصْحَابِ الْيَمِينِ ﴿٢٨﴾

"Companions restrained [as to their glances] in pavilions."¹¹⁹

حُورٌ مَّقْصُورَاتٌ فِي الْخِيَامِ ﴿٧٢﴾

"Verily, for the righteous there will be attainment of security - gardens enclosed and grapevines, companions of equal age and a cup full [to the brim]."¹²⁰

إِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ مَفَارِجًا ﴿٣١﴾ حَدَائِقَ وَأَعْنَابًا ﴿٣٢﴾ وَكَوَاعِبَ أَتْرَابًا ﴿٣٣﴾ وَكَأْسًا دِهَاقًا ﴿٣٤﴾

Abu Hurayrah reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"The [members] of the first group to enter Paradise will have faces as bright as the full moon during the night. The next group will have faces as bright as the shining stars in the sky. Every person will have two wives, and the marrow of their shanks will glimmer beneath the flesh. There will be none without a wife in Paradise."¹²¹

After Haarithah had been martyred by an arrow thrown by an unknown person on the Day (of the battle) of Badr, his mother came to the Prophet (peace be upon him). She said:

"O Allah's Apostle, you know the position of Haarithah in my heart [i.e. how dear he was to her]. So if he is in Paradise, I will not weep for him. Otherwise, you will see what I will do." The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Are you mad? Is there only one Paradise? There are many Paradises, and he is in the highest Paradise of *Firdaus*." The Prophet (peace be upon him) added, "A forenoon journey or an afternoon journey in Allah's

¹¹³ Soorah Al-Baqarah, 2:25.

¹¹⁴ Soorah Al-Waqa'ah, 56:22-24.

¹¹⁵ Soorah Saad, 38:52.

¹¹⁶ Soorah Al-Rahmaan, 55:56.

¹¹⁷ Soorah Al-Rahmaan, 55:70.

¹¹⁸ Soorah Al-Waqa'ah, 56:35-38.

¹¹⁹ Soorah Al-Rahmaan, 55:72.

¹²⁰ Soorah Al-Naba', 78:31-34.

THE WOMEN OF PARADISE

cause is better than the whole world and whatever is in it. A place equal to an arrow bow of anyone of you or a place equal to a foot in Paradise is better than the whole world and whatever is in it. If one of the women of Paradise looked at the earth, she would fill the whole space between them [the earth and the heaven] with light and would fill whatever is in between them with perfume. The veil of her face is better than the whole world and whatever is in it."¹²²

THE GARMENTS OF PARADISE

"Allah will admit those who believe and work righteous deeds to gardens beneath which rivers flow. They shall be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls, and their garments therein will be silk. They have been guided [in this life] to good speech, and they have been guided to the path of Him, the All-praised."¹²³

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُدْخِلُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرَى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا
الْأَنْهَارُ يُحَلَّوْنَ فِيهَا مِنْ أَسَاوِرَ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَلُؤْلُؤًا وَلِبَاسُهُمْ
فِيهَا خَيْرٌ ۖ وَهُمْ فِيهَا عَلَى الطَّيِّبِ مِنَ الْقَوْلِ وَهُمْ فِيهَا إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ

"For them will be gardens of eternity, rivers flowing beneath them. They will be adorned with bracelets of gold, and they will wear green garments of fine silk and heavy brocade, reclining on raised thrones. How good the reward! How beautiful a place of rest!"¹²⁴

أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ تَجْرَى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ يُحَلَّوْنَ فِيهَا مِنْ أَسَاوِرَ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ
وَيَلْبَسُونَ ثِيَابًا خُضْرًا مِنْ سُندُسٍ وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ مُتَّكِئِينَ فِيهَا عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ يَنْعَمُ ۚ الثَّوَابُ
وَحَسُنَتْ مُرْتَفَقًا ۖ

"As for the righteous, [they will be] in a position of security among gardens and springs, dressed in fine silk and in rich brocade, facing each other. And We shall join them to companions with beautiful, big and lustrous eyes."¹²⁵

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي مَقَامٍ أَمِينٍ ۖ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ ۖ يَلْبَسُونَ مِنْ سُندُسٍ
وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ مُتَقَابِلِينَ ۖ كَذَلِكَ وَزَوَّجْنَاهُمْ بِحُورٍ عِينٍ ۖ

"Gardens of eternity they will enter. They will be adorned therein with bracelets of gold and pearls. Their garments will

¹²¹Related by Muslim.

¹²²Related by Al-Bukhaari.

¹²³Soorah Al-Hajj, 22:23-24.

¹²⁴Soorah Al-Kahf, 18:31.

THE WOMEN OF PARADISE

cause is better than the whole world and whatever is in it. A place equal to an arrow bow of anyone of you or a place equal to a foot in Paradise is better than the whole world and whatever is in it. If one of the women of Paradise looked at the earth, she would fill the whole space between them [the earth and the heaven] with light and would fill whatever is in between them with perfume. The veil of her face is better than the whole world and whatever is in it."¹²²

¹²¹Related by Muslim.

¹²²Related by Al-Bukhaari.

THE GARMENTS OF PARADISE

"Allah will admit those who believe and work righteous deeds to gardens beneath which rivers flow. They shall be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls, and their garments therein will be silk. They have been guided [in this life] to good speech, and they have been guided to the path of Him, the All-praised."¹²³

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُدْخِلُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرَى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا
الْأَنْهَارُ يُحَلَّوْنَ فِيهَا مِنْ أَسَاوِرَ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَلُؤْلُؤًا وَلِبَاسُهُمْ
فِيهَا حَرِيرٌ ﴿٢٣﴾ وَهَذَا إِلَى الطَّيِّبِ مِنَ الْقَوْلِ وَهَذَا إِلَى صِرَاطِ الْحَمِيدِ

"For them will be gardens of eternity, rivers flowing beneath them. They will be adorned with bracelets of gold, and they will wear green garments of fine silk and heavy brocade, reclining on raised thrones. How good the reward! How beautiful a place of rest!"¹²⁴

أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ تَجْرَى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ يُحَلَّوْنَ فِيهَا مِنْ أَسَاوِرَ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ
وَيَلْبَسُونَ ثِيَابًا خُضْرًا مِنْ سُندُسٍ وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ مُتَّكِينَ فِيهَا عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ نِعْمَ الثَّوَابُ
وَحَسْبَتْ مَرْفَقًا ﴿٢٤﴾

"As for the righteous, [they will be] in a position of security among gardens and springs, dressed in fine silk and in rich brocade, facing each other. And We shall join them to companions with beautiful, big and lustrous eyes."¹²⁵

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي مَقَامٍ أَمِينٍ ﴿٥١﴾ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ ﴿٥٢﴾ يَلْبَسُونَ مِنْ سُندُسٍ
وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ مُتَقَابِلِينَ ﴿٥٣﴾ كَذَلِكَ وَزَوَّجْنَاهُمْ بِحُورٍ عِينٍ ﴿٥٤﴾

"Gardens of eternity they will enter. They will be adorned therein with bracelets of gold and pearls. Their garments will

¹²³Soorah Al-Hajj, 22:23-24.

¹²⁴Soorah Al-Kahf, 18:31.

be of silk. They will say, 'Praise be to Allah who has removed from us [all] sorrow, for our Lord is indeed oft-forgiving, appreciative, who has settled us in the house of lasting residence out of His bounty. No toil nor sense of weariness shall touch us therein.'¹²⁶

جَنَّتْ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا يُحَلَّوْنَ فِيهَا مِنْ أَسَاوِرَ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَلُؤْلُؤًا وَلِبَاسُهُمْ فِيهَا حَرِيرٌ ﴿٣٢﴾ وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَذْهَبَ عَنَّا الْحَزْنَ إِنَّ رَبَّنَا لَغَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ ﴿٣٣﴾ الَّذِي أَهْلَنَا دَارَ الْمُقَامَةِ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ لَا يَمَسُّنَا فِيهَا نَصَبٌ وَلَا يَمَسُّنَا فِيهَا لُغُوبٌ ﴿٣٤﴾

"Upon them will be green garments of fine silk and heavy brocade. They will be adorned with bracelets of silver, and their Lord will give them a pure drink. 'Verily, this is a reward for you, and your endeavor has been appreciated.'¹²⁷

عَلَيْهِمْ ثِيَابٌ سُنْدُسٌ خُضْرٌ وَإِسْتَبْرَقٌ وَحُلُّوا أَسَاوِرَ مِنْ فِضَّةٍ وَسَقَمَهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ سَرَابًا طَهُورًا ﴿٣٥﴾ إِنَّ هَذَا كَانَ لَكُم جَزَاءً وَكَانَ سَعْيُكُمْ مَشْكُورًا ﴿٣٦﴾

Al-Baraa'h bin 'Aazib said:

"Allah's Apostle (peace be upon him) was given a silken garment, and its beauty and delicacy astonished the people. On that, Allah's Apostle (peace be upon him) said, 'No doubt, the handkerchiefs of Sa'd bin Mu'aadh in Paradise are better than this.'¹²⁸

"Allah will admit those who believe and work righteous deeds to gardens beneath which rivers flow. They shall be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls, and their garments therein will be silk. They have been guided [in this life] to good speech, and they have been guided to the path of Him, the All-praised."¹²⁹

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَدْخُلُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرَى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ يُحَلَّوْنَ فِيهَا مِنْ أَسَاوِرَ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَلُؤْلُؤًا وَلِبَاسُهُمْ فِيهَا حَرِيرٌ ﴿٢٢﴾ وَهَدُّوا إِلَى الطَّيِّبِ مِنَ الْقَوْلِ وَهَدُّوا إِلَى صِرَاطِ الْحَمِيدِ

"For them will be gardens of eternity, rivers flowing beneath them. They will be adorned with bracelets of gold, and they will wear green garments of fine silk and heavy brocade, reclining on raised thrones. How good the reward! How beautiful a place of rest!"¹³⁰

أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ جَنَّتٌ عَدْنٌ تَجْرَى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ يُحَلَّوْنَ فِيهَا مِنْ أَسَاوِرَ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَيَلْبَسُونَ ثِيَابًا خُضْرًا مِنْ سُنْدُسٍ وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ مُتَّكِئِينَ فِيهَا عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ نِعَمَ الثَّوَابِ وَحَسُنَتْ مُرْتَفَقًا ﴿٢٣﴾

"Upon them will be green garments of fine silk and heavy brocade. They will be adorned with bracelets of silver, and their Lord will give them a pure drink. 'Verily, this is a reward for you, and your endeavor has been appreciated.'¹³¹

عَلَيْهِمْ ثِيَابٌ سُنْدُسٌ خُضْرٌ وَإِسْتَبْرَقٌ وَحُلُّوا أَسَاوِرَ مِنْ فِضَّةٍ وَسَقَمَهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ سَرَابًا طَهُورًا ﴿٣٥﴾ إِنَّ هَذَا كَانَ لَكُم جَزَاءً وَكَانَ سَعْيُكُمْ مَشْكُورًا ﴿٣٦﴾

¹²⁵ Soorah Al-Dukhaan, 44:51-54.

¹²⁶ Soorah Faatir, 35:33-35.

¹²⁷ Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:21-22.

¹²⁸ Related by Al-Bukhaari.

¹²⁹ Soorah Al-Hajj, 22:23-24.

¹³⁰ Soorah Al-Kahf, 18:31.

THE BRACELETS OF THE PEOPLE OF PARADISE

"Gardens of eternity they will enter. They will be adorned therein with bracelets of gold and pearls. Their garments will be of silk. They will say, 'Praise be to Allah who has removed from us [all] sorrow, for our Lord is indeed oft-forgiving, appreciative, who has settled us in the house of lasting residence out of His bounty. No toil nor sense of weariness shall touch us therein.'"¹³²

جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا يُحَلَّوْنَ فِيهَا مِنْ أَسَاوِرَ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَلُؤْلُؤًا وَلِبَاسُهُمْ
فِيهَا حَرِيرٌ ﴿٢٢﴾ وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَذْهَبَ عَنَّا الْحَزْنَ إِنَّ رَبَّنَا لَغَفُورٌ
شَكُورٌ ﴿٢٣﴾ الَّذِي أَحَلَّنَا دَارَ الْمُقَامَةِ مِن فَضْلِهِ لَا يَمَسُّنَا فِيهَا نَصَبٌ وَلَا
يَمَسُّنَا فِيهَا الْغُوبُ ﴿٢٤﴾

THE YOUTHFUL SERVANTS OF PARADISE

"Around them will circulate eternal youths with goblets, beakers and cups [filled] from clear-flowing fountains - no after-ache will they receive therefrom, nor will they suffer intoxication; and [also] with fruits, any that they may select; and the flesh of fowls, any that they may desire."¹³³

يَطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ وِلْدَانٌ مُّخَلَّدُونَ ﴿٧﴾ بِأَكْوَابٍ وَأَبَارِيقَ وَكَأْسٍ مِن مَّعِينٍ ﴿٨﴾ لَا يَصَدَّعُونَ عَنْهَا
وَلَا يُزِفُونَ ﴿٩﴾ وَفِي كَهَمِهِم مَّا يَشْتَهُونَ ﴿١٠﴾ وَلَحْمِ طَيْرٍ مِّمَّا يَشْتَهُونَ ﴿١١﴾

"Around them will circulate [devoted] youths resembling well-guarded pearls."¹³⁴

وَيَطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ غِلْمَانٌ لَّهُمْ كَأَنَّهُمْ لُؤْلُؤٌ مَّكْنُونٌ ﴿١٢﴾

"Around them, youths of perpetual [freshness] will serve. If you see them, you will think they are scattered pearls."¹³⁵

وَيَطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ وِلْدَانٌ مُّخَلَّدُونَ إِذَا رَأَيْتَهُمْ حَسِبْتَهُمْ لُؤْلُؤًا مَّنشُورًا ﴿١٣﴾

¹³³Soorah Al-Waaqi'ah, 56:17-21.

¹³⁴Soorah Tuur, 52:24.

¹³⁵Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:19.

¹³¹Soorah Al-Insaan, 76:21-22.

¹³²Soorah Faatir, 35:33-35.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PEOPLE OF PARADISE

"Verily, the companions of the Garden are in occupations they enjoy. They and their spouses will be in [cool] shade, reclining on thrones."¹³⁶

إِنَّ أَصْحَابَ الْجَنَّةِ الْيَوْمَ فِي شُغْلٍ فَتْكَهُونَ ﴿٥٥﴾ هُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُهُمْ فِي ظِلِّ
عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ مُتَكِفُونَ ﴿٥٦﴾

"Then those who have believed and worked righteous deeds will be in a garden [of happiness], honored."¹³⁷

فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فَهُمْ فِي رَوْضَةٍ يُحْبَرُونَ ﴿٥٥﴾

"[They will be] facing each other on thrones. Passed around to them will be a cup from a clear-flowing fountain, crystal-white, of a taste delicious to those who drink [from it. It is] free from headiness, and they will not suffer intoxication from it. Beside them will be chaste women, restraining their glances, with big eyes [of wonder and beauty], as if they were [delicate] eggs, closely guarded."¹³⁸

عَلَى سُرُرٍ مُنْقَلَبِينَ ﴿٥٦﴾ يُطَافُ عَلَيْهِمْ بِكَأْسٍ مِّن مَّعِينٍ ﴿٥٧﴾ بَيْضَاءَ لَذَّةٍ لِلشَّارِبِينَ ﴿٥٨﴾
لَا فِيهَا غَوْلٌ وَلَا هُمْ عَنْهَا يُنْفَرُونَ ﴿٥٩﴾ وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَصْرَاتُ الْطَّرَفِ عِينٌ ﴿٦٠﴾
كَأَنَّهُنَّ بَيْضٌ مَّكْنُونٌ ﴿٦١﴾

"But on this day the believers will laugh at the unbelievers. On thrones they will command a sight [of all things]. Are the unbelievers not rewarded [finally] for what they used to do?"¹³⁹

فَالْيَوْمَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنَ الْكُفَّارِ يَضْحَكُونَ ﴿٦٢﴾ عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ يَنْظُرُونَ ﴿٦٣﴾
هَلْ تُؤْتَوْنَ الْكُفَّارُ مَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ ﴿٦٤﴾

"They will say, 'Praise be to Allah, who has truly fulfilled His promise to us and has made us inherit the earth. We can dwell in the garden where we will. How excellent a reward for those who work [righteousness]!'"¹⁴⁰

وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي صَدَقَنَا وَعْدَهُ وَأَوْرَثَنَا الْأَرْضَ
نَتَّبِعُ أَمِينَ الْجَنَّةِ حَيْثُ نَشَاءُ فَنِعْمَ أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ ﴿٦٤﴾

"They will advance to each other, engaging in mutual enquiry. They will say, 'We used to be fearful [of Allah and His punishment] among our people. But Allah has been good to us and has delivered us from the penalty of the scorching wind. Truly, we used to call upon Him before. Truly, it is He who is the Beneficent, the Merciful!'"¹⁴¹

وَأَقْبَلَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ يَتَسَاءَلُونَ ﴿٦٥﴾ قَالُوا إِنَّا كُنَّا قَبْلُ فِي أَهْلِنَا مُشْفِقِينَ ﴿٦٦﴾
فَمَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا وَوَقَّعْنَا عَذَابَ السَّمُورِ ﴿٦٧﴾ إِنَّا كُنَّا مِن قَبْلُ
نَدْعُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْبَرُّ الرَّحِيمُ ﴿٦٨﴾

Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"The [members of the] first group that will be admitted to Paradise will have their faces as bright as a full moon during the night. They will neither spit nor suffer catarrh nor void excrement. They will have their utensils and their combs made of gold and silver, and the fuel of their braziers will be aloes, and their sweat will be musk, and everyone of them will have two spouses [so beautiful] that the marrow of their shanks will be visible through the flesh. There will be no dissension among them and no enmity in their hearts. Their hearts will be like one heart, glorifying Allah morning and evening."¹⁴²

¹³⁹ Soorah Al-Mutaffifeen, 83:34-36.

¹⁴⁰ Soorah Al-Zumar, 39:74.

¹⁴¹ Soorah Al-Tuur, 52:25-28.

¹⁴² Related by Muslim.

¹³⁶ Soorah Yaa Seen, 36:55-56.

¹³⁷ Soorah Ruuum, 30:15.

¹³⁸ Soorah Al-Saaffaat, 37:44-49.

THE RANKS OF PARADISE

"Those who believe, emigrate and strive with might and main in Allah's cause with their wealth and their persons have the highest rank in the sight of Allah. They are the ones who will achieve [salvation]. Their Lord gives them glad tidings of a mercy from Himself and good pleasure and of gardens for them wherein is lasting enjoyment. They will dwell therein forever. Verily, with Allah is a great reward."¹⁴³

الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَهَاجَرُوا وَجَاهَدُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَةً عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ ﴿٢٠﴾ يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ لَّهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ ﴿٢١﴾ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿٢٢﴾

"Look how We have bestowed more on some than on others. But verily in the Hereafter is greater difference in rank and preference."¹⁴⁴

أَنْظُرْ كَيْفَ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَلِلْآخِرَةِ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَاتٍ وَأَكْبَرُ تَفْضِيلًا ﴿٢٣﴾

"O you who believe! When you are told to make room in assemblies, [spread out and] make room. [Ample] room will Allah provide for you. And when you are told to rise up, rise up. Allah will raise those of you who believe and who have been granted knowledge in rank. Allah is well-acquainted with all you do."¹⁴⁵

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُوا فِي الْمَجَالِسِ فَافْسَحُوا يَفْسَحِ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَإِذَا قِيلَ انشُرُوا فَانْشُرُوا يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١١﴾

"Verily, he who comes to his Lord as a criminal [at judgement], for him is Hell, wherein he shall neither die nor

¹⁴³ Soorah Al-Tawbah, 9:20-22.

¹⁴⁴ Soorah Al-Israa', 17:21.

THE RANKS OF PARADISE

live. But he who comes to Him as a believer who has righteous deeds, for them are ranks exalted - gardens - eternity, beneath which flow rivers, dwelling therein forever. Such is the reward of those who purify themselves [from evil]."¹⁴⁶

إِنَّهُ مَنْ يَأْتِ رَبَّهُ مُجْرِمًا فَإِنَّ لَهُ جَهَنَّمَ لَا يَمُوتُ فِيهَا وَلَا يَحْيَىٰ ﴿٧٦﴾ وَمَنْ يَأْتِهِ مُؤْمِنًا قَدْ عَمِلَ الصَّالِحَاتِ فَأُولَئِكَ لَهُمُ الدَّرَجَاتُ الْعُلَىٰ ﴿٧٧﴾ جَنَّاتٌ عَدْنٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَذَلِكَ جَزَاءُ مَنْ تَزَكَّى ﴿٧٨﴾

It is narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"Whoever believes in Allah and His Apostle (peace be upon him), offers prayer perfectly and fasts the month of Ramadan will rightfully be granted Paradise by Allah, no matter whether he fights in Allah's cause or remains in the land where he is born." The people said, "Oh Allah's Apostle! Shall we acquaint the people with this good news?" He said, "Paradise has one-hundred grades which Allah has reserved for the *mujahidoon* who fight in His cause, and the distance between each of two grades is like the distance between the Heaven and the earth. So when you ask Allah [for something], ask for *al-Firdaus* which is the best and highest part of Paradise." [the sub-narrator added, "I think the Prophet also said, 'Above it [*al-Firdaus*] is the throne of the beneficent [i.e. Allah], and from it originate the rivers of Paradise."]¹⁴⁷

Sahl bin Sa'd reported that Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said:

"The people of Paradise will look to the upper apartment of Paradise in the same way as you see the planets in the sky."¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁵ Soorah Al-Mujaadilah, 58:11.

¹⁴⁶ Soorah Taa Haa, 20:74-76.

¹⁴⁷ Related by Al-Bukhaari.

THE RANKS OF PARADISE

"Those who believe, emigrate and strive with might and main in Allah's cause with their wealth and their persons have the highest rank in the sight of Allah. They are the ones who will achieve [salvation]. Their Lord gives them glad tidings of a mercy from Himself and good pleasure and of gardens for them wherein is lasting enjoyment. They will dwell therein forever. Verily, with Allah is a great reward."¹⁴³

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَهَاجَرُوا وَجَاهَدُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَةً عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ ﴿٦٠﴾ يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ لَهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ ﴿٦١﴾ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿٦٢﴾

"Look how We have bestowed more on some than on others. But verily in the Hereafter is greater difference in rank and preference."¹⁴⁴

أَنْظُرْ كَيْفَ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَلِلْآخِرَةِ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَاتٍ وَأَكْبَرُ تَفْضِيلًا ﴿٦٣﴾

"O you who believe! When you are told to make room in assemblies, [spread out and] make room. [Ample] room will Allah provide for you. And when you are told to rise up, rise up. Allah will raise those of you who believe and who have been granted knowledge in rank. Allah is well-acquainted with all you do."¹⁴⁵

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُوا فِي الْمَجَالِسِ فَافْسَحُوا يَفْسَحِ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَإِذَا قِيلَ أَنْشُرُوا فَأَنْشُرُوا يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ ﴿٦٤﴾

"Verily, he who comes to his Lord as a criminal [at judgement], for him is Hell, wherein he shall neither die nor

¹⁴³ Soorah Al-Tawbah, 9:20-22.

¹⁴⁴ Soorah Al-Israa', 17:21.

THE RANKS OF PARADISE

live. But he who comes to Him as a believer who has righteous deeds, for them are ranks exalted - gardens - eternity, beneath which flow rivers, dwelling therein forever. Such is the reward of those who purify themselves [from evil]."¹⁴⁶

إِنَّهُ مَنْ يَأْتِ رَبَّهُ مُجْرِمًا فَإِنَّ لَهُ جَهَنَّمَ لَا يَمُوتُ فِيهَا وَلَا يَحْيَىٰ ﴿٧١﴾ وَمَنْ يَأْتِهِ مُؤْمِنًا قَدْ عَمِلَ الصَّالِحَاتِ فَأُولَئِكَ لَهُمُ الدَّرَجَاتُ الْعُلَىٰ ﴿٧٢﴾ جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ تَجْرَى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَذَلِكَ جَزَاءُ مَنْ تَزَكَّى ﴿٧٣﴾

It is narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"Whoever believes in Allah and His Apostle (peace be upon him), offers prayer perfectly and fasts the month of Ramadan will rightfully be granted Paradise by Allah, no matter whether he fights in Allah's cause or remains in the land where he is born." The people said, "Oh Allah's Apostle! Shall we acquaint the people with this good news?" He said, "Paradise has one-hundred grades which Allah has reserved for the *mujaahidoon* who fight in His cause, and the distance between each of two grades is like the distance between the Heaven and the earth. So when you ask Allah [for something], ask for *al-Firdaus* which is the best and highest part of Paradise." [the sub-narrator added, "I think the Prophet also said, 'Above it [*al-Firdaus*] is the throne of the beneficent [i.e. Allah], and from it originate the rivers of Paradise.'"]¹⁴⁷

Sahl bin Sa'd reported that Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said: "The people of Paradise will look to the upper apartment of Paradise in the same way as you see the planets in the sky."¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁵ Soorah Al-Mujaadilah, 58:11.

¹⁴⁶ Soorah Taa Haa, 20:74-76.

¹⁴⁷ Related by Al-Bukhaari.

Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"The people of Paradise will look at the dwellers of the lofty mansions [i.e. a superior place in Paradise] in the same way as one looks at a brilliant star far away in the East or in the West on the horizon. That is because of their superiority over one another [in rewards]." Because of that, the people said, "Oh Allah's Apostle! Are these lofty mansions the prophets' mansions which nobody else can reach?" The Prophet replied, "By Allah, in whose hands my life is, some men who believe in Allah and trust His Apostles [will be able to reach them]."¹⁴⁹

Anas bin Maalik reported that Umm Ar-Rubaa'i bint Al-Baraa'h, the mother of Haarithah bin Suraaqah, came to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and said:

"Oh Allah's Prophet! Will you tell me about Haarithah?" Haarithah had been killed [i.e. martyred] on the day of Badr with an arrow by an unidentified person. She added, "If he is in Paradise, I will be patient; otherwise, I will weep bitterly for him." He said, "Oh mother of Haarithah! There are gardens in Paradise, and your son got the *Firdaus al-A'laa* [i.e. the best place in Paradise]."¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁸Related by Muslim.

¹⁴⁹Related by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim.

¹⁵⁰Related by Al-Bukhaari.

THE LOWEST RANK IN PARADISE

'Abdullah said:

"The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, 'I know the person who will be the last to come out of the Hellfire and the last to enter Paradise. He will be a man who will come out of the Hellfire crawling, and Allah will say to him, "Go and enter Paradise." He will go to it, but he will imagine that it has been filled, and then he will return and say, "Oh Lord, I have found it full." Allah will say, "Go and enter Paradise, and you will have what equals the world and ten times as much [or, you will have as much as ten times the like of the world]."' On that, the man will say, "Do you mock at me [or, laugh at me] though You are the King?"' I saw Allah's Apostle [while saying that] smiling that his premolar teeth became visible. It is said that that will be the lowest in degree among the people of Paradise."¹⁵¹

Abu Hurayrah said:

"Some people said, 'O Allah's Apostle! Shall we see our Lord on the Day of Resurrection?' He said, 'Do you crowd and squeeze each other on looking at the sun when it is not hidden by clouds?' They replied, 'No, Allah's Apostle.' He said, 'Do you crowd and squeeze each other on looking at the moon when it is full and not hidden by clouds?' They replied, 'No, Allah's Apostle.' He said, 'So you will see Him [your Lord] on the Day of Resurrection similarly. Allah will gather all the people and say, "Whoever used to worship anything should follow that thing." So he who used to worship the sun, will follow it; and he who used to worship the moon will follow it; and he who used to worship false deities will follow them. And then only this nation [i.e. Muslims] will remain, including their hypocrites. Allah will come to them in a shape other than they know and will say, "I am your Lord." They will say, "We seek refuge with Allah from you. This is our place [i.e. we will not follow you] till our Lord comes to us, and when our Lord

¹⁵¹Related by Al-Bukhaari.

comes to us, we will recognize Him." Then Allah will come to them in a shape they know and will say, "I am your Lord." They will say, "[No doubt] You are our Lord," and they will follow Him. Then a bridge will be laid over the Hellfire.¹ Allah's Apostle added, 'I will be the first to cross it. The invocation of the apostles on that day will be, "*Allaahumma sallim, sallim!* [Oh Allah, save us, save us!]" Over that bridge will be hooks similar to the thorns of *as-sa'daan* [a thorny tree]. Didn't you see the thorns of *as-sa'daan*?' The companions said, 'Yes, Oh Allah's Apostle.' He added, 'So the hooks over that bridge will be like the thorns of *as-sa'daan*, except that their greatness in size is only known to Allah. These hooks will snatch the people according to their deeds. Some people will be ruined because of their evil deeds, and some will be cut into pieces and fall down in Hell, but will be saved afterwards when Allah has finished the judgements among His slaves and intends to take out of the Fire whoever He wishes to take out from among those who used to testify that none had the right to be worshipped but Allah. He will order the angels to take them out. The angels will know them by the mark of the traces of prostration [on their foreheads], for Allah banned the Fire to consume the traces of prostration on the body of Adam's son. So they will take them out, and by then they will have been burnt [as coal]. Then water, called *maa'ul hayat* [water of life] will be poured on them, and they will spring out like a seed springs out on the bank of a rainwater stream. There will remain one man who will be facing the Hellfire and will say, "Oh Lord! Its [i. e. Hell's] vapor has poisoned and smoked me, and its flame has burnt me. Please turn my face away from the Fire." He will keep on invoking Allah till Allah says, "Perhaps, if I give you [what you want], you will ask for another thing." The man will say, "No, by Your power, I will not ask You for anything else." Then Allah will turn his face away from the Fire. The man will say after that, "Oh Lord, bring me near the gate of Paradise." Allah will say [to him], "Didn't you promise

not to ask for anything else? Woe to you, oh son of Adam! How treacherous you are!" The man will keep invoking Allah till Allah will say, "But if I give you that, you may ask me for something else." The man will say, "No, by Your power, I will not ask for anything else." He will give Allah his covenant and promise not to ask for anything else after that. So Allah will bring him near to the gate of Paradise. When he sees what is in it, he will remain silent as long as Allah wills, and then he will say, "Oh Lord! Let me enter Paradise." Allah will say, "Didn't you promise that you would not ask Me for anything other than that? Woe to you, oh son of Adam! How treacherous you are!" On that, the man will say, "Oh Lord! Do not make me the most wretched of Your creation," and will keep on invoking Allah till Allah will smile. When Allah smiles because of him, then He will allow him to enter Paradise. When he enters Paradise, he will be addressed, "Wish from so-and-so." He will wish until all his wishes are fulfilled. Then Allah will say, "All this [i.e. what you have wished for] and as much again therewith are for you."¹⁵² Abu Hurayrah added, "That man will be the last of the people of Paradise to enter [Paradise]."

'Ataa' narrated [while Abu Hurayrah was reporting]: "Abu Sa'eed was sitting in the company of Abu Hurayrah, and he did not deny anything of his narration till he reached his saying, 'All this and as much again therewith are for you.' Then Abu Sa'eed said, 'I heard Allah's Apostle say, "This is for you and ten times as much." Abu Hurayrah said, 'In my memory it is as much again therewith."¹⁵²

¹⁵²Related by Al-Bukhaari.

EVERLASTING LIFE IN PARADISE

"But those who have faith and work righteousness, they are companions of the Garden, abiding in it eternally."¹⁵³

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿٨٢﴾

"There, no sense of fatigue shall touch them, nor shall they [ever] be evicted."¹⁵⁴

لَا يَمَسُّهُمْ فِيهَا نَصَبٌ وَمَا هُمْ مِنْهَا بِمُخْرَجِينَ ﴿٨٣﴾

"They will not taste death therein, except the first death, and He will preserve them from the penalty of the blazing Fire. [It will be] a bounty from your Lord. That will be the supreme achievement!"¹⁵⁵

لَا يَذُوقُونَ فِيهَا الْمَوْتَ إِلَّا الْمَوْتَةَ الْأُولَىٰ وَوَقَّاهُمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ ﴿٨٤﴾ فَضْلًا مِّن رَّبِّكَ ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿٨٥﴾

"As for those who believe and work righteous deeds, they will have the gardens of Paradise as hospitality. Eternally therein, they will not desire any other [place]."¹⁵⁶

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ كَانَتْ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ الْفِرْدَوْسِ نُزُلًا ﴿٨٦﴾ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا لَا يَبْغُونَ عَنْهَا حَوْلًا ﴿٨٧﴾

"Their Lord gives them glad tidings of a mercy from Himself and good pleasure and of gardens for them wherein is lasting enjoyment."¹⁵⁷

يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ لَّهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ ﴿٨٨﴾

¹⁵³ Soorah Al-Baqarah, 2:82.

¹⁵⁴ Soorah Al-Hijr, 15:48.

¹⁵⁵ Soorah Al-Dukhaan, 44:56-57.

¹⁵⁶ Soorah Al-Kahf, 18:107-108.

EVERLASTING LIFE IN PARADISE

Abu Hurayrah reported that Allah's Apostle (peace be upon him) said:

"He who gets into Paradise [will be made to enjoy such an everlasting] bliss that he will neither become destitute nor will his clothes wear out nor will his youthfulness decline."¹⁵⁸

Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri and Abu Hurayrah both narrated that Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said:

"There will be an announcer [in Paradise] who will make this announcement, 'Verily, there is in store for you [everlasting] health. You will never fall ill, and you will live [forever] and never die. You will remain young and never grow old. You will always live in affluent circumstances and never become destitute.' [This is explained in] the words of Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, 'And it will be announced to them, "This is the Paradise you have been made to inherit for what you used to do."¹⁵⁹

Abu Sa'eed reported that Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said:

"Death will be brought on the Day of Resurrection in the form of a white-colored ram." [Abu Kuraib made the addition, "Then it will be made to stand between Paradise and Hell." So far as the rest of the *hadeeth* is concerned, there is perfect agreement between the two narrators]. "It will be said to the people of Paradise, 'Do you recognize this?' They will raise up their necks, look towards it and say, 'Yes, it is death.' Then a command will be given to slaughter it, and it will be said, 'Oh people of Paradise, there is everlasting life for you and no death.' Then [addressing] the people of Hellfire, it will be said, 'Oh people of Hellfire, there is everlasting life for you and no death.'" Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) then recited

¹⁵⁷ Soorah Al-Tawbah, 9:21.

¹⁵⁸ Related by Muslim.

¹⁵⁹ Related by Muslim. The Qur'aanic quote is from Soorah Al-A'raaf, 7:43.

¹⁶⁰ Related by Muslim. The Qur'aanic quote is from Soorah Maryam, 19:39.

EVERLASTING LIFE IN PARADISE

"But those who have faith and work righteousness, they are companions of the Garden, abiding in it eternally."¹⁵³

وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿٨٢﴾

"There, no sense of fatigue shall touch them, nor shall they [ever] be evicted."¹⁵⁴

لَا يَمَسُّهُمْ فِيهَا نَصَبٌ وَمَا هُمْ مِنْهَا بِمُخْرَجِينَ ﴿٨٣﴾

"They will not taste death therein, except the first death, and He will preserve them from the penalty of the blazing Fire. [It will be] a bounty from your Lord. That will be the supreme achievement!"¹⁵⁵

لَا يَذُوقُونَ فِيهَا الْمَوْتَ إِلَّا الْمَوْتَةَ الْأُولَىٰ وَوَقَّهُمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ ﴿٨٤﴾ فَضْلًا مِّن رَّبِّكَ ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿٨٥﴾

"As for those who believe and work righteous deeds, they will have the gardens of Paradise as hospitality. Eternally therein, they will not desire any other [place]."¹⁵⁶

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ كَانَتْ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ الْفِرْدَوْسِ نُزُلًا ﴿٨٦﴾ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا لَا يَبْغُونَ عَنْهَا حَوْلًا ﴿٨٧﴾

"Their Lord gives them glad tidings of a mercy from Himself and good pleasure and of gardens for them wherein is lasting enjoyment..¹⁵⁷

يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ لَهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ ﴿٨٨﴾

¹⁵³ Soorah Al-Baqarah, 2:82.

¹⁵⁴ Soorah Al-Hijr, 15:48.

¹⁵⁵ Soorah Al-Dukhaan, 44:56-57.

¹⁵⁶ Soorah Al-Kahf, 18:107-108.

EVERLASTING LIFE IN PARADISE

Abu Hurayrah reported that Allah's Apostle (peace be upon him) said:

"He who gets into Paradise [will be made to enjoy such an everlasting] bliss that he will neither become destitute nor will his clothes wear out nor will his youthfulness decline."¹⁵⁸

Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri and Abu Hurayrah both narrated that Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said:

"There will be an announcer [in Paradise] who will make this announcement, 'Verily, there is in store for you [everlasting] health. You will never fall ill, and you will live [forever] and never die. You will remain young and never grow old. You will always live in affluent circumstances and never become destitute.' [This is explained in] the words of Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, 'And it will be announced to them, "This is the Paradise you have been made to inherit for what you used to do."¹⁵⁹

Abu Sa'eed reported that Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said:

"Death will be brought on the Day of Resurrection in the form of a white-colored ram." [Abu Kuraib made the addition, "Then it will be made to stand between Paradise and Hell." So far as the rest of the *hadeeth* is concerned, there is perfect agreement between the two narrators]. "It will be said to the people of Paradise, 'Do you recognize this?' They will raise up their necks, look towards it and say, 'Yes, it is death.' Then a command will be given to slaughter it, and it will be said, 'Oh people of Paradise, there is everlasting life for you and no death.' Then [addressing] the people of Hellfire, it will be said, 'Oh people of Hellfire, there is everlasting life for you and no death.'" Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) then recited

¹⁵⁷ Soorah Al-Tawbah, 9:21.

¹⁵⁸ Related by Muslim.

¹⁵⁹ Related by Muslim. The Qur'aanic quote is from Soorah Al-A'raaf, 7:43.

¹⁶⁰ Related by Muslim. The Qur'aanic quote is from Soorah Maryam, 19:39.

the following verse pointing with his hand to this [material] world: "Warn them of the day of regret, when their affairs will be decided. They are unmindful, and they do not believe."¹⁶⁰

Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"It will be said to the people of Paradise, 'Oh people of Paradise, eternity [for you] and no death!' To the people of the Fire [it will be said], 'Oh people of the Fire, eternity [for you] and no death!'"¹⁶¹

THE GREATEST THING IN PARADISE

"Say, 'Shall I bring your attention to things far better than those? For the righteous are gardens in nearness to their Lord, with rivers flowing beneath, eternal therein, with pure companions and the good pleasure of Allah. For within Allah's sight are [all] His servants - [especially] those who say, 'Our Lord, we have indeed believed, so forgive us our sins and protect us from the agony of the Fire.' - those who are patient, are truthful, who worship devoutly, who spend [in the way of Allah] and who pray for forgiveness in the pre-dawn hours."¹⁶²

قُلْ أُوْنِيْكُمْ بِخَيْرٍ مِّنْ ذٰلِكُمْ لِلَّذِيْنَ اتَّقَوْا عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرٰى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا
الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِيْنَ فِيْهَا وَأَزْوَاجٌ مُّطَهَّرَةٌ وَرِضْوَانٌ مِّنَ اللّٰهِ وَاللّٰهُ بِصِيْرٍ
بِالْعِبَادِ ﴿١٥﴾ الَّذِيْنَ يَقُولُوْنَ رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَقِنَا
عَذَابَ النَّارِ ﴿١٦﴾ الصّٰدِقِيْنَ وَالصّٰدِقَاتِ وَالْقٰنِتِيْنَ وَالْمُنْفِقِيْنَ
وَالْمُسْتَغْفِرِيْنَ بِالْأَسْحَارِ ﴿١٧﴾

"Allah has promised to believers, men and women, gardens under which rivers flow to dwell therein eternally and good homes in gardens of everlasting bliss. But the pleasure of Allah is greatest. That is the supreme triumph."¹⁶³

وَعَدَ اللّٰهُ الْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرٰى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِيْنَ
فِيْهَا وَمَسْكِنٌ طَيِّبَةٌ فِيْ جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ وَرِضْوَانٌ مِّنَ اللّٰهِ أَكْبَرُ ذٰلِكَ
هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيْمُ ﴿٧٢﴾

"Those who believe, emigrate and strive with might and main in Allah's cause with their wealth and their persons have the highest rank in the sight of Allah. They are the ones who will

¹⁶²Soorah Aali Imraan, 3:15-17.

¹⁶³Soorah Al-Tawbah, 9:72.

¹⁶¹Related by Al-Bukhaari.

the following verse pointing with his hand to this [material] world: "Warn them of the day of regret, when their affairs will be decided. They are unmindful, and they do not believe."¹⁶⁰

Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"It will be said to the people of Paradise, 'Oh people of Paradise, eternity [for you] and no death!' To the people of the Fire [it will be said], 'Oh people of the Fire, eternity [for you] and no death!'"¹⁶¹

THE GREATEST THING IN PARADISE

"Say, 'Shall I bring your attention to things far better than those? For the righteous are gardens in nearness to their Lord, with rivers flowing beneath, eternal therein, with pure companions and the good pleasure of Allah. For within Allah's sight are [all] His servants - [especially] those who say, 'Our Lord, we have indeed believed, so forgive us our sins and protect us from the agony of the Fire.' - those who are patient, are truthful, who worship devoutly, who spend [in the way of Allah] and who pray for forgiveness in the pre-dawn hours."¹⁶²

قُلْ أُوْنِيْكُمْ بِخَيْرٍ مِّنْ ذٰلِكُمْ لِلَّذِيْنَ اتَّقَوْا عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرٰى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا
الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِيْنَ فِيْهَا وَأَزْوَاجٌ مُّطَهَّرَةٌ وَرِضْوَانٌ مِّنَ اللّٰهِ وَاللّٰهُ بَصِيْرٌ
بِالْعِبَادِ ﴿١٥﴾ الَّذِيْنَ يَقُولُوْنَ رَبَّنَا آتِنَا اٰمَنًا فَاعْفِ رَلْنَا ذُنُوْبَنَا وَفِيْنَا
عَذَابَ النَّارِ ﴿١٦﴾ الصّٰدِقِيْنَ وَالصّٰدِقَاتِ وَالْمُتَّقِيْنَ وَالْمُتَّقَاتِ
وَالْمُسْتَغْفِرِيْنَ بِالْأَسْحَارِ ﴿١٧﴾

"Allah has promised to believers, men and women, gardens under which rivers flow to dwell therein eternally and good homes in gardens of everlasting bliss. But the pleasure of Allah is greatest. That is the supreme triumph."¹⁶³

وَعَدَ اللّٰهُ الْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرٰى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْاَنْهَارُ خَالِدِيْنَ
فِيْهَا وَمَسٰكِنَ طَيِّبَةً فِيْ جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ وَرِضْوَانٌ مِّنَ اللّٰهِ اَكْبَرُ ذٰلِكَ
هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيْمُ ﴿٧٢﴾

"Those who believe, emigrate and strive with might and main in Allah's cause with their wealth and their persons have the highest rank in the sight of Allah. They are the ones who will

¹⁶² Soorah Aali Imraan, 3:15-17.

¹⁶³ Soorah Al-Tawbah, 9:72.

¹⁶¹ Related by Al-Bukhaari.

achieve [salvation]. Their Lord gives them glad tidings of a mercy from Himself and good pleasure and of gardens for them wherein is lasting enjoyment. They will dwell therein forever. Verily, with Allah is a great reward."¹⁶⁴

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَهَاجَرُوا وَجْهَهُمْ وَإِى سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ أَكْثَرُ دَرَجَةً
عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ ﴿٢٠﴾ يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ
وَجَنَّتِ لَهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ ﴿٢١﴾ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ
عَظِيمٌ ﴿٢٢﴾

"Their salutation on the day they meet Him will be 'Peace!,' and He has prepared for them a generous reward."¹⁶⁵

نَحِيَّتُهُمْ يَوْمَ يَلْقَوْنَهُ سَلَامٌ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَرِيمًا ﴿٢٣﴾

"Peace!" - a word [of salutation] from a Lord most merciful!"¹⁶⁶

سَلَامٌ قَوْلًا مِنْ رَبِّ رَحِيمٍ ﴿٢٤﴾

"Some faces, that day, will beam [in happiness], looking at their Lord."¹⁶⁷

وَجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ نَّاصِرَةٌ ﴿٢٥﴾ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهَا نَاظِرَةٌ ﴿٢٦﴾

Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"Allah will say to the inhabitants of Paradise, 'Oh inhabitants of Paradise!' They will say, 'Oh our Lord, we present ourselves and are at Your pleasure, and goodness rests in Your hands.' Then He will say, 'Are you contented?' They will reply, 'And

¹⁶⁴ Soorah Al-Tawbah, 9:20-22.

¹⁶⁵ Soorah Al-Ahzaab, 33:44.

¹⁶⁶ Soorah Yaa Seen, 36:58.

¹⁶⁷ Soorah Al-Qiyaamah, 75:22-23. This ayah is used as proof by *ahl-us-sunnah* that the people of Paradise will actually see their Creator.

how should we not be contented, oh Lord, when You have given to us that which You have given to no one else of Your creation?' Then He will say, 'Would you not like Me to give you something better than that?' They will answer, 'Oh Lord, and what thing is better than that?' He will say, 'I shall cause My favor to descend upon you and thereafter shall never be displeased with you.'"¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁸ Related by Al-Bukhaari, Muslim and At-Tirmidhi.

REFERENCES FOR THE COLLECTION

1. THE HOLY QUR'AN
Translation and Commentary by 'Abdullah Yusuf 'Ali
2. SAHIH AL-BUKHARI
Translated by Dr. Muhammad Muhsin Khan
3. SAHIH MUSLIM
Rendered into English by 'Abdul Hamid Siddiqi
4. FORTY HADITH QUDSI
Translated by Ezzeddin Ibrahim and Denys Johnson-Davies

