

## **The Tafsīr of Sūrat Al-Isrā'**

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## The Tafsīr of Sūrat Al-Isrā'

### (Chapter - 17)

**Which was revealed in Makkah**

#### **The Virtues of Sūrat Al-Isrā'**

Imām Al-Ḥāfiẓ Abu 'Abdullāh Muḥammad bin Ismā'īl Al-Bukhārī recorded that Ibn Mas'ūd رضي الله عنه said concerning *Surah Bani Isrā'īl* (i.e., *Sūrat Al-Isrā'*), *Al-Kahf* and *Maryam*: "They are among the earliest and most beautiful *Sūrahs* and they are my treasure."<sup>[1]</sup>

Imām Aḥmad recorded that 'Ā'ishah said: "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ used to fast until we would say, he does not want to break his fast, then he would not fast until we would say, he does not want to fast, and he used to recite *Bani Isrā'īl* and *Az-Zumar* every night."<sup>[2]</sup>

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the Name of Allāh, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.*

﴿سُبْحَنَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ ۚ لَيْلًا مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا  
حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ ۚ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ﴾

﴿1. Glorified be He Who took His servant for a Journey by Night from Al-Masjid Al-Ḥarām to Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā, the neighborhood whereof We have blessed, in order that We might show him of Our Āyāt. Verily, He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer.﴾

#### **The Isrā' (Night Journey)**

Allāh glorifies Himself, for His ability to do that which none but He can do, for there is no God but He and no Lord besides Him.

[1] *Fath Al-Bāri* 8:655.

[2] *Aḥmad* 6:189.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

٢٨٢

الْإِسْرَاءُ

## سُورَةُ الْإِسْرَاءِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

سَبَّحَنَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ ۚ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ  
إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ ۚ لَنُرِيَهُ ۚ مِن آيَاتِنَا ۚ إِنَّهُ  
هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ ﴿١﴾ وَآتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلْنَاهُ  
هُدًى لِّبَنِي إِسْرَءِيلَ ۖ بَلْ أَتَيْنَاهُم بِذُرِّيَّةٍ مِّن دُونِ وَكَيَلَا  
ذُرِّيَّةٍ مِّن حَمَلِنَا ۖ مَعَ تَوْحٍ ۚ إِنَّهُ ۚ كَانَ عَبْدًا شَكُورًا ﴿٢﴾  
وَفَضَّلْنَا إِلَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَءِيلَ فِي الْكِتَابِ لَنُفْسِدَنَ فِي الْأَرْضِ  
مَرْتَبَيْنِ وَلَنَعْلُنَ عُلُوقًا كَبِيرًا ﴿٣﴾ فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ أُولَاهُمَا بَعَثْنَا  
عَلَيْكُمْ عَبْدًا لَّنَا ۖ أَوَّلِي بَأْسٍ شَدِيدٍ فَجَاسُوا خِلَالَ الدِّيَارِ  
وَكَانَ وَعْدًا مَّفْعُولًا ﴿٤﴾ ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَا لَكُمُ الْكَرَّةَ عَلَيْهِمْ  
وَأَمَدَدْنَا لَكُمُ الْبَأْسَ ۖ وَجَعَلْنَا لَكُمُ الْكُرْسِيَّ ۖ أَكْثَرَ نُفِيرًا ﴿٥﴾  
إِن أَحْسَنْتُمْ أَحْسَنْتُمْ لِأَنفُسِكُمْ ۖ وَإِنْ أَسَأْتُمْ فَلَهَا ۚ فَإِذَا جَاءَ  
وَعْدُ الْآخِرَةِ لِيَسْتَوُوا وَجُوهَكُمْ ۖ وَلِيَدْخُلُوا الْمَسْجِدَ  
كَمَا دَخَلُوهُ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ ۖ وَلِيُتَبَرُوا مَا عُلِّقُوا قَبْلَ ۚ ﴿٦﴾

﴿الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ﴾

﴿Who took His servant for a Journey﴾ refers to Muḥammad ﷺ

﴿لَيْلًا﴾

﴿by Night﴾ means, in the depths of the night.

﴿مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ﴾

﴿from Al-Masjid Al-Harām﴾ means the Masjid in Makkah.

﴿إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا﴾

﴿to Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā﴾ means the Sacred House which is in Jerusalem, the origin of the Prophets from the time of Ibrāhīm Al-Khalīl. The Prophets all gathered there, and he (Muḥammad ﷺ) led

them in prayer in their own homeland. This indicates that he is the greatest leader of all, may the peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him and upon them.

﴿الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ﴾

﴿the neighborhood whereof We have blessed﴾ means, its agricultural produce and fruits are blessed

﴿لَنُرِيَهُ﴾

﴿in order that We might show him﴾, i.e., Muḥammad ﷺ

﴿مِن آيَاتِنَا﴾

﴿of Our Āyāt﴾ i.e., great signs. As Allāh says:

﴿لَقَدْ رَأَى مِنْ آيَاتِ رَبِّهِ الْكُبْرَى﴾

﴿Indeed he did see of the greatest signs, of his Lord (Allāh).﴾  
(53:18)

We will mention below what was narrated in the Sunnah concerning this.

﴿إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ﴾

﴿Verily, He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer.﴾

means, He hears all the words of His servants, believers and disbelievers, faithful and infidel, and He sees them and gives each of them what he deserves in this world and the Hereafter.

### Hadiths about Al-Isrā'

#### The Report of Anas bin Mālīk

Imām Aḥmad reported from Anas bin Mālīk that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«أُنِيتُ بِالْبِرَاقِ وَهُوَ دَابَّةٌ أَبْيَضُ فَوْقَ الْجَمَارِ وَدُونَ الْبَغْلِ، يَضَعُ حَافِرُهُ عِنْدَ مُتَهَيِّ طَرَفِهِ، فَرَكْبَتُهُ فَسَارِي حَتَّى أَتَيْتُ بَيْتَ الْمَقْدِسِ، فَرَبَطْتُ الدَّابَّةَ بِالْحَلَقَةِ الَّتِي يَرْبِطُ فِيهَا الْأَنْبِيَاءُ، ثُمَّ دَخَلْتُ فَصَلَّيْتُ فِيهِ رَكْعَتَيْنِ ثُمَّ خَرَجْتُ فَأَتَانِي جِبْرِيلُ بِإِنَاءٍ مِنْ خَمِيرٍ وَإِنَاءٍ مِنْ لَبَنٍ، فَاخْتَرْتُ اللَّبَنَ فَقَالَ جِبْرِيلُ: أَصَبْتَ الْفِطْرَةَ. قَالَ: ثُمَّ عُرِجَ بِي إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا فَاسْتَفْتَحَ جِبْرِيلُ فَقِيلَ لَهُ: مَنْ أَنْتَ؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ. قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ. قِيلَ: وَقَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: قَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ. فَفُتِحَ لَنَا فَإِذَا أَنَا بِأَدَمَ فَرَحَّبَ بِي وَدَعَا لِي بِخَيْرٍ، ثُمَّ عُرِجَ بِنَا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الثَّانِيَةِ فَاسْتَفْتَحَ جِبْرِيلُ فَقِيلَ لَهُ: مَنْ أَنْتَ؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ. قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ. قِيلَ: وَقَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: قَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ، فَفُتِحَ لَنَا فَإِذَا أَنَا بِابْنِي الْخَالَةِ يَحْيَى وَعِيسَى فَرَحَّبَا بِي وَدَعَوَا لِي بِخَيْرٍ ثُمَّ عُرِجَ بِنَا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الثَّالِثَةِ فَاسْتَفْتَحَ جِبْرِيلُ فَقِيلَ لَهُ: مَنْ أَنْتَ؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ. قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ. قِيلَ: وَقَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: قَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ. فَفُتِحَ لَنَا، فَإِذَا أَنَا بِيُوسُفَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ، وَإِذَا هُوَ قَدْ أُعْطِيَ شَطْرَ الْحُسَيْنِ فَرَحَّبَ بِي وَدَعَا لِي بِخَيْرٍ. ثُمَّ عُرِجَ بِنَا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الرَّابِعَةِ فَاسْتَفْتَحَ جِبْرِيلُ فَقِيلَ: مَنْ أَنْتَ؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ. قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ. قِيلَ: وَقَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: قَدْ بُعِثَ إِلَيْهِ. فَفُتِحَ لَنَا فَإِذَا أَنَا بِإِدْرِيسَ فَرَحَّبَ بِي وَدَعَا لِي بِخَيْرٍ، ثُمَّ قَالَ:

يَقُولُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى :

'Al-Burāq was brought to me, and it was a white animal bigger than a donkey and smaller than a mule. One stride of this creature covered a distance as far as it could see. I rode on it and it took me to Bayt Al-Maqdis (Jerusalem), where I tethered it at the hitching post of the Prophets. Then I entered and prayed two Rak'ahs there, and came out. Jibrīl brought me a vessel of wine and a vessel of milk, and I chose the milk. Jibrīl said: 'You have chosen the Fiṭrah (natural instinct).' Then I was taken up to the first heaven and Jibrīl asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Jibrīl.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muḥammad.' It was asked, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'His Mission has started.' So it was opened for us, and there I saw Ādam, who welcomed me and prayed for good for me. Then I was taken up to the second heaven and Jibrīl asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Jibrīl.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muḥammad.' It was asked, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'His Mission has started.' So it was opened for us, and there I saw the two maternal cousins, Yahyā and 'Isā, who welcomed me and prayed for good for me. Then I was taken up to the third heaven and Jibrīl asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Jibrīl.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muḥammad.' It was asked, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'His Mission has started.' So it was opened for us, and there I saw Yūsuf, who had been given the beautiful half. He welcomed me and prayed for good for me. Then I was taken up to the fourth heaven and Jibrīl asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Jibrīl.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muḥammad.' It was asked, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'His Mission has started.' So it was opened for us, and there I saw Idrīs, who welcomed me and prayed for good for me. - then (the Prophet ﷺ) said: Allāh says:

﴿وَرَفَعْنَاهُ مَكَانًا عَلِيًّا ۝٥٧﴾

﴿And We raised him to a high station﴾ (19:57).

ثُمَّ عُرِجَ بِنَا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الْخَامِسَةِ فَاسْتَفْتَحَ جِبْرِيلُ فَقِيلَ: مَنْ أَنْتَ؟ قَالَ جِبْرِيلُ قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ قِيلَ: وَقَدْ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: قَدْ بُعِثَ إِلَيْهِ. فَفُتِحَ لَنَا فَإِذَا أَنَا بِهَارُونَ فَوَحَّيَ بِي وَدَعَا لِي بِخَيْرٍ ثُمَّ عُرِجَ بِنَا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ السَّادِسَةِ فَاسْتَفْتَحَ جِبْرِيلُ فَقِيلَ مَنْ أَنْتَ؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ قِيلَ: وَقَدْ بُعِثَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: قَدْ بُعِثَ إِلَيْهِ. فَفُتِحَ لَنَا فَإِذَا أَنَا بِمُوسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ فَوَحَّيَ بِي وَدَعَا لِي بِخَيْرٍ ثُمَّ عُرِجَ بِنَا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ السَّابِعَةِ فَاسْتَفْتَحَ جِبْرِيلُ فَقِيلَ مَنْ أَنْتَ؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ قِيلَ: وَقَدْ بُعِثَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: قَدْ بُعِثَ إِلَيْهِ. فَفُتِحَ لَنَا فَإِذَا أَنَا بِإِبْرَاهِيمَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ، وَإِذَا هُوَ مُسْتَبِدٌّ إِلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمَعْمُورِ، وَإِذَا هُوَ يَدْخُلُهُ كُلُّ يَوْمٍ سَبْعُونَ أَلْفَ مَلَكٍ ثُمَّ لَا يَمُودُونَ إِلَيْهِ، ثُمَّ دَخَبَ بِي إِلَى سِدْرَةِ الْمُتَنَهَّى فَإِذَا وَرَقُهَا كَأَذَانِ الْفَيْلَةِ، وَإِذَا تَمَرُّهَا كَأَلْفِ لَالٍ، فَلَمَّا غَشِيَهَا مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ مَا غَشِيَهَا تَغَيَّرَتْ فَمَا أَحَدٌ مِنْ خَلْقِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى يَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ يَصِفَهَا مِنْ حُسْنِهَا.

قَالَ: فَأَوْحَى اللَّهُ إِلَيَّ مَا أَوْحَى، وَقَدْ فَرَضَ عَلَيَّ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ خَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً فَتَرَلْتُ حَتَّى انْتَهَيْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى، قَالَ: مَا فَرَضَ رَبُّكَ عَلَى أُمَّتِكَ؟ قُلْتُ: خَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ، قَالَ: ارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلْهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأُمَّتِكَ، فَإِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تُطِيقُ ذَلِكَ وَإِنِّي قَدْ بَلَوْتُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَخَبَرْتُهُمْ، قَالَ: فَارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّي فَقُلْتُ أَيُّ رَبِّ خَفَّفَ عَنْ أُمَّتِي فَحَطَّ عَنِّي خَمْسًا، فَتَرَلْتُ حَتَّى انْتَهَيْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَقَالَ: مَا فَعَلْتَ؟ قُلْتُ: قَدْ حَطَّ عَنِّي خَمْسًا فَقَالَ: إِنْ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تُطِيقُ ذَلِكَ فَارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلْهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأُمَّتِكَ، قَالَ: فَلَمْ أَرْزَلْ أَرْجِعْ بَيْنَ رَبِّي وَبَيْنَ مُوسَى وَبِحُطِّ عَنِّي خَمْسًا خَمْسًا حَتَّى قَالَ: يَا مُحَمَّدُ هُنَّ خَمْسُ صَلَوَاتٍ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ بِكُلِّ صَلَاةٍ عَشْرٌ، فَبَلَغَتْ خَمْسُونَ صَلَاةً وَمَنْ هَمَّ بِحَسَنَةٍ فَلَمْ يَعْمَلْهَا كُتِبَتْ لَهُ حَسَنَةٌ، فَإِنْ عَمِلَهَا كُتِبَتْ عَشْرًا، وَمَنْ هَمَّ بِسَيِّئَةٍ فَلَمْ يَعْمَلْهَا لَمْ يُكُتَبْ شَيْئًا، فَإِنْ عَمِلَهَا كُتِبَتْ سَيِّئَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ، فَتَرَلْتُ حَتَّى انْتَهَيْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَأَخْبَرْتُهُ، فَقَالَ: ارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلْهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأُمَّتِكَ فَإِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تُطِيقُ ذَلِكَ، فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ: «لَقَدْ رَجَعْتُ إِلَى رَبِّي حَتَّى اسْتَحْيَيْتُ»

[Then he resumed his narrative:] «Then I was taken up to the fifth heaven and Jibril asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Jibril.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muhammad.' It was asked, 'Has his

Mission started?' He said, 'His Mission has started.?' So it was opened for us, and there I saw Hārūn, who welcomed me and prayed for good for me. Then I was taken up to the sixth heaven and Jibrīl asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Jibrīl.?' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muḥammad.' It was asked, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'His Mission has started.?' So it was opened for us, and there I saw Mūsā, who welcomed me and prayed for good for me. Then I was taken up to the seventh heaven and Jibrīl asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Jibrīl.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muḥammad.' It was asked, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'His Mission has started.' So it was opened for us, and there I saw Ibrāhīm, who was leaning back against the Much-Frequented House (Al-Bayt Al-Ma'mūr). Every day seventy thousand angels enter it, then they never come back to it again. Then I was taken to Sidrat Al-Muntahā (the Lote tree beyond which none may pass), and its leaves were like the leaves [ears] of elephants and its fruits were like jugs, and when it was veiled with whatever it was veiled with by the command of Allāh, it changed, and none of the creatures of Allāh can describe it because it is so beautiful.

Then Allāh revealed that which He revealed to me. He enjoined on me fifty prayers every day and night. I came down until I reached Mūsā, and he said, 'What did your Lord enjoin on your Ummah?' I said, 'Fifty prayers everyday and night.' He said, 'Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce (the burden) for your Ummah, for your Ummah will not be able to do that. I tested the Children of Israel and found out how they were.' So I went back to my Lord and said, 'O Lord, reduce (the burden) for my Ummah for they will never be able to do that.' So He reduced it by five. I came back down until I met Mūsā and he asked me, 'What did you do?' I said, '(My Lord) reduced (my burden) by five.' He said, 'Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce (the burden) for your Ummah.' I kept going back between my Lord and Mūsā, and (my Lord) reduced it by five each time, until He said, 'O Muḥammad, these are five prayers every day and night, and for every prayer there is (the reward of) ten, so they are (like) fifty prayers. Whoever wants to do

something good then does not do it, one good deed will be recorded for him, and if he does it, ten good deeds will be recorded for him. Whoever wants to do something evil and does not do it, no evil deed will be recorded for him, and if he does it, one evil deed will be recorded for him.' I came down until I reached Mūsā, and told him about this. He said: 'Go back to your Lord and ask him to reduce (the burden) for your Ummah, for they will never be able to do that.' I had kept going back to my Lord until I felt too shy.»<sup>[1]</sup> This version was also recorded by Muslim.<sup>[2]</sup>

Imām Aḥmad recorded Anas saying that *Al-Burāq* was brought to the Prophet ﷺ on the Night of the *Isrā'* with his saddle and reins ready for riding. The animal shied, and Jibrīl said to him: "Why are you doing this? By Allāh, no one has ever ridden you who is more honored by Allāh than him." At this, *Al-Burāq* started to sweat. This was also recorded by At-Tirmidhi, who said it is *Gharīb*.<sup>[3]</sup>

Aḥmad also recorded that Anas said: "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«لَمَّا عَرَجَ بِي رَبِّي عَزَّ وَجَلَّ مَرَزْتُ بِقَوْمٍ لَهُمْ أَظْفَارٌ مِنْ نَحَاسٍ يَخْمِسُونَ بِهَا  
وُجُوهُهُمْ وَصُدُورَهُمْ، فَقُلْتُ: مَنْ هَؤُلَاءِ يَا جِبْرِيلُ؟ قَالَ: هَؤُلَاءِ الَّذِينَ يَأْكُلُونَ  
لُحُومَ النَّاسِ وَيَقَعُونَ فِي أَعْرَاضِهِمْ»

«When I was taken up to my Lord (during *Al-Mi'rāj*), I passed by people who had nails of copper with which they were scratching their faces and chests. I asked, 'Who are these, O Jibrīl?' He said, 'These are those who ate the flesh of the people [i.e., backbiting] and slandered their honor.'»<sup>[4]</sup>

This was also recorded by Abu Dāwud.<sup>[5]</sup> Anas also said that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

[1] Aḥmad 3:148.

[2] Muslim 1:145.

[3] At-Tirmidhi, no. 3131.

[4] Aḥmad 3:224.

[5] Abu Dāwud 4878.

«مَرَزْتُ لَيْلَةً أُسْرِي بِي عَلَى مُوسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ قَائِمًا يُصَلِّي فِي قَبْرِهِ»

«On the night when I was taken on my Night Journey (Al-Isrā'), I passed by Mūsā, who was standing, praying in his grave.»<sup>[1]</sup> This was also recorded by Muslim.<sup>[2]</sup>

### The Report of Anas bin Mālik from Mālik bin Ša'sa'ah

Imām Aḥmad recorded that Anas bin Mālik said that Mālik bin Ša'sa'ah told him that the Prophet of Allāh ﷺ told them about the night in which he was taken on the Night Journey (Al-Isrā'). He said:

«يَتَنَمَّا أَنَا فِي الْحَاطِمِ - وَرُبَّمَا قَالَ قَتَادَةُ: فِي الْحَجْرِ - مُضْطَجِعًا إِذْ أَتَانِي آتٍ، فَجَعَلَ يَقُولُ لِصَاحِبِهِ الْأَوْسَطِ بَيْنَ الثَّلَاثَةِ - قَالَ - فَأَتَانِي فَقَدْ - سَمِعْتُ قَتَادَةَ يَقُولُ: فَسَقَّ - مَا بَيْنَ هَذِهِ إِلَى هَذِهِ»

«While I was lying down in Al-Ḥaṭīm (or maybe, Qatādah said, in Al-Hijr) 'someone came to me and said to his companion, 'The one who is in the middle of these three.' He came to me and opened me.»

I [one of the narrators] heard Qatādah say, 'split me - from here to here.' Qatādah said: "I said to Al-Jārūd, who was beside me, 'What does that mean?' He said, 'From the top of his chest to below his navel', and I heard him say, 'from his throat to below his navel'. The Prophet ﷺ said:

«فَأَشْخَرَجَ قَلْبِي - قَالَ - فَأَتَيْتُ بِطَنْبٍ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ مَمْلُوءَةٍ إِيْمَانًا وَحِكْمَةً فَعُفِّلَ قَلْبِي ثُمَّ حُشِيَ ثُمَّ أُعِيدَ ثُمَّ أَتَيْتُ بِدَابَّةٍ دُونَ الْبَغْلِ وَفَوْقَ الْحِمَارِ أَيْضًا»

«He took out my heart and brought a golden vessel filled with faith and wisdom. He washed my heart then filled it up and put it back, then a white animal was brought to me that was smaller than a mule and larger than a donkey.»

Al-Jārūd said, 'Was this Al-Burāq, O Abu Hamzah?' He said, 'Yes, and its stride covered a distance as far as it could see.' The Prophet ﷺ said:

[1] Aḥmad 3:120.

[2] Muslim 2375.

«مُحَمَّدٌ عَلَيْهِ فَانْطَلَقَ يَبِي جِبْرِيلُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ حَتَّى أَتَى يَبِي إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا فَانْتَفَتَحَ، فَقِيلَ: مَنْ هَذَا؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ، قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ، قِيلَ: أَرَأَيْتَ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: نَعَمْ، فَقِيلَ: مَرْحَبًا بِهِ وَلَيَعْمَ الْمَجِيءُ بِجَاءَ - قَالَ - فَفُتِحَ لَنَا فَلَمَّا خَلَصْتُ فَإِذَا فِيهَا آدَمُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ، قَالَ: هَذَا أَبُوكَ آدَمُ فَسَلِّمْ عَلَيْهِ، فَسَلَّمْتُ عَلَيْهِ فَرَدَّ السَّلَامَ ثُمَّ قَالَ: مَرْحَبًا بِالْأَبْنِ الصَّالِحِ وَالنَّبِيِّ الصَّالِحِ، قَالَ - فَلَمَّا تَجَاوَزْتُهُ بَكَى قِيلَ لَهُ: مَا يَبْكُكَ؟ قَالَ: أَبْكِي لِأَنَّ غُلَامًا بَعَثَ بَعْدِي يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ مِنْ أُمِّيهِ أَكْثَرَ مِنَّمَا يَدْخُلُهَا مِنْ أُمِّي. قَالَ: ثُمَّ صَعِدَ حَتَّى أَتَى السَّمَاءَ السَّابِعَةَ فَانْتَفَتَحَ قِيلَ: مَنْ هَذَا؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ، قِيلَ: وَمَنْ مَعَكَ؟ قَالَ: مُحَمَّدٌ، قِيلَ: أَرَأَيْتَ بَعِثَ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: نَعَمْ، قِيلَ: مَرْحَبًا بِهِ وَلَيَعْمَ الْمَجِيءُ بِجَاءَ، قَالَ: فَفُتِحَ لَنَا فَلَمَّا خَلَصْتُ فَإِذَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ فَقَالَ: هَذَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ فَسَلِّمْ عَلَيْهِ قَالَ: فَسَلَّمْتُ عَلَيْهِ فَرَدَّ السَّلَامَ، ثُمَّ قَالَ: مَرْحَبًا بِالْأَبْنِ الصَّالِحِ وَالنَّبِيِّ الصَّالِحِ - قَالَ - ثُمَّ رَفَعْتُ إِلَيَّ سِدْرَةَ الْمُتَنَهَّى فَإِذَا نَبُتْهَا مِثْلُ قِلَافِ حَجَرٍ، وَإِذَا وَرَقُهَا مِثْلُ أَذَانِ الْفِيلَةِ، فَقَالَ: هَذِهِ سِدْرَةُ الْمُتَنَهَّى، قَالَ: وَإِذَا أُرْبَعَةُ أَنْهَارٍ: نَهْرَانِ بَاطِنَانِ وَنَهْرَانِ ظَاهِرَانِ، فَقُلْتُ: مَا هَذَا يَا جِبْرِيلُ؟ قَالَ: أَمَّا الْبَاطِنَانِ فَنَهْرَانِ فِي الْجَنَّةِ، وَأَمَّا الظَّاهِرَانِ فَالنَّيْلُ وَالْفَرَاتُ - قَالَ - ثُمَّ رَفَعَ إِلَيَّ النَّبِيَّ الْمَغْمُورَ»

«I was mounted upon it and Jibril brought me to the first heaven, and asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who is this?' He said, 'Jibril.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muhammad.' It was said, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'Yes.' It was said, 'Welcome to him, blessed is the one who comes.' So it was opened for us and when I entered, I saw Adam. (Jibril) said, 'This is your father Adam, greet him.' So I greeted him, and he returned the greeting then said, 'Welcome to the righteous son and righteous Prophet.' Then I was taken up to the fifth heaven, and (Jibril) asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who is this?' He said, 'Jibril.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muhammad.' It was said, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'Yes.' It was said, 'Welcome to him, blessed is the one who comes.' So it was opened for us and when I entered, I saw Hārūn. (Jibril) said, 'This is Hārūn, greet him.' So I greeted him, and he returned the greeting then said, 'Welcome to the righteous brother and righteous Prophet.'



Then I was taken up to the sixth heaven, and (Jibrīl) asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who is this?' He said, 'Jibrīl.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muḥammad.' It was said, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'Yes.' It was said, 'Welcome to him, blessed is the one who comes.' So it was opened for us and when I entered, I saw Mūsā. (Jibrīl) said, 'This is Mūsā, greet him.' So I greeted him, and he returned the greeting then said, 'Welcome to the righteous brother and righteous Prophet.' When I passed by him, he wept, and it was said to him, 'Why are you weeping?' He said, 'I am weeping because a young man was sent after me and more people from his Ummah than from mine will enter Paradise.' Then I was taken up to the seventh heaven, and (Jibrīl) asked for it to be opened. It was said, 'Who is this?' He said, 'Jibrīl.' It was said, 'Who is with you?' He said, 'Muḥammad'. It was said, 'Has his Mission started?' He said, 'Yes.' It was said, 'Welcome to him, blessed is the one who comes.' So it was opened for us and when I entered, I saw Ibrāhīm. (Jibrīl) said, 'This is Ibrāhīm, greet him.' So I greeted him, and he returned the greeting then said, 'Welcome to the righteous son and righteous Prophet.' Then I was taken up to Sidrat Al-Muntahā, whose fruits like the clay jugs of Hajar (a region in Arabia) and its leaves were like the ears of elephants. (Jibrīl) said: 'This is Sidrat Al-Muntahā.' And there were four rivers, two hidden and two visible. I said, 'What is this, O Jibrīl?' He said, 'The two hidden rivers are rivers in Paradise, and the two visible rivers are the Nile and the Euphrates.' Then I was shown Al-Bayt Al-Ma'mūr.»

Qatādah said: Al-Ḥasan told us narrating from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet ﷺ saw Al-Bayt Al-Ma'mūr. Each day seventy thousand angels enter it, then they never return from it. Then he continued to narrate the Ḥadīth of Anas;

«ثُمَّ أُتِيَ بِإِنَاءٍ مِنْ خَمْرٍ وَإِنَاءٍ مِنْ لَبَنٍ وَإِنَاءٍ مِنْ عَسَلٍ. - قَالَ - فَأَخَذْتُ اللَّبَنَ قَالَ: هَذِهِ الْفِطْرَةُ أَنْتَ عَلَيْهَا وَأَمْتُكَ - قَالَ - ثُمَّ فَرَضْتُ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ خَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً كُلُّ يَوْمٍ - قَالَ - فَتَزَلْتُ حَتَّى أَتَيْتُ مُوسَى، فَقَالَ: مَا فَرَضَ رَبُّكَ عَلَى أَنْفِكَ؟ قَالَ: قُلْتُ: خَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً كُلُّ يَوْمٍ، قَالَ: إِنْ أَمْتُكَ لَا تَسْتَطِيعُ خَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً وَإِنِّي قَدْ خَيْرْتُ النَّاسَ قَبْلَكَ، وَعَالَجْتُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَشَدَّ الْمَعَالَجَةِ، فَارْجِعْ

إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلُهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأَمَّتِكَ - قَالَ - فَرَجَعْتُ فَوَضَعَ عَنِّي عَشْرًا - قَالَ - فَرَجَعْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَقَالَ: بِمَ أَمَرْتُ؟ قُلْتُ: بِأَرْبَعِينَ صَلَاةً كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، قَالَ: إِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تَسْتَطِيعُ أَرْبَعِينَ صَلَاةً كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، وَإِنِّي قَدْ خَبَرْتُ النَّاسَ قَبْلَكَ وَعَالَجْتُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَشَدَّ الْمُعَالَجَةِ، فَارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلُهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأَمَّتِكَ - قَالَ - فَرَجَعْتُ فَوَضَعَ عَنِّي عَشْرًا آخَرَ، فَرَجَعْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَقَالَ: بِمَ أَمَرْتُ؟ قُلْتُ: بِثَلَاثِينَ صَلَاةً، قَالَ: إِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تَسْتَطِيعُ ثَلَاثِينَ صَلَاةً كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، وَإِنِّي قَدْ خَبَرْتُ النَّاسَ قَبْلَكَ وَعَالَجْتُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَشَدَّ الْمُعَالَجَةِ، فَارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلُهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأَمَّتِكَ - قَالَ - فَرَجَعْتُ فَوَضَعَ عَنِّي عَشْرًا آخَرَ، فَرَجَعْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَقَالَ: بِمَ أَمَرْتُ؟ قُلْتُ: بِعَشْرِينَ صَلَاةً كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، قَالَ: إِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تَسْتَطِيعُ عَشْرِينَ صَلَاةً كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، وَإِنِّي قَدْ خَبَرْتُ النَّاسَ قَبْلَكَ وَعَالَجْتُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَشَدَّ الْمُعَالَجَةِ، فَارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلُهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأَمَّتِكَ - قَالَ - فَرَجَعْتُ فَوَضَعَ عَنِّي عَشْرًا آخَرَ، فَرَجَعْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَقَالَ: بِمَ أَمَرْتُ؟ قُلْتُ: بِعَشْرِ صَلَوَاتٍ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، قَالَ: إِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تَسْتَطِيعُ لِعَشْرِ صَلَوَاتٍ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، وَإِنِّي قَدْ خَبَرْتُ النَّاسَ قَبْلَكَ وَعَالَجْتُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَشَدَّ الْمُعَالَجَةِ، فَارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلُهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأَمَّتِكَ - قَالَ - فَرَجَعْتُ فَأَمَرْتُ بِخَمْسِ صَلَوَاتٍ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، فَرَجَعْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَقَالَ: بِمَ أَمَرْتُ؟ قُلْتُ: أَمَرْتُ بِخَمْسِ صَلَوَاتٍ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، قَالَ: إِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تَسْتَطِيعُ لِحَمْسِ صَلَوَاتٍ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ، وَإِنِّي قَدْ خَبَرْتُ النَّاسَ قَبْلَكَ وَعَالَجْتُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَشَدَّ الْمُعَالَجَةِ، فَارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلُهُ التَّخْفِيفَ لِأَمَّتِكَ - قَالَ - قُلْتُ: قَدْ سَأَلْتُ رَبِّي حَتَّى اسْتَحْسِنْتُ، وَلَكِنْ أَرْضَى وَأَسْلَمُ، فَفَعَلْتُ فَنَادَى مُنَادٍ: قَدْ أَمْضَيْتُ فَرِيضَتِي وَخَفَّفْتُ عَنْ عِبَادِي

«Then I was brought a vessel of wine, a vessel of milk and a vessel of honey. I chose the milk, and he [Jibril] said, 'This is the Fitrah (natural instinct) on which you and your Ummah will be.' Then the prayer was enjoined upon me, fifty prayers each day. I came down until I reached Mūsā, who said, 'What did your Lord enjoin upon your Ummah?' I said, 'Fifty prayers each day.' He said, 'Your Ummah will not be able to do fifty prayers each day. I tried the people before you, I had to deal with the Children of Israel and it was very difficult for me. Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce the burden on your

Ummah.' So I went back, and the number was reduced by ten. I came back to Mūsā and he asked, 'What were you commanded to do?' I said, 'Forty prayers each day.' He said, 'Your Ummah will not be able to do forty prayers each day. I tried the people before you, I had to deal with the Children of Israel and it was very difficult for me. Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce the burden on your Ummah.' So I went back, and the number was reduced by ten. I came back to Mūsā and he asked, 'What were you commanded to do?' I said, 'I was commanded to do thirty prayers each day.' He said, 'Your Ummah will not be able to do thirty prayers each day. I tried the people before you, I had to deal with the Children of Israel and it was very difficult for me. Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce the burden on your Ummah.' So I went back, and the number was reduced by ten. I came back to Mūsā and he asked, 'What were you commanded to do?' I said, 'Twenty prayers each day.' He said, 'Your Ummah will not be able to do twenty prayers each day. I tried the people before you, I had to deal with the Children of Israel and it was very difficult for me. Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce the burden on your Ummah.' So I went back, and the number was reduced by ten more. I came back to Mūsā and he asked, 'What were you commanded to do?' I said, 'Ten prayers each day.' He said, 'Your Ummah will not be able to do ten prayers each day. I tried the people before you, I had to deal with the Children of Israel and it was very difficult for me. Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce the burden on your Ummah.' So I went back, and I was commanded to do five prayers every day. I came back to Mūsā and he asked, 'What were you commanded to do?' I said, 'Five prayers each day.' He said, 'Your Ummah will not be able to do five prayers each day. I tried the people before you, I had to deal with the Children of Israel and it was very difficult for me. Go back to your Lord and ask Him to reduce the burden on your Ummah.' I said, 'I have asked my Lord until I feel too shy. I accept this and submit to Him.' Then a voice called out: 'My order has been decreed and I have reduced the burden on My servants.'<sup>[1]</sup> Similar narrations were recorded in the

[1] Ahmad 4:208.

Two *Ṣaḥīḥs*.<sup>[1]</sup>**The Report of Anas from Abu Dharr**

Al-Bukhārī recorded that Anas bin Mālik said: Abu Dharr used to tell us that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«فُرِجَ عَن سَقْفِ بَيْتِي وَأَنَا بِمَكَّةَ، فَتَزَلَ جِبْرِيلُ فَفَرَجَ صَدْرِي ثُمَّ غَسَلَهُ بِمَاءِ زَمْزَمَ، ثُمَّ جَاءَ بِطَبَسٍ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ مُمْتَلِئٍ حِكْمَةً وَإِيمَانًا، فَأَفْرَعُهُ فِي صَدْرِي، ثُمَّ أَطْبَقَهُ ثُمَّ أَخَذَ بِيَدِي فَعَرَجَ بِي إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا، فَلَمَّا جِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ قَالَ جِبْرِيلُ لِحَاظِرِنِ السَّمَاءِ: افْتَحْ قَالَ: مَنْ هَذَا؟ قَالَ: جِبْرِيلُ، قَالَ: هَلْ مَعَكَ أَحَدٌ؟ قَالَ: نَعَمْ مَعِيَ مُحَمَّدٌ ﷺ، فَقَالَ: أُرْسِلْ إِلَيْهِ؟ قَالَ: نَعَمْ فَلَمَّا فَتَحَ عَلَوْنَا السَّمَاءَ الدُّنْيَا فَإِذَا رَجُلٌ قَاعِدٌ عَلَى يَمِينِهِ أَسْوَدَةٌ وَعَلَى يَسَارِهِ أَسْوَدَةٌ، إِذَا نَظَرَ قَبْلَ يَمِينِهِ ضَحِكَ وَإِذَا نَظَرَ قَبْلَ شِمَالِهِ بَكَى، فَقَالَ: مَرْحَبًا بِالنَّبِيِّ الصَّالِحِ وَالْأَبْنِ الصَّالِحِ - قَالَ - قُلْتُ لِجِبْرِيلَ: مَنْ هَذَا؟ قَالَ: هَذَا آدَمُ وَهَذِهِ الْأَسْوَدَةُ عَنْ يَمِينِهِ وَعَنْ شِمَالِهِ نَسَمُ بَنِيهِ، فَأَهْلُ الْيَمِينِ مِنْهُمْ أَهْلُ الْجَنَّةِ، وَالْأَسْوَدَةُ الَّتِي عَنْ شِمَالِهِ أَهْلُ النَّارِ، فَإِذَا نَظَرَ عَنْ يَمِينِهِ ضَحِكَ، وَإِذَا نَظَرَ عَنْ شِمَالِهِ بَكَى، ثُمَّ عَرَجَ بِي إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الثَّانِيَةِ فَذَكَرَ الْحَدِيثَ قَالَ: «ثُمَّ مَرَرْتُ بِإِبْرَاهِيمَ فَقَالَ: مَرْحَبًا بِالنَّبِيِّ الصَّالِحِ وَالْأَبْنِ الصَّالِحِ، قُلْتُ: مَنْ هَذَا؟ قَالَ: هَذَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ»

*‘The roof of my house was opened while I was in Makkah, and Jibrīl came down and opened my chest, then he washed it with Zamzam water. Then he brought a vessel of gold filled with wisdom and faith, and poured it into my chest, then he closed it up. Then he took me by the hand and took me up to the lowest heaven. When we came to the lowest heaven, Jibrīl said to its keeper, ‘Open up!’ He said, ‘Who is this?’ He said, ‘Jibrīl.’ He said, ‘Is there anyone with you?’ He said, ‘Yes, Muḥammad is with me.’ He said, ‘Has his Mission started?’ He said, ‘Yes.’ When it was opened, we went up into the first heaven, where I saw a man sitting with a multitude to his right and another to his left. When he looked to his right he smiled, and when he looked to his left, he wept. He said, ‘Welcome to the righteous Prophet and the righteous son.’ I said to Jibrīl, ‘Who is this?’ He*

[1] *Fath Al-Bārī* 6:348, *Muslim* 1:151.

said, 'This is Ādam, and these multitudes to his right and left are the souls of his descendants. The people on his right include the people of Paradise, and the people on his left include the people of Hell, so when he looks to his right he smiles, and when he looks to his left he weeps.' Then he took me up to the second heaven... Then we passed by Ibrāhīm, who said, 'Welcome to the righteous Prophet and the righteous son.' I said, 'Who is this?' He said, 'This is Ibrāhīm.'

Az-Zuhri said: Ibn Ḥazm told me that Ibn 'Abbās and Abū Ḥabbah Al-Anṣārī used to say: the Prophet ﷺ narrated here -

«ثُمَّ عُرِّجَ بِي حَتَّى ظَهَرْتُ لِمُسْتَوًى أَسْمَعُ فِيهِ صَرِيفَ الْأَقْلَامِ»

«Then I was taken up until I reached a level where I could hear the sound of the pens.»

Ibn Ḥazm and Anas bin Mālik said: the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«فَرَضَ اللَّهُ عَلَى أُمَّتِي خَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً، فَرَجَعْتُ بِذَلِكَ حَتَّى مَرَرْتُ عَلَى مُوسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ، فَقَالَ: مَا فَرَضَ اللَّهُ عَلَى أُمَّتِكَ؟ قُلْتُ: فَرَضَ خَمْسِينَ صَلَاةً، قَالَ مُوسَى: فَارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَإِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تُطِيقُ ذَلِكَ، فَرَجَعْتُ فَوَضَعَ شَطْرَهَا، فَرَجَعْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى، قُلْتُ: وَضَعَ شَطْرَهَا، فَقَالَ: ارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ، فَإِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تُطِيقُ ذَلِكَ، فَرَجَعْتُ فَوَضَعَ شَطْرَهَا، فَرَجَعْتُ إِلَيْهِ فَقَالَ: ارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ فَإِنَّ أُمَّتَكَ لَا تُطِيقُ ذَلِكَ، فَرَاغَعْتُهُ فَقَالَ: هِيَ خَمْسٌ وَهِيَ خَمْسُونَ لَا يُبْدِلُ الْقَوْلُ لَدَيَّ، فَرَجَعْتُ إِلَى مُوسَى فَقَالَ: ارْجِعْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ، قُلْتُ: قَدْ اسْتَخْنَيْتُ مِنْ رَبِّي، ثُمَّ انْطَلَقَ بِي حَتَّى انْتَهَى إِلَى بَيْتِهَا الْمُنْتَهَى فَغَشِيَهَا أَلْوَانٌ لَا أَذْرِي مَا هِيَ، ثُمَّ أَذْخَلْتُ الْجَنَّةَ، فَإِذَا فِيهَا حَبَابِلُ اللَّوْلُؤِ، وَإِذَا تُرَابُهَا الْمِسْكُ»

«Allāh enjoined upon my Ummah fifty prayers. I came back with this (message) until I passed by Mūsā, who said, 'What did your Lord enjoin upon your Ummah?' I said, 'He enjoined fifty prayers.' Mūsā said, 'Go back to your Lord, for your Ummah will not be able to do that.' So I went back, and He reduced it by half. Then I came back to Mūsā and said, 'It has been reduced by half.' He said, 'Go back to your Lord, for your Ummah will not be able to do that.' So I went back, and it was reduced by half. I came back to him, and he said, 'Go back to

*your Lord, for your Ummah will not be able to do that.' So I went back, and He said: 'They are five but equal in reward to fifty, for My word does not change.' I came back to Mūsā and he said, 'Go back to your Lord.' I said, 'I feel too shy before my Lord.' Then I was taken up until I reached Sidrat Al-Muntahā, which was veiled in indescribable colors. Then I entered Paradise, in which I saw nets of pearls and its soil of musk.»*

This version was recorded by Al-Bukhārī in the Book of Prayer. He also reported in the Book of *Tafsīr*, under the discussion of *Bani Isrā'īl* (i.e., *Sūrat Al-Isrā'*), the Book of *Hajj* and the Stories of the Prophets, via different chains of narration from Yūnus. Muslim recorded similar *Ḥadīths* in his *Ṣaḥīḥ* in the Book of Faith.<sup>[1]</sup>

Imām Aḥmad recorded that 'Abdullāh bin Shaqīq said: I said to Abu Dharr, "If I had seen the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, I would have asked him." He said, "What would you have asked him?" He said, "I would have asked him, if he saw his Lord?" He said, "I did ask him that, and he said,

«فَدَرَأَيْتُهُ نُورًا، أَنَّى أَرَاهُ»

«I saw it as light, how could I see Him?»

This is how it was narrated in the report of Imām Aḥmad.<sup>[2]</sup> Muslim recorded that 'Abdullāh bin Shaqīq said that Abu Dharr said: "I asked the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, 'Did you see your Lord?' He said,

«نُورٌ أَنَّى أَرَاهُ»

«(I saw) a light, how could I see Him?»<sup>[3]</sup>

'Abdullāh bin Shaqīq said: I said to Abu Dharr, "If I had seen the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, I would have asked him." He said, "What would you have asked him?" He said, "I would have asked him, 'Did you see your Lord?' Abu Dharr said, "I asked him that, and he said,

«رَأَيْتُ نُورًا»

[1] *Faḥḥ Al-Bārī* 1:547, 3:576, 6:431, Muslim 1:148.

[2] Aḥmad 5:147.

[3] Muslim 1:161.

«I saw light.»<sup>[1]</sup>

### The Report of Jābir bin 'Abdullāh

Imām Aḥmad recorded that Jābir bin 'Abdullāh said that he heard the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ say:

«لَمَّا كَذَّبْتَنِي قُرَيْشٌ جِئْتُ أُسْرِي بِبَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ، فَمَنْتُ فِي الْحِجْرِ فَجَلَى اللَّهُ لِي بَيْتَ الْمَقْدِسِ، فَطَفِئْتُ أَخْبَرُهُمْ عَنْ آيَاتِهِ وَأَنَا أَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِ»

*«When Quraysh did not believe that I had been taken on the Night Journey to Bayt Al-Maqdis, I stood up in Al-Hijr and Allāh displayed Bayt Al-Maqdis before me, so I told them about its features while I was looking at it.»<sup>[2]</sup>*

This was also reported in the Two Ṣaḥīḥs with different chains of narration.<sup>[3]</sup> According to Al-Bayhaqi, Ibn Shihāb said: Abu Salamah bin 'Abdur-Raḥmān said: Some people from Quraish went to Abu Bakr and said, "Have you heard what your companion is saying? He is claiming that he went to Bayt Al-Maqdis and came back to Makkah in one night!" Abu Bakr said, "Did he say that?" They said, "Yes." Abu Bakr said, "Then I bear witness that if he said that, he is speaking the truth." They said, "You believe that he went to Ash-Shām [Greater Syria] in one night and came back to Makkah before morning?" He said, "Yes, I believe him with regard to something even more than that. I believe him with regard to the revelation that comes to him from heaven." Abu Salamah said, from then on Abu Bakr was known as Aṣ-Ṣiddīq (the true believer).<sup>[4]</sup>

### The Report of 'Abdullāh bin 'Abbās

Imām Aḥmad recorded that Ibn 'Abbās said:

"On the night when the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ was taken on his Night Journey, he entered Paradise, in some part of which he heard a sound. He said, 'O Jibrīl, what is this?' He said,

[1] Muslim 1:161.

[2] Aḥmad 3:377.

[3] Al-Bukhārī no. 4710, Muslim no. 170

[4] Dalā'il An-Nubuwwah 2:359

This is Bilāl, the *Mu'adhdhin*.' When the Prophet ﷺ came back to the people, he said,

«قَدْ أَفْلَحَ بِلَالٌ، رَأَيْتُ لَهُ كَذَا وَكَذَا»

«*Bilāl has succeeded, I saw that he will have such and such.*»

He [the Prophet ﷺ] was met by Mūsā, who welcomed him and said, 'Welcome to the Unlettered Prophet.' He was a tall, dark man with lank hair coming down to his ears or above his ears. He said, 'Who is this, O Jibrīl?' He said, 'This is Mūsā.' Then he went on and met a venerable, distinguished old man, who welcomed him and greeted him with *Salām*, and all of them were greeting him. He said, 'Who is this, O Jibrīl?' He said, 'This is your father Ibrāhīm.' Then he looked into Hell and saw some people eating rotten meat. He said, 'Who are these people, O Jibrīl?' He said, 'They are those who used to eat the flesh of the people [i.e., backbiting].' He saw a man who was very red and dark blue, and said, 'Who is this, O Jibrīl?' He said, 'This is the one who slaughtered the she-camel (of Sālih).' When the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ came to Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā, he stood up to pray, and all the Prophets gathered and prayed with him. When he finished, he was brought two cups, one on his right and one on his left, one containing milk and one containing honey. He took the milk and drank it, and the one who was carrying the cup said, 'You have chosen the *Fiṭrah* (natural instinct).'<sup>[1]</sup>

The chain of narrators is *Ṣaḥīḥ*, although they (Al-Bukhārī and Muslim) did not record it.

Imām Aḥmad reported that Ibn 'Abbās said:

"The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ was taken on the Night Journey to Bayt Al-Maqdis, then he came back and told them about his journey and the features of Bayt Al-Maqdis and the caravan (of Quraysh). Some people said, 'We do not believe what Muḥammad is saying,' and they left Islam and became disbelievers. Allāh destroyed them when He destroyed Abu Jahl. Abu Jahl said: 'Muḥammad is trying to scare us with the tree of *Zaqqūm*; bring some dates and butter and let us have some *Zaqqūm*!' The Prophet ﷺ also saw the Dajjāl in his true form, in real life, not in a dream, and he saw 'Īsā, Mūsā and

[1] Aḥmad 1:257.



Ibrāhīm. The Prophet ﷺ was asked about the Dajjāl, and he said:

«رَأَيْتُهُ فَيَلَمَاتَا أَفْئَمَرَ هَجَانَا، إِخْدَى عَيْنِي قَائِمَةً كَأَنَّهَا كَوْكَبٌ دُرِّيٌّ، كَأَنَّ شَعْرَ رَأْسِهِ  
أَغْصَانُ شَجَرَةٍ، وَرَأَيْتُ عَيْسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ [شَابًا] أَيْضًا، جَعَدَ الرَّأْسِ حَدِيدَ  
الْبَصْرِ، وَمُبْطِنَ الْخَلْقِ، وَرَأَيْتُ مُوسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ أَسْحَمَ آدَمَ، كَثِيرَ الشَّعْرِ، شَدِيدَ  
الْخَلْقِ، وَنَظَرْتُ إِلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ فَلَمْ أَنْظُرْ إِلَى إِزْبٍ مِنْهُ إِلَّا نَظَرْتُ إِلَيْهِ مِنِّي  
حَتَّى كَأَنَّهُ صَاحِبُكُمْ، قَالَ جِبْرِيلُ: سَلِّمْ عَلَى أَبِيكَ، فَسَلِّمْتُ عَلَيْهِ»

*‘I saw him as a tall and huge man, with a whitish complexion. One of his eyes stood out like a shining star. The hair on his head looked like the branches of a tree. And I saw ‘Isā, white with curly hair and an intense gaze, of average build. I saw Mūsā, dark-skinned, with a lot of hair and a strong build. I looked at Ibrāhīm and did not see anything in him that I do not see in myself; it is as if he were your companion [meaning himself]. Jibrīl said: ‘Greet your father with Salām,’ so I greeted him with Salām.‘*

This was also recorded by An-Nasā’i from the Ḥadīth of Abu Zayd Thābit bin Yazīd from Hilāl, who is Ibn Khabbāb,<sup>[1]</sup> and it is a Ṣaḥīḥ chain of narrators.

Al-Bayhaqi recorded that Abu Al-‘Āliyah said: “The cousin of your Prophet ﷺ, Ibn ‘Abbās narrated to us from the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, he said: Allāh’s Messenger ﷺ said,

«رَأَيْتُ لَيْلَةَ أُسْرِي بِي مُوسَى بْنُ عِمْرَانَ رَجُلًا طَوَالًا جَعْدًا، كَأَنَّهُ مِنْ رِجَالِ شُعْوَةَ،  
وَرَأَيْتُ عَيْسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ مَرْبُوعَ الْخَلْقِ إِلَى الْحُمْرَةِ وَالْبَيَاضِ سَبْطَ  
الرَّأْسِ»

*‘On the night when I was taken on the Night Journey, I saw Mūsā bin ‘Imrān, a tall, curly-haired man, as if he was from the tribe of Shanū’ah. And I saw ‘Isā bin Maryam, of medium stature, white with a reddish complexion, with straight hair.‘*

And he was shown Mālik, the keeper of Hell, and the Dajjāl, with the signs that Allāh revealed to him.’ He said,

«فَلَا تَكُنْ فِي مَرِيضٍ مِنْ لِقَائِهِ»

<sup>[1]</sup> Aḥmad 1:384, An-Nasā’i in Al-Kubrā 11484.

«So be not you in doubt of meeting him.» [32:33]

Qatādah used to interpret this to mean that the Prophet of Allāh ﷺ met Mūsā.

﴿وَجَعَلْنَاهُ هُدًى لِّبَنِي إِسْرَءِيلَ﴾

«And We made it [or him] a guide to the Children of Israel»  
[32:33]

Qatādah said: "(This means) Allāh made Mūsā a guide for the Children of Israel."<sup>[1]</sup> Muslim reported this in his *Ṣaḥīḥ*, and Al-Bukhārī and Muslim recorded a shorter version from Qatādah.<sup>[2]</sup>

Imām Aḥmad also recorded that Ibn 'Abbās said: "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«لَمَّا كَانَ لَيْلَةً أُسْرِيَ بِي، فَأَصْبَحْتُ بِمَكَّةَ فَظَنَنْتُ وَعَرَفْتُ أَنَّ النَّاسَ مُكَذِّبِينَ»

«On the night when I was taken on the Night Journey, I woke up in Makkah the next morning having anxiety that, I knew that the people would not believe me.»

He kept away from people, feeling anxious and sad, then the enemy of Allāh Abu Jahl passed by him and came to sit with him, saying mockingly, 'Is there anything new?' The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said,

«نَعَمْ»

«Yes». He said, 'What is it?' He said,

«إِنِّي أُسْرِيَ بِي اللَّيْلَةَ»

«I was taken on a Journey last night.» He said, 'Where to?' He said,

«إِلَى بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ»

«To Bayt Al-Maqdis.» He said, 'Then this morning you were among us?' He said,

«نَعَمْ»

[1] *Dalā'il An-Nubuwwah* 2:386. [i.e., Qatādah understood the pronoun to refer to Mūsā, not to the Tawrah].

[2] Al-Bukhārī 3239, Muslim 165.

«Yes». Abu Jahl did not want to say to his face that he was lying, lest he deny saying it when he called other people to hear him, so he said: 'Do you think that if I call your people, you will tell them about what happened?' The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said,

«نَعَمْ»

«Yes.» Abu Jahl said, 'O people of Bani Ka'b bin Lu'ayl' People got up from where they were sitting and came to join them. Abu Jahl said, 'Tell your people what you told me.' The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«إِنِّي أُسْرِي بِي اللَّيْلَةَ»

«I was taken on a Journey last night.» They said, 'Where to?' He said,

«إِلَى بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ»

«To Bayt Al-Maqdis.» They said, 'Then this morning you were among us?' He said,

«نَعَمْ»

«Yes». They began to clap their hands together and put their hands on their heads in astonishment at this "lie" - as they claimed it to be. They said, 'Can you describe the sanctuary to us?' Among them were some who had travelled to that land and seen the sanctuary, so the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said,

«فَمَا زِلْتُ أَنْعْتُ حَتَّى التَّبَسَ عَلَيَّ بَعْضُ النَّعْتِ - قَالَ - فَجِئْتُ بِالْمَسْجِدِ وَأَنَا أَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِ حَتَّى وَضِعَ دُونَ دَارِ عُقَيْلٍ - أَوْ عَقَالٍ - فَتَعْتُهُ وَأَنَا أَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِ - قَالَ - وَكَانَ مَعَهُ هَذَا نَعْتُ لَمْ أَحْفَظْهُ - قَالَ - فَقَالَ الْقَوْمُ: أَمَّا النَّعْتُ فَوَاللَّهِ لَقَدْ أَصَابَ فِيهِ»

«I started to describe it, until I reached a point where I was not sure about some of the details, but then the sanctuary was brought close and placed near the house of 'Uqayl - or 'Iqāl - so I could look at it and describe the details.»

I could not remember those description. The people said, 'As for the description, by Allāh he has got it right.'<sup>[1]</sup> This was recorded by An-Nasā'ī and Al-Bayhaqī.<sup>[2]</sup>

[1] Aḥmad 1:309.

[2] An-Nasā'ī in Al-Kubrā : 11285, Dalā'il An-Nubuwwah 2:363.

### The Report of 'Abdullāh bin Mas'ūd

Al-Hāfiẓ Abu Bakr Al-Bayhaqī reported that 'Abdullāh bin Mas'ūd said: "When the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ was taken on the Night Journey, he went as far as *Sidrat Al-Muntahā*, which is in the sixth heaven. Everything that ascends stops there, until it is taken from that point, and everything that comes down stops there, until it is taken from there.

﴿إِذْ يَغْشَى السِّدْرَةَ مَا يَغْشَى﴾

«When that covered As-Sidrat Al-Muntahā which did cover it!»  
[53:16]

Ibn Mas'ūd said: "It is covered with gold butterflies. The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ was given the five prayers and the final *Āyāt* of *Sūrat Al-Baqarah*, and forgiveness was granted for major sins to those who do not associate anything in worship with Allāh." This was recorded by Muslim in his *Ṣaḥīḥ*.

### The Report of Abu Hurayrah

Al-Bukhārī and Muslim reported in their *Ṣaḥīḥs* that Abu Hurayrah said: the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«جِئْتُ أُشْرِي بِي، لَقِيتُ مُوسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ - فَتَعْتَهُ، فَإِذَا رَجُلٌ حَبِيبُهُ قَالَ - مُضْطَرِبٌ رَجُلٌ الرَّأْسِ كَأَنَّهُ مِنْ رِجَالِ شَنْوَةَ، قَالَ: وَلَقِيتُ عِيسَى - فَتَعْتَهُ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ قَالَ - رُبْعَةٌ أَحْمَرٌ كَأَنَّمَا خَرَجَ مِنْ دِيْمَاسٍ - يَغْنِي حَمَامًا، قَالَ - وَلَقِيتُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَأَنَا أَشْبُهُ وَلَدَهُ بِهِ، قَالَ: وَأُنِيتُ بِإِنَاءَيْنِ فِي أَحَدِهِمَا لَبَنٌ وَفِي الْآخَرِ خَمْرٌ، قِيلَ لِي: خُذْ أَتَهُمَا شِئْتَ، فَأَخَذْتُ اللَّبَنَ فَشَرِبْتُ، فَقِيلَ لِي: هُدَيْتَ الْفِطْرَةَ - أَوْ أَصَبْتَ الْفِطْرَةَ - أَمَا إِنَّكَ لَوْ أَخَذْتَ الْخَمْرَ غَوَتْ أُمَّتُكَ»

«When I was taken on the Night Journey, I met Mūsā.» He described him as a man - I think he said - a curly-haired man, as if he were from the tribe of Shanū'ah. «And I met 'Īsā.» And the Prophet ﷺ described him as being of average height, with a reddish complexion, as if he had just come out of the bath. «And I met Ibrāhīm, and I am the one who resembles him most among his children. I was brought two vessels, one containing milk and the other containing wine. It was said to me, 'Take whichever one you want.' So I took the

milk and drank it, and it was said to me, 'You have been guided to the Fitrah - or - You have chosen the Fitrah. If you had chosen the wine, your Ummah would have gone astray.'<sup>[1]</sup>

They also recorded it with another chain of narrators. Muslim recorded that Abu Hurayrah said: "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«لَقَدْ رَأَيْتَنِي فِي الْحَجْرِ وَقُرَيْشٌ تَسْأَلُنِي عَنْ مَسْرَايَ، فَسَأَلُونِي عَنْ أَشْيَاءٍ مِنْ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ لَمْ أَتُبَّهَا، فَكُرِبْتُ [كُرْبَةً] مَا كُرِبْتُ مِثْلَهُ قَطُّ، فَرَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَيَّ أَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِ مَا سَأَلُونِي عَنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا أَنْبَأْتُهُمْ بِهِ، وَقَدْ رَأَيْتَنِي فِي جَمَاعَةٍ مِنَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ، وَإِذَا مُوسَى قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي، وَإِذَا هُوَ رَجُلٌ جَعْدٌ كَأَنَّهُ مِنْ رِجَالِ شُئُوَّةٍ، وَإِذَا عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي أَقْرَبُ النَّاسِ شَبَهًا بِهِ عَزْرَةَ بَنِي مَسْعُودٍ الثَّقَفِيِّ، وَإِذَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي أَقْرَبُ النَّاسِ شَبَهًا بِهِ صَاحِبُكُمْ - يَغْنِي نَفْسَهُ - فَحَانَبَ الصَّلَاةَ فَأَمَمْتُهُمْ، فَلَمَّا فَرَعْتُ قَالَ قَائِلٌ: يَا مُحَمَّدُ هَذَا مَالِكُ خَازِنُ جَهَنَّمَ، [فَسَلَّمُ عَلَيْهِ] فَالْتَفَتْتُ إِلَيْهِ فَبَدَأَنِي بِالسَّلَامِ»

«I remember being in Al-Hijr, and the Quraysh were asking me about my Night Journey. They asked me things about Bayt Al-Maqdis that I was not sure of, and I felt more anxious and stressed then than I have ever felt. Then Allāh raised up Bayt Al-Maqdis for me to see, and there was nothing they asked me about but I told them about it. And I remember being in a gathering of the Prophets. Mūsā was standing there praying, and he was a man with curly hair, as if he were one of the men of Shanū'ah. I saw 'Isā bin Maryam standing there praying, and the one who most resembles him is 'Urwah bin Mas'ūd Ath-Thaqafi. And I saw Ibrāhīm standing there praying, and the one who most resembles him is your companion (meaning himself). Then the time for prayer came, and I led them in prayer. When I finished, a voice said, 'O Muḥammad, this is Mālik, the keeper of Hell,' so I turned to him, and he greeted me first.»<sup>[2]</sup>

[1] Faṭḥ Al-Bārī 6 :493, Muslim 1 :154.

[2] Muslim 1 :156.

**The Time that *Isrā'* took place, and the Fact that it included both Body and Soul, when the Prophet ﷺ was awake, not in a Dream**

Mūsā bin 'Uqbah said, narrating from Az-Zuhri: "The *Isrā'* happened one year before the *Hijrah*."<sup>[1]</sup> This was also the opinion of 'Urwah.<sup>[2]</sup> As-Suddi said: "It happened sixteen months before the *Hijrah*."<sup>[3]</sup>

The truth is that the Prophet ﷺ was taken on the Night Journey when he was awake, not in a dream, and he went from Makkah to Bayt Al-Maqdis riding on *Al-Burāq*. When he reached the door of the sanctuary, he tied up his animal by the door and entered, where he prayed two *Rak'ahs* to 'greet the *Masjid*'. Then the *Mi'rāj* was brought to him, which is a ladder with steps which one climbs up. So he went up on it to the first heaven, then he went up to the rest of the seven heavens. In each heaven he was welcomed by the most pious of its inhabitants, and he greeted the Prophets who were in the various heavens according to their positions and status. He passed by Mūsā, the one who spoke with Allāh, in the sixth heaven, and Ibrāhīm, the close friend (*Khalīl*) of Allāh in the seventh heaven. Then he surpassed them and all the Prophets in status and reached a level where he could hear the creaking of the pens, i.e., the pens of destiny which write down what is decreed to happen. He saw *Sidrat Al-Muntahā*, covered by the command of Allāh, and its greatness, its butterflies of gold and various colours, surrounded by the angels. There he saw Jibrīl in his real form, with six hundred wings. He saw green cushions blocking the horizon. He saw *Al-Bayt Al-Ma'mūr*, and Ibrāhīm Al-Khalīl, the builder of the earthly *Ka'bah*, leaning back against it, the heavenly *Ka'bah*; every day, seventy thousand angels enter and worship therein, then they do not return to it until the Day of Resurrection. He saw Paradise and Hell, and Allāh enjoined upon him fifty prayers, then reduced it to five, as an act of mercy and kindness towards His servants. In this is a strong indication of the greatness and virtue of the prophets.

[1] *Dalā'il An-Nubuwwah* 2:355.

[2] *Dalā'il An-Nubuwwah* 2:354.

[3] *Al-Qurṭubi*, 10:210.

Then he came back down to Bayt Al-Maqdis, and the Prophets came down with him and he led them in prayer there when the time for prayer came. It may have been the dawn prayer of that day. Some people claim that he led them in prayer in heaven, but the reports seem to say that it was in Bayt Al-Maqdis. In some reports it says that it happened when he first entered (i.e., before ascending into the heavens), but it is more likely that it was after he came back, because when he passed by them in the places in the heavens, he asked Jibrīl about them, one by one, and Jibrīl told him about them. This is more appropriate, because he was first required to come before the Divine Presence, so that what Allāh willed could be enjoined upon him and his *Ummah*. When the matter for which he was required had been dealt with, he and his brother-Prophets gathered, and his virtue and high position in relation to them became apparent when he was asked to come forward to lead them, which was when Jibrīl indicated to him that he should do so.

Then he came out of Bayt Al-Maqdis and rode on *Al-Burāq* back to Makkah in the darkness of the night. And Allāh knows best. As for his being presented with the vessels containing milk and honey, or milk and wine, or milk and water, or all of these, some reports say that this happened in Bayt Al-Maqdis, and others say that it happened in the heavens. It is possible that it happened in both places, because it is like offering food or drink to a guest when he arrives, and Allāh knows best.

The Prophet ﷺ was taken on the Night Journey with body and soul, he was awake, not asleep. The evidence for this is the *Āyah*:

﴿سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ. لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا

حَوْلَهُ﴾

﴿Glorified (and Exalted) be He (Allāh) Who took His servant for a Journey by Night from Al-Masjid Al-Harām to Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā, the neighborhood whereof We have blessed,﴾

The words "*Subhān Allāh*" (Glorified and exalted be Allāh) are spoken in the case of serious matters. If it had been a dream, it would have been a significant matter and would not have

been so astounding; the disbelievers of the Quraysh would not have hastened to label him a liar and the group of people who had become Muslims would not have deserted the faith. The word 'Abd (servant) refers to both soul and body. Allāh says:

﴿أَمْرَىٰ بِمَبْدُو. لَيْلًا﴾

﴿took His servant for a Journey by Night﴾ and:

﴿وَمَا جَعَلْنَا الرُّؤْيَا الَّتِي أَرَيْنَاكَ إِلَّا فِتْنَةً لِلنَّاسِ﴾

﴿And We made not the vision which we showed you but a trial for mankind﴾ [17:60]

Ibn 'Abbās said: "This is the vision that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ saw with his own eyes during the Journey by Night, and the cursed tree is the tree of *Zaqqūm*." This was recorded by Al-Bukhārī.<sup>[1]</sup> Allāh said:

﴿مَا نَافَ الْبَصَرُ وَمَا طَفَنُ﴾

﴿The sight (of Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ) turned not aside (right or left), nor it transgressed beyond the limit (ordained for it)﴾ (53:17)

Sight (*Al-Baṣr*) is a physical faculty, not a spiritual one, and he was carried on *Al-Burāq*, a shining white animal. This too indicates a physical journey, because the soul does not need a means of transportation of this nature. And Allāh knows best.

### An Interesting Story

In his book *Dalā'il An-Nubuwwah*, Al-Ḥāfiẓ Abu Nu'aym Al-Iṣbahānī recorded via Muḥammad bin 'Umar Al-Wāqidi who said: Mālik bin Abi Ar-Rijjāl told me from 'Amr bin 'Abdullāh that Muḥammad bin Ka'b Al-Quraẓī said: "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ sent Dihyah bin Khalīfah to Caesar." He mentioned how he came to him, and described an incident that showed how wise Caesar was. He sent for the Arab merchants who were in Syria and Abu Sufyān Sakhr bin Harb and his companions were brought to him. He asked them the well-known questions that were recorded by Al-Bukhārī and Muslim, as we shall discuss below, and Abu Sufyān tried hard to give the impression that this was an insignificant issue. [The

[1] *Fath Al-Bāri* 8:250.



narrator] said that Abu Sufyān [later] said: "By Allāh, nothing stopped me from saying something to Heraclius to make him despise [Muḥammad] but the fact that I did not want to tell a lie that would later be found out, and he would never believe me again after that. Then I told him about the night on which he was taken on the Night Journey. I said: 'O King, shall I not tell you of something from which you will know that he is lying?' He said, 'What is it?' I said: 'He claims that he went out of our land, the land of *Al-Ḥaram*, in one night, and came to your sanctuary in Jerusalem, then came back to us the same night, before morning came.' The Patriarch of Jerusalem was there, standing next to Caesar. The Patriarch of Jerusalem said: 'I know that night.' Caesar looked at him and said, 'How do you know about this?' He said, 'I never used to sleep at night until I closed the doors of the sanctuary. On that night I closed all the doors except for one, which I could not manage to close. I asked my workers and others who were with me to help me deal with it, but we could not move it. It was like trying to move a mountain. So I called the carpenters, and they looked at it and said: The lintel and some part of the structure has fallen onto it. We cannot move it until morning, when we will be able to see what the problem is. So I went back and left those two doors open. The next morning I went back, and saw that the stone at the corner of the sanctuary had a hole in it, and there were traces of an animal having been tethered there. I said to my companions: This door has not been closed last night except for a Prophet, who prayed last night in our sanctuary.'" And he mentioned the rest of the *Ḥadīth*.

In his book *At-Tanwīr fī Mawlid As-Sirāj Al-Munīr*, Al-Ḥāfiẓ Abu Al-Khaṭṭāb 'Umar bin Diḥyah mentioned the *Ḥadīth* of the *Isrā'* narrated from Anas, and spoke well about it, then he said: "The reports of the *Ḥadīth* of the *Isrā'* reach the level of *Mutawātir*. They were narrated from 'Umar bin Al-Khaṭṭāb, 'Alī, Ibn Mas'ūd, Abu Dharr, Mālik bin Sa'sa'ah, Abu Hurayrah, Abu Sa'īd, Ibn 'Abbās, Shaddād bin Aws, Ubayy bin Ka'b, 'Abdur-Raḥmān bin Qaraṭ, Abu Ḥabbah Al-Anṣārī, Abu Laylā Al-Anṣārī, 'Abdullāh bin 'Amr, Jābir, Hudhayfah, Buraydah, Abu Ayyūb, Abu Umāmah, Samurah bin Jundub, Abu Al-Ḥamrā', Ṣuhayb Ar-Rūmi, Umm Hānī', and 'Ā'ishah and 'Asmā', the daughters of Abu Bakr Aṣ-Ṣiddīq, may Allāh be

pleased with them all. Some of them narrated the incident at length, and others narrated it more briefly, as was reported in the *Musnad* collections. Even though some reports do not fulfill the conditions of *Sahīh*, nevertheless the Muslims agreed unanimously on the fact that the *Isrā'* happened, and it was rejected only by the heretics and apostates.

﴿يُرِيدُونَ لِيُطْفِئُوا نُورَ اللَّهِ بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ مُتِمُّ نُورِهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ﴾

﴿They intend to put out the Light of Allāh with their mouths. But Allāh will bring His Light to perfection even though the disbelievers hate (it).﴾ (61:8).

﴿وَمَا آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلْنَاهُ هُدًى لِّبَنِي إِسْرَءِيلَ إِلَّا نَنْخِذُوا مِنْ دُونِ وَكِيلٍ﴾  
﴿ذُرِّيَّةَ مَنْ حَمَلْنَا مَعَ نُوحٍ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا عَبْدًا شَكُورًا﴾

﴿2. And We gave Mūsā the Scripture and made it a guidance for the Children of Israel (saying): "Take none other than Me as (your) Wakīl."﴾

﴿3. "O offspring of those whom We carried (in the ship) with Nūh! Verily, he was a grateful servant."﴾

### **Mūsā and how He was given the Tawrah**

When Allāh mentions how He took His servant Muḥammad ﷺ, on the Journey by Night, He follows it by mentioning Mūsā, His servant and Messenger who also spoke with Him. Allāh often mentions Muḥammad and Mūsā together, may the peace and blessings of Allāh be upon them both, and he mentions the Tawrah and the Qur'ān together. So after mentioning the *Isrā'*, He says:

﴿وَمَا آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ﴾

﴿And We gave Mūsā the Scripture﴾, meaning the Tawrah.

﴿وَجَعَلْنَاهُ﴾

﴿and made it﴾, meaning the Scripture,

﴿هُدًى﴾

﴿a guidance﴾, meaning a guide,

﴿لِّبَنِي إِسْرَءِيلَ إِلَّا نَنْخِذُوا﴾

﴿for the Children of Israel (saying): "Take none..."﴾

means, lest they should take,

﴿مِنْ دُونِي وَكَيلًا﴾

﴿"... other than Me as (your) Wakīl"﴾

means, 'you have no protector, supporter or god besides Me,' because Allāh revealed to every Prophet that he should worship Him alone with no partner or associate. Then Allāh says:

﴿ذُرِّيَّةَ مَنْ حَمَلْنَا مَعَ نُوحٍ﴾

﴿O offspring of those whom We carried (in the ship) with Nūḥ﴾

by addressing the descendants of those who were carried in the ship with Nūḥ there is a reminder of the blessings, as if Allāh is saying: 'O descendants of those whom We saved and carried in the ship with Nūḥ, follow in the footsteps of your father,

﴿إِنَّهُ كَانَ عَبْدًا شَكُورًا﴾

﴿Verily, he was a grateful servant﴾. 'Remember the blessing I have granted you by sending Muḥammad.'

Imām Aḥmad reported that Anas bin Mālik said: "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَيَرْضَى عَنِ الْعَبْدِ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ الْأَكْلَةَ أَوْ يَشْرَبَ الشَّرْبَةَ فَيَحْمَدَ اللَّهَ عَلَيْهَا»

«Allāh will be pleased with His servant if, when he eats something or drinks something, he praises Allāh for it.»

This was also recorded by Muslim, At-Tirmidhi and An-Nasā'ī.<sup>[1]</sup>

Mālik said about Zayd bin Aslam: "He used to praise Allāh in all circumstances." In this context, Al-Bukhārī mentioned the Ḥadīth of Abu Zar'ah narrating from Abu Hurayrah, who said that the Prophet ﷺ said:

«أَنَا سَيِّدُ وَلَدِ آدَمَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ»

«I will be the leader of the sons of Ādam on the Day of Resurrection...»

[1] Muslim 4:2095, Tuhfat Al-Aḥwadhī 5:536, An-Nasā'ī in Al-Kubrā 4:202.

He quoted the *Hadīth* at length, and in the *Hadīth*, the Prophet ﷺ said:

«يَأْتُونَ نُوحًا فَيَقُولُونَ: يَا نُوحُ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ أَوَّلُ الرُّسُلِ إِلَى أَهْلِ الْأَرْضِ، وَقَدْ سَمَّاكَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا شَكُورًا، فَاشْفَعْ لَنَا إِلَى رَبِّكَ»

«They will come to Nūḥ and will say, 'O Nūḥ, you were the first of the Messengers sent to the people of earth, and Allāh called you grateful servant, so intercede for us with your Lord.'»<sup>[1]</sup>

And he quoted the *Hadīth* in full.

﴿وَقَضَيْنَا إِلَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَءِيلَ فِي الْكِتَابِ لَتُفْسِدُنَّ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَّتَيْنِ وَلَتَعْلُنَّ عُلُوًّا كَبِيرًا ۖ فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ أُولَاهُمَا بَعَثْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ عِبَادًا لَنَا أُولَىٰ بَأْسٍ شَدِيدٍ فَجَاسُوا خِلَالَ الدِّيَارِ وَكَاتَ وَعْدًا ۖ مَتَّبِعُوا ۚ ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَا لَكُمُ الْكَرَّةَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَنبَدْنَا لَكُمُ الْيَمِينَ وَجَعَلْنَا لَكُمُ الْفِيلَ ۚ إِنِ احْسَنَ أَحْسَنَ لَأَنفُسِكُمْ ۖ وَإِنْ أَسَأْتُمْ فَلَهَا ۚ فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ الْآخِرَةِ لِيُسُفُوا رُجُومَهُمْ وَلِيَدْخُلُوا الْمَسْجِدَ كَمَا دَخَلُوهُ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَلِيُتَبِّرُوا مَا عَلَوْا تَتَبِّرُوا ۚ عَنِ رَبِّكَ ۚ أَن يَرَحَمَكُمُ ۚ وَإِنْ عُدْتُمْ عَدَا ۚ وَجَعَلْنَا جَهَنَّمَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ حَصِيرًا ۚ﴾

4. And We decreed for the Children of Israel in the Scripture: "Indeed you would do mischief in the land twice and you will become tyrants and extremely arrogant!"

5. So, when the promise came for the first of the two, We sent against you servants of Ours given to terrible warfare. They entered the very innermost parts of your homes. And it was a promise (completely) fulfilled.

6. Then We gave you a return of victory over them. And We helped you with wealth and children and made you more numerous in manpower.

7. (And We said): "If you do good, you do good for your own selves, and if you do evil (you do it) against yourselves." Then, when the second promise came to pass, (We permitted your enemies) to disgrace your faces and to enter the Masjid as they had entered it before, and to destroy with utter destruction all that fell in their hands.

8. It may be that your Lord may show mercy unto you, but if

[1] *Faṭḥ Al-Bāri* 6:431.

*you return (to sins), We shall return (to Our punishment).  
And We have made Hell a prison for the disbelievers.﴾*

### **It was mentioned in the Tawrah that the Jews would spread Mischief twice**

Allāh tells us that He made a declaration to the Children of Israel in the Scripture, meaning that He had already told them in the Book which He revealed to them, that they would cause mischief on the earth twice, and would become tyrants and extremely arrogant, meaning they would become shameless oppressors of people, Allāh says:

﴿وَقَضَيْنَا إِلَيْهِ ذَلِكَ الْأَمْرَ أَنَّ دَابِرَ هَذِهِ مَقْطُوعٌ مُّصِيبِينَ ۝١١﴾

*﴿And We made known this decree to him, that the root of those (sinners) was to be cut off in the early morning.﴾(15:66),*

meaning, We already told him about that and informed him of it.

### **The First Episode of Mischief caused by the Jews, and their Punishment for it**

﴿فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ أُولَاهُمَا﴾

*﴿So, when the promise came for the first of the two﴾ meaning the first of the two episodes of mischief.*

﴿بَعَثْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ عِبَادًا لَّنَا أُولَى بَأْسٍ شَدِيدٍ﴾

*﴿We sent against you servants of Ours given to terrible warfare.﴾*

means, 'We unleashed soldiers against you from among Our creatures who were given to terrible warfare,' i.e., they had great strength and weapons and power. They entered the very innermost parts of your homes, meaning they took possession of your land and invaded the very innermost parts of your homes, going between and through your houses, coming and going freely with no fear of anyone. This was the promise (completely) fulfilled.

The earlier and later commentators differed over the identity of these invaders. Many *Isrā'īliyyāt* (reports from Jewish sources) were narrated about this, but I did not want to make

this book too long by mentioning them, because some of them are fabricated, concocted by their heretics, and others may be true, but we have no need of them, praise be to Allāh. What Allāh has told us in His Book (the Qur'ān) is sufficient and we have no need of what is in the other books that came before. Neither Allāh nor His Messenger required us to refer to them. Allāh told His Messenger ﷺ that when (the Jews) committed transgression and aggression, Allāh gave their enemies power over them to destroy their country and enter the innermost parts of their homes. Their humiliation and subjugation was a befitting punishment, and your Lord is never unfair or unjust to His servants. They had rebelled and killed many of the Prophets and scholars. Ibn Jarīr recorded that Yahyā bin Sa'īd said: "I heard Sa'īd bin Al-Mūsāyyib saying: 'Nebuchadnezzar conquered Ash-Shām (Greater Syria, including Palestine), destroying Jerusalem and killing them, then he came to Damascus and found blood boiling in a censer. He asked them: What is this blood? They said: We found our forefathers doing this. Because of that blood, he killed seventy thousand of the believers and others, then the blood stopped boiling.'"<sup>[1]</sup>

This report is *Ṣaḥīḥ* from Sa'īd bin Al-Mūsāyyib, and this event is well-known, as he (Nebuchadnezzar) killed their nobles and scholars, and did not leave alive anyone who knew the Tawrah by heart. He took many prisoners from the sons of the Prophets and others, and did many other things that would take too long to mention here. If we had found anything that was correct or close enough, we could have written it and reported it here. And Allāh knows best.

Then Allāh says:

﴿إِنْ لَعَنْتُمْ لَعْنَةً لَا تُشِيْكُ وَإِنْ أَنْتُمْ تَلْعَنُوا﴾

﴿(And We said): "If you do good, you do good for your own selves, and if you do evil (you do it) against yourselves."﴾

As Allāh says elsewhere:

﴿مَنْ عَمِلَ مِثْلًا نَفْسِيَّةً. وَنَ أَنْتَ تَلْعَنُهَا﴾

﴿Whosoever does a righteous good deed, it is for (the benefit of) himself; and whosoever does evil, it is against himself.﴾ [45:15]

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:369.

## The Second Episode of Mischief

Then Allāh says:

﴿إِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ الْآخِرَةِ﴾

﴿Then, when the second promise came to pass,﴾ meaning, the second episode of mischief, when your enemies came again,

﴿يُسْكَتُوا وَيُهَيِّجُوا﴾

﴿(We permitted your enemies) to disgrace your faces﴾ meaning, to humiliate you and subdue you,

﴿وَلِيَدْخُلُوا الْمَسْجِدَ﴾

﴿and to enter the Masjid﴾ meaning, Bayt Al-Maqdis (Jerusalem).

﴿كَمَا دَخَلُوهُ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ﴾

﴿as they had entered it before,﴾ when they entered the very innermost parts of your homes.

﴿وَلِيُحْشَرُوا﴾

﴿and to destroy﴾ wrecking and inflicting ruin upon it.

﴿مَا عَلَوْا﴾

﴿all that fell in their hands.﴾ everything they could get their hands on.

﴿تَنْبِيْهُرًا ۖ عَنِ رَبِّكَ إِن يَزِمَنَّكَ﴾

﴿with utter destruction. It may be that your Lord may show mercy unto you﴾ meaning that He may rid you of them.

﴿وَلَنَ عُدْنَاكَ﴾

﴿but if you return (to sins), We shall return (to Our punishment).﴾ meaning, if you return to causing mischief,

﴿عُدْنَا﴾

﴿We shall return﴾ means, We 'will once again punish you in this world, along with the punishment and torment We save for you in the Hereafter.'

﴿وَجَعَلْنَا جَهَنَّمَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ حَصِيرًا﴾

الْأَنفَالِ

٢٨٣

الْحَاشِيَةُ

عَسَىٰ رُبُّكُمْ أَنْ يُزَكِّمَكُمْ وَإِنْ عُدْتُمْ عَدَاؤَنَا جَعَلْنَا جَهَنَّمَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ حَصِيرًا ﴿٩﴾ إِنَّ هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلَّذِي هُوَ أَقْوَمُ وَيُبَشِّرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا ﴿١٠﴾ وَأَنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ أَغْتَدْنَا لَهُمْ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا ﴿١١﴾ وَيَدْعُ الْإِنْسَانُ بِالشَّرِّ دُعَاءَهُ بِالْخَيْرِ وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ عَجُولًا ﴿١٢﴾ وَجَعَلْنَا اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ آيَاتٍ فَمَنْ حَسَنَ آيَةَ اللَّيْلِ وَجَعَلْنَا آيَةَ النَّهَارِ مُبْصِرَةً لِّتَبْتَغُوا فَضْلًا مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَلِتَعْلَمُوا عَدَدَ السَّاعَةِ وَالْحِسَابِ وَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ فَضْلَنَاهُ نَقِصِيلًا ﴿١٣﴾ وَكُلَّ إِنْسَانٍ أَلْزَمْنَاهُ طَلْعَهُ فِي عُرْفِهِ وَنُخْرِجْ لَهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ كِتَابًا يَلْقَاهُ مِنْشُورًا ﴿١٤﴾ أَقْرَأْ كِتَابَكَ كَفَىٰ بِنَفْسِكَ الْيَوْمَ عَلَيْكَ حَبِيبًا ﴿١٥﴾ مَن أَهْتَدَىٰ فَأَنَّمَا يَهْتَدِي لِنَفْسِهِ وَمَن ضَلَّ فَإِنَّمَا يَضِلُّ عَلَيْهَا وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ وَمَا كُنَّا مُعَذِّبِينَ حَتَّىٰ نَبْعَثَ رَسُولًا ﴿١٦﴾ وَإِذَا أَرَدْنَا أَن نُّهْلِكَ قَوْمًا فَرَأَيْنَاهُمْ فَفَسَّقُوا فِيهَا فَحَقَّ عَلَيْهَا الْقَوْلُ فَدَمَرْنَاهَا تَدْمِيرًا ﴿١٧﴾ وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِن الْقُرُونِ مِن بَعْدِ نُوحٍ وَكَفَىٰ لِرَبِّكَ بِذُنُوبِ عِبَادِهِ خَبِيرًا بَصِيرًا ﴿١٨﴾

﴿And We have made Hell a prison [Haṣīr] for the disbelievers.﴾

meaning, a place of permanent detention, a prison which cannot be avoided or escaped. Ibn 'Abbās said, "Haṣīr here means a jail."<sup>[1]</sup> Mujāhid said, "They will be detained in it."<sup>[2]</sup> Others said likewise. Al-Ḥasan said, "Haṣīr means a bed of Fire."<sup>[3]</sup> Qatādah said: "The Children of Israel returned to aggression, so Allāh sent this group against them, Muḥammad ﷺ and his companions, who made them pay the *Jizyah*,<sup>[4]</sup> with willing submission, and feeling themselves subdued."<sup>[5]</sup>

﴿إِنَّ هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلَّذِي هُوَ أَقْوَمُ وَيُبَشِّرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا﴾ وَأَنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ أَغْتَدْنَا لَهُمْ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا ﴿١٠﴾

49. Verily, this Qur'ān guides to that which is most just and right and gives good news to those who believe, those who do righteous deeds, that they will have a great reward (Paradise).﴾

410. And that those who do not believe in the Hereafter, for

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:390.

[2] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:390.

[3] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:390.

[4] *Jizyah*: a tax levied from People of the Book (Jews and Christians) who are under the protection of a Muslim government.

[5] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:389.



them We have prepared a painful torment (Hell).﴾

### Praising the Qur'ān

Allāh praises His noble Book, the Qur'ān, which He revealed to His Messenger Muḥammad ﷺ. It directs people to the best and clearest of ways.

﴿رَبِّئِشْرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ﴾

﴿gives good news to those who believe,﴾ in it a

﴿الَّذِينَ يَمْعَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ﴾

﴿those who do righteous deeds,﴾ in accordance with it, telling them

﴿أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا﴾

﴿that they will have a great reward,﴾ i.e., on the Day of Resurrection. And He tells

﴿وَأَنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ﴾

﴿those who do not believe in the Hereafter,﴾ that

﴿لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ﴾

﴿for them is a painful torment,﴾ i.e. on the Day of Resurrection. As Allāh says:

﴿فَنَبِّئُهُمْ بِعَذَابِ أَلِيمٍ﴾

﴿... then announce to them a painful torment.﴾ [84:24]

﴿وَيَسْعُ الْإِنْسَانُ بِالشَّرِّ دُعَاءَهُ بِالْخَيْرِ وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ عَجُولًا﴾

﴿11. And man invokes (Allāh) for evil as he invokes (Allāh) for good and man is ever hasty.﴾

### Man's Haste and Prayers against Himself

Allāh tells us about man's haste and how he sometimes prays against himself or his children or his wealth, praying for something bad to happen for them, or for them to die or be destroyed, invoking curses, etc. If Allāh were to answer his prayer, he would be destroyed because of it, as Allāh says:

﴿وَلَوْ يَعْجَلُ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ الشَّرَّ﴾

﴿And were Allāh to hasten for mankind the evil...﴾ [10:11]

This is how it was interpreted by Ibn ‘Abbās, Mujāhid and Qatādah.<sup>[1]</sup> We have already discussed the Ḥadīth:

«لَا تَدْعُوا عَلَى أَنْفُسِكُمْ، وَلَا عَلَى أَمْوَالِكُمْ أَنْ تُوَافِقُوا مِنْ اللَّهِ سَاعَةً إِبَاطَةً  
يَسْتَجِيبُ فِيهَا»

«Do not pray against yourselves or your wealth, for that might coincide with a time when Allāh answers prayers.»<sup>[2]</sup>

What makes the son of Ādam do that is his anxiety and haste. Allāh says:

﴿وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ عَجُولًا﴾

﴿And man is ever hasty.﴾ Salmān Al-Farisi and Ibn ‘Abbās mentioned the story of Ādam, when he wanted to get up before his soul reached his feet. When his soul was breathed into him, it entered his body from his head downwards. When it reached his brain he sneezed, and said, “Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh” (praise be to Allāh), and Allāh said, “May your Lord have mercy on you, O Ādam.” When it reached his eyes, he opened them, and when it reached his body and limbs he started to stare at them in wonder. He wanted to get up before it reached his feet, but he could not. He said, “O Lord, make it happen before night comes.”<sup>[3]</sup>

﴿وَجَعَلْنَا اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ آيَاتَيْنِ فَحَوْنًا آيَةً اللَّيْلِ وَجَعَلْنَا آيَةَ النَّهَارِ مُبِيرَةً لِّتَبْتَغُوا فَضْلًا مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ وَلِتَعْلَمُوا عَدَدَ السِّنِينَ وَالْحِسابُ وَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ فَضْلُنَا نَقْصِيلًا ﴿١٢﴾﴾

﴿12. And We have appointed the night and the day as two Āyāt (signs). Then, We have obliterated the sign of the night (with darkness) while We have made the sign of the day illuminating, that you may seek bounty from your Lord, and that you may know the number of the years and to count (periods of time). And We have explained everything (in detail) with full explanation.﴾

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:393, 394.

[2] Muslim 4:2304.

[3] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:394, 395.

### The Night and Day are Signs of the Great Power of Allāh

Allāh reminds us of the great signs that He created, including the alternation of the night and day, so that people may rest at night, and go out and earn a living, do their work, and travel during the day, and so that they may know the number of days, weeks, months and years, so they will know the appointed times for paying debts, doing acts of worship, dealing with transactions, paying rents and so on. Allāh says:

﴿لَتَبْتَغُوا فَضْلًا مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ﴾

﴿that you may seek bounty from your Lord,﴾ meaning, in your living and travels etc.

﴿وَلَتَعْلَمُوا عَدَدَ السِّنِّ وَالْجَنَابِ﴾

﴿and that you may know the number of the years and to count.﴾

If time stood still and never changed, we would not know any of these things, as Allāh says:

﴿قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمُ اللَّيْلَ سَرْمَدًا إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ مَنْ إِلَهُ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ بِأَيِّكُمْ يَضِيءُ أَفَلَا تَسْمَعُونَ ﴿١٧﴾ قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمُ النَّهَارَ سَرْمَدًا إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ مَنْ إِلَهُ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ بِأَيِّكُمْ يَلْبَسُ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ ﴿١٨﴾ وَفِي رُجُوعِهِ جَمَلٌ لَكُمْ أَلَيْلٌ وَالنَّهَارُ لِيَتَسَكَّرُوا بِهِ وَلِتُبْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِهِ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٩﴾﴾

﴿Say: "Tell me! If Allāh made the night continuous for you till the Day of Resurrection, which god besides Allāh could bring you light? Will you not then hear?" Say: "Tell me! If Allāh made the day continuous for you till the Day of Resurrection, which god besides Allāh could bring you night wherein you rest? Will you not then see?" It is out of His mercy that He has made for you the night and the day that you may rest therein and that you may seek of His bounty - and in order that you may be grateful.﴾ (28:71-73)

﴿بَارَكَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ فِي السَّمَاءِ بُرُوجًا وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا زُجُجًا كَافًا ﴿٢٠﴾ وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ خِلْفَةً لِمَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَنْصَرَّ أَوْ أَرَادَ شُكُورًا ﴿٢١﴾﴾

﴿Blessed be He Who has placed the big stars in the heaven, and has placed therein a great lamp (sun), and a moon giving light.

And He it is Who has put the night and the day in succession, for such who desires to remember or desires to show his gratefulness. ﴿25:61-62﴾

﴿وَمَا يَشْكُرُ أَتَىٰ وَاللَّيْلِ﴾

﴿and His is the alternation of night and day.﴾ [23:80]

﴿يَكُونُ الْيَوْمُ مِنَ الْيَوْمِ وَيَكُونُ الْيَوْمُ مِنَ الْيَوْمِ﴾

﴿He makes the night to go in the day and makes the day to go in the night. And He has subjected the sun and the moon. Each running (on a fixed course) for an appointed term. Verily, He is the All-Mighty, the Off-Forgiving.﴾ [39:5]

﴿وَاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَالْجَبَلِ وَالْهَيْدِ وَالْجَبَلِ وَالْهَيْدِ﴾

﴿(He is the) Cleaver of the daybreak. He has appointed the night for resting, and the sun and the moon for reckoning. Such is the measuring of the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing.﴾ (6:96),

﴿وَاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَالْجَبَلِ وَالْهَيْدِ وَالْجَبَلِ وَالْهَيْدِ﴾

﴿And a sign for them is the night. We withdraw therefrom the day, and behold, they are in darkness. And the sun runs on its fixed course for a term (appointed). That is the decree of the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing.﴾ (36:37-38)

Allah has made the night a sign having distinguishing features by which it is known. These features include the darkness and the appearance of the moon. The day also has distinguishing features by which it is known; the light and the appearance of the shining sun. He made a distinction between the light of the moon and the light of the sun, so that they may be distinguished from one another, as Allah says:

﴿وَاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَالْجَبَلِ وَالْهَيْدِ وَالْجَبَلِ وَالْهَيْدِ﴾

﴿وَاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَالْجَبَلِ وَالْهَيْدِ وَالْجَبَلِ وَالْهَيْدِ﴾

﴿It is He Who made the sun a shining thing and the moon a

light and measured out for it stages that you might know the number of years and to count (periods of time). Allāh did not create this but in truth. ﴿ [10:5] until,

﴿لَا تَسْأَلُوهُ بِتَقْوَىٰ﴾

﴿Āyāt for those people who keep their duty to Allāh, and fear Him much.﴾ [10:6]

﴿يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْأَهِلَّةِ ۖ قُلْ هِيَ مَوَاقِيتُ لِلنَّاسِ وَالْحَجِّ﴾

﴿They ask you about the crescent moons. Say: "These are signs to mark fixed periods of time for mankind and for the pilgrimage."﴾ [2:189]

﴿فَمَحَوْنَا آيَةَ اللَّيْلِ وَجَعَلْنَا آيَةَ النَّهَارِ مُبْشِرَةً﴾

﴿Then, We have obliterated the sign of the night (with darkness) while We have made the sign of the day illuminating,﴾

Ibn Jurayj reported that 'Abdullāh bin Kathīr commented on this Āyah: "[It means] the darkness of the night and the twilight of the day."<sup>[1]</sup> Ibn Jurayj reported that Mujāhid said: "The sun is the sign of the day and the moon is the sign of the night.

﴿فَمَحَوْنَا آيَةَ اللَّيْلِ﴾

﴿We have obliterated the sign of the night﴾

this refers to the moon's blackness, which is how Allāh has created it." <sup>[2]</sup>

﴿وَجَعَلْنَا اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ آيَتَيْنِ﴾

﴿And We have appointed the night and the day as two Āyāt.﴾

Ibn Abi Najīh reported that Ibn 'Abbās said: "By night and day, this is how Allāh created them, may He be glorified."<sup>[3]</sup>

﴿وَكُلَّ إِنْسَانٍ أَلْزَمْنَاهُ فِي عُهُودِهِ ۖ وَخَرَجُكَ لَهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ ۚ كُنَّا بِلِقَائِهِمْ مُنْشَرِينَ ﴿١٨﴾ أَقْرَأَ

كُتُبَكَ ۚ كَفَىٰ بِنَفْسِكَ الْيَوْمَ عَلَيْكَ حَبِيبًا ﴿١٩﴾﴾

<sup>[1]</sup> Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:396.

<sup>[2]</sup> Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:396.

<sup>[3]</sup> Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:397.

﴿13. And We have fastened every man's Ṭā'irah (deeds) to his neck, and on the Day of Resurrection, We shall bring out for him a Book which he will find wide open.﴾

﴿14. (It will be said to him): "Read your Book. You yourself are sufficient as a reckoner against you this Day."﴾

### Every Person will have the Book of his Deeds with Him

After mentioning time, and the deeds of the son of Ādam that take place therein, Allāh says:

﴿وَكُلَّ إِنْسَانٍ أَلْزَمْنَاهُ طَلْعَهُ فِي عُنُقِهِ﴾

﴿And We have fastened every man's Ṭā'irah (deeds) to his neck,﴾

The word Ṭā'irah (lit. something that flies) refers to man's deeds which fly from him, as Ibn 'Abbās, Mujāhid and others said. It includes both good deeds and bad deeds, he will be forced to acknowledge them and will be rewarded or punished accordingly.<sup>[1]</sup>

﴿فَمَنْ يَمْلِكْ مِنْكَ دَرٌّ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ ۖ وَمَنْ يَمْلِكْ مِنْكَ دَرٌّ شَرًّا يَرَهُ ۖ﴾

﴿So whosoever does good equal to the weight of a speck of dust shall see it. And whosoever does evil equal to the weight of a speck of dust shall see it.﴾ (99:7-8).

Allāh says:

﴿عَنِ الْيَمِينِ وَعَنِ الشِّمَالِ مُدَّتَا يَدَيَّ رَفَعْتُ رَقَبَتِي ۖ وَمَا يَلْفَظُ مِنْ قَوْلٍ إِلَّا لَدَيْ رَفِيقٍ غَبِيبٌ ۖ﴾

﴿(Remember) that the two receivers (recording angels) receive (each human being), one sitting on the right and one on the left (to note his or her actions). Not a word does he (or she) utter but there is a watcher by him ready (to record it).﴾ (50:17-18)

﴿وَأَنَّا عَلَيْكُمْ مَحْفُوظِينَ ۖ كِرَامًا كَاتِبِينَ ۖ يَعْلَمُونَ مَا تَعْمَلُونَ ۖ﴾

﴿But verily, over you (are appointed angels in charge of mankind) to watch you, Kirāman (Honorable) Kātibīn - writing down (your deeds), they know all that you do.﴾ (82:10-12)

﴿إِنَّا نَحْشُرُونَ مَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ۖ﴾

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:398, 400.

﴿You are only being requited for what you used to do.﴾ [52:16]

﴿مَنْ يَمَلَّ سَوْأًا يُجْزَ بِهِ﴾

﴿whosoever works evil, will have the recompense thereof.﴾  
[4:123]

The meaning is that the deeds of the sons of Ādam are preserved, whether they are great or small, and they are recorded night and day, morning and evening.

﴿وَنُخْرِجُ لَهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ كِتَابًا يَلْقَاهُ مَنشُورًا﴾

﴿and on the Day of Resurrection, We shall bring out for him a Book which he will find wide open.﴾

meaning, 'We will collect all of his deeds for him in a Book which will be given to him on the Day of Resurrection, either in his right hand, if he is one of the blessed, or in his left hand if he is one of the wretched.'

﴿مَنشُورًا﴾

﴿wide open﴾ means, it will be open for him and others to read all of his deeds, from the beginning of his life until the end.

﴿يَوْمَئِذٍ الْإِنْسَانُ بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ۚ بَلَىٰ أَلَمْ يَكُنْ عَلَىٰ قَعْبِهِ يُنْذِرُ ۚ وَكَذَٰلِكَ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ﴾

﴿On that Day man will be informed of what (deeds) he sent forward, and what (deeds) he left behind. Nay! Man will be a witness against himself, though he may put forth his excuses.﴾  
(75:13-15)

Allāh says:

﴿أَقْرَأْ كِتَابَكَ كَفَىٰ بِنَفْسِكَ الْيَوْمَ عَلَيْكَ حَبِيبًا﴾

﴿(It will be said to him): "Read your Book. You yourself are sufficient as a reckoner against you this Day."﴾

meaning, you have not been treated unjustly and nothing has been recorded against you except what you have done, because you remember everything that you have done, and no one will forget anything that he did. Everyone will be able to read his Book, whether he is literate or illiterate.

﴿أَلَمْ تَكُنْ أَتْلُوهُ بِعُذْرٍ﴾

﴿And We have fastened every man's Ṭā'irah (deeds) to his neck,﴾

The neck is mentioned because it is a part of the body that has no counterpart, and when one is restrained by it, he has no escape. Ma'mar narrated from Qatādah, "His deeds,

﴿وَنُفِخَ لَهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ﴾

﴿and on the Day of Resurrection, We shall bring out for him﴾ We shall bring forth those deeds."

﴿كِتَابًا يَلْفَهُ مَشْرُورًا﴾

﴿a Book which he will find wide open.﴾ Ma'mar said: Al-Ḥasan recited,

﴿عَنِ الْيَمِينِ وَعَنِ الشِّمَالِ قِصْدٌ﴾

﴿one sitting on the right and one on the left.﴾ [50:17]

[And he said:] "O son of Ādam, your Book has been opened for you, and two noble angels have been entrusted to accompany you, one on your right and one on your left. The one who is on your right records your good deeds, and the one who is on your left records your bad deeds. 'So do whatever you want, a lot or a little, until you die, then I will fold up your Book and tie it to your neck with you in your grave. Then when you come out on the Day of Resurrection, you will find the Book wide open, so read your Book.' By Allāh, the One Who makes you accountable for your own deeds is being perfectly just."<sup>[1]</sup> These are some of the best words Al-Ḥasan ever spoke, may Allāh have mercy on him.

﴿مَنْ أَحْتَدَىٰ فَأَنَا لِيُغْفِرَ. وَمَنْ ضَلَّ فَإِنَّمَا يَضِلُّ عَلَيْهِ وَلَا نُزِرَ وَازِدَةً وَزَرَ أُخْرَىٰ وَمَا

كَأُفْعِلَ بِهِ حَتَّىٰ يَكُونَ رَسُولًا﴾

﴿15. Whoever goes right, then he goes right only for the benefit of himself. And whoever goes astray, then he goes astray at his own loss. No one laden with burdens can bear another's burden. And We never punish until We have sent a Messenger (to give warning).﴾

[1] At-Ṭabari 17:400.



### No One will have to bear the Sins of Another

Allāh tells us that whoever is guided and follows the truth, walking in the footsteps of the Prophet ﷺ, he will gain the good consequences of that for himself.

﴿وَمَنْ ضَلَّ﴾

﴿And whoever goes astray,﴾ meaning from the truth, deviating from the way of guidance, he is wronging himself and will have to bear the consequences. Then Allāh says:

﴿لَا يَزِيدُ وَاوَدًا وَذَرَّ الْأَخْرَافَ﴾

﴿No one laden with burdens can bear another's burden.﴾

no one will have to bear the sins of another, and he does not wrong anyone besides himself, as Allāh says:

﴿وَلَا تَنفَعُ مُمْغِلَةٌ إِنْ حَمَلَهَا لَا يَحْمِلُ مِنْهُ شَيْءٌ﴾

﴿and if one heavily laden calls another to (bear) his load, nothing of it will be lifted﴾ [35:15]

There is no contradiction between this and other Āyāt:

﴿وَلِيَحْمِلَ أَثْقَالَهُمْ وَأَثْقَالًا مَعَ أَثْقَالِهِمْ﴾

﴿And verily, they shall bear their own loads, and other loads besides their own.﴾ [29:13] and:

﴿وَمِنْ أَثْقَارِ الَّذِينَ يُضِلُّوهُمْ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ﴾

﴿and also of the burdens of those whom they misled without knowledge.﴾ [16:25]

For those who called others to do evil will bear the sin of their own deviation as well as the sin of those whom they led astray, without detracting the least amount from the burden of those people, and none of this burden shall be removed from them. This is the justice and mercy of Allāh towards His servants. As Allāh says:

﴿وَمَا كُنَّا مُعَذِّبِينَ حَتَّى نَبْعَثَ رَسُولًا﴾

﴿And We never punish until We have sent a Messenger (to give warning).﴾

## No Punishment until a Messenger has been sent

Allāh tells us that out of His justice, He does not punish anyone until He has established proof against him by sending a Messenger to him, as He says:

﴿كَلَّمْنَا آلَیْنِیْ فِیْهَا مَوْجٌ سَأَلْتُمْ خَزَنَتَهَا أَلَمْ یَأْتِكُمْ نَذِیْرٌ ۚ ﴿٨﴾ قَالُوا بَلْ قَدْ جَاءَنَا نَذِیْرٌ فَكَذَّبْنَاهُ وَكُنَّا مَا  
زَلَّ اللَّهُ مِنْ مَّوْجِهِ إِنْ أَنتُمْ إِلَّا فِی ضَلَالٍ كَبِیْرٍ ۝﴾

﴿Every time a group is cast therein, its keeper will ask: "Did no warner come to you?" They will say: "Yes, indeed a warner did come to us, but we belied him and said: 'Allāh never sent down anything (of revelation); you are only in great error.'"﴾ (67:8-9) And,

﴿وَسِیْقَ الْآلِیْنَ كَفَرُوا إِنْ جَهَنَّمَ زُرَّاءٌ ۚ فِیْهَا جُثثٌ مِّنْ أَهْلِهَا وَإِذْ جَاءَهَا فَتَحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا  
أَلَمْ یَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنْكُمْ یَتْلُونَ عَلَیْكُمْ آیَاتِ رَبِّكُمْ وَیُنذِرُكُم لِقَاءَ یَوْمِكُمْ هَٰذَا قَالُوا بَلْ  
وَلَكِنْ حَقَّتْ كَلِمَةُ الْعَذَابِ عَلَى الْكَافِرِیْنَ ۝﴾

﴿And those who disbelieved will be driven to Hell in groups, till, when they reach it, the gates thereof will be opened. And its keepers will say, "Did not the Messengers come to you from yourselves - reciting to you the verses of your Lord, and warning you of the meeting of this Day of yours?" They will say: "Yes," but the Word of torment has been justified against the disbelievers!﴾ (39:71) And,

﴿وَهُمْ یَصْطَرِیحُونَ فِیْهَا رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا نَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا غَیْرَ الَّذِی كُنَّا نَعْمَلُ ۚ أَوَلَمْ نُعَمِّرْكُم مَّا  
بَتَّكُرُ فِیْهِ مَنْ تَذَكَّرْ وَنَعَامَكُمُ ۚ أَلَذِیْرٌ فَعَا لِلظَّالِمِیْنَ مِنْ عَذَابِ ۝﴾

﴿Therein they will cry: "Our Lord! Bring us out, we shall do righteous good deeds, not (the evil deeds) that we used to do." (Allāh will reply:) "Did We not give you lives long enough, so that whosoever would receive admonition could receive it? And the warner came to you. So taste you (the evil of your deeds). For the wrongdoers there is no helper."﴾ (35:37)

There are other Āyāt which indicate that Allāh will not make anyone enter Hell except after sending a Messenger to them.

### The Issue of Small Children who die

Here there arises an issue over which the scholars in earlier and modern times have disagreed, may Allāh have mercy on them. This is the issue of children who die when they are little, and their parents are disbelievers: what happens to them? By the same token, what happens to the insane, the deaf, the senile and those who die during the circumstances of *Fatrah*, when no Message reached them? Several *Ḥadīths* have been narrated on this topic, which I will quote here by the help and support of Allāh.

### The First *Ḥadīth* from Al-Aswad bin Sarī'

Imām Aḥmad reported from Al-Aswad bin Sarī' that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said,

«أَرْبَعَةٌ يَخْتَجُونَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ: رَجُلٌ أَصَمٌّ لَا يَسْمَعُ شَيْئًا، وَرَجُلٌ أَخْمَقٌ، وَرَجُلٌ هَرِمٌ، وَرَجُلٌ مَاتَ فِي فَتْرَةٍ، فَأَمَّا الْأَصَمُّ فَيَقُولُ: رَبِّ قَدْ جَاءَ الْإِسْلَامَ وَمَا أَسْمَعُ شَيْئًا، وَأَمَّا الْأَخْمَقُ فَيَقُولُ: رَبِّ قَدْ جَاءَ الْإِسْلَامَ وَالصَّبِيَّانَ يَخْدِفُونِي بِالْبَغْرِ، وَأَمَّا الْهَرِمُ فَيَقُولُ: رَبِّ لَقَدْ جَاءَ الْإِسْلَامَ وَمَا أَغْقَلَ شَيْئًا، وَأَمَّا الَّذِي مَاتَ فِي الْفَتْرَةِ فَيَقُولُ: رَبِّ مَا أَتَانِي لَكَ رَسُولٌ. فَيَأْخُذُ مَوَائِقَهُمْ لِيُطِيعَتَهُ، فَيُرْسِلُ إِلَيْهِمْ أَنْ ادْخُلُوا النَّارَ، فَوَالَّذِي نَفْسُ مُحَمَّدٍ بِيَدِهِ، لَوْ دَخَلُوا لَكَثَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ بَرْدًا وَسَلَامًا»

«There are four who will present their case on the Day of Resurrection: a deaf man who never heard anything, an insane man, a very old and senile man, and a man who died during the *Fatrah*. As for the deaf man, he will say, "O Lord, Islām came but I never heard anything." As for the insane man, he will say, "O Lord, Islām came and the young boys were throwing camel dung at me." As for the senile man, he will say, "O Lord, Islām came and I did not understand anything." As for the one who died during the *Fatrah*, he will say, "O Lord, no Messenger from You came to me." Allāh will accept their pledge of obedience to Him, then He will send word to them that they should enter the Fire. By the One in Whose Hand is the soul of Muḥammad, if they enter it, it will be cool and safe for them.»

There is a similar report with a chain from Qatādah from Al-Ḥasan from Abu Rāfi' from Abu Hurayrah, but at the end it

says:

«مَنْ دَخَلَهَا كَانَتْ عَلَيْهِ بَرْدًا وَسَلَامًا، وَمَنْ لَمْ يَدْخُلْهَا يُسْحَبُ إِلَيْهَا»

«Whoever enters it will find it cool and safe, and whoever does not enter it will be dragged into it.»<sup>[1]</sup>

This was also recorded by Ishāq bin Rāḥwayh from Mu'adh bin Hishām,<sup>[2]</sup> and by Al-Bayhaqi in *Al-I'tiqād*. He said: "This is a *Ṣaḥīḥ* chain."

It was reported by Ibn Jarīr from the *Ḥadīth* of Ma'mar from Hammām from Abu Hurayrah, who attributed it to the Prophet ﷺ. Then Abu Hurayrah said: "Recite, if you wish:

﴿وَمَا كُنَّا مُعَذِّبِينَ حَتَّى نَبْعَثَ رَسُولًا﴾

«And We never punish until We have sent a Messenger (to give warning)».<sup>[3]</sup>

This was also narrated by Ma'mar from 'Abdullāh bin Tāwūs from his father, from Abu Hurayrah, but it is *Mauquf* (it was not attributed directly to the Prophet ﷺ).<sup>[4]</sup>

## The Second *Ḥadīth* from Abu Hurayrah

He said that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«كُلُّ مَوْلُودٍ يُولَدُ عَلَى الْفِطْرَةِ، فَأَبَوَاهُ يُهَوِّدَانِهِ أَوْ يَنْصَرَانِهِ أَوْ يُمَجْسَانِهِ، كَمَا تُنْتِجُ الْبَيْعَةُ بَهِيمَةً جُمُئَاءَ، هَلْ تُحْسِنُونَ فِيهَا مِنْ جَذَعَاءَ؟»

«Every newborn is born in a state of *Fitrah* (the natural state of man), then his parents make him into a Jew or Christian or Zoroastrian, as animals produce whole animals - do you see any that is born mutilated (with something missing)?»

According to one report they said: "O Messenger of Allāh, what about those who die when they are little?" He said,

«اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا كَانُوا عَامِلِينَ»

«Allāh knows best what they would have done.»<sup>[5]</sup>

[1] Aḥmad 4:24.

[2] Aṭ-Ṭabarāni, 1:287.

[3] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:403.

[4] Al-Qurṭubi 10:232.

[5] Al-Bukhāri 1385, Muslim 2658.

Imām Aḥmad reported from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet (ﷺ) as far as I know - the narrator was not sure if it was attributed to Mūsā - said:

«ذَرَارِيُّ الْمُسْلِمِينَ فِي الْجَنَّةِ يَكْفُلُهُمْ إِبْرَاهِيمُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ»

«The children of the Muslims are in Paradise, being taken care of by Ibrāhīm.»<sup>[1]</sup>

In Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim it is reported from 'Iyyād bin Ḥammād that the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) said that Allāh said:

«إِنِّي خَلَقْتُ عِبَادِي حُنَفَاءَ»

«I have created My servants as Ḥunafā.»<sup>[2]</sup> »<sup>[3]</sup> According to another version, the wording is "as Muslims."

### The Third Ḥadīth from Samurah

In his book *Al-Mustakhraj 'Ala Al-Bukhārī*, Al-Ḥāfiẓ Abu Bakr Al-Barqānī recorded the Ḥadīth of 'Awf Al-A'rābi, from Abu Rajā' Al-Uṭārdi from Samurah that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

«كُلُّ مَوْلُودٍ يُولَدُ عَلَى الْفِطْرَةِ»

«Every newborn is born in a state of Fiṭrah.»

The people called out to him: "O Messenger of Allāh! What about the children of the idolators" He said,

«وَأَوْلَادُ الْمُشْرِكِينَ»

«And the children of the idolators too.»<sup>[4]</sup>

Aṭ-Ṭabarānī reported that Samurah said: "We asked the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) about the children of the idolators, and he said,

«هُمْ خَدَمُ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ»

«They are the servants of the people of Paradise.»<sup>[5]</sup>

[1] Aḥmad 2:326, *Al-Majma'* 7:219.

[2] Naturally inclined towards pure monotheism or *Tawḥīd*.

[3] Muslim 2865.

[4] Al-Bukhārī 7047.

[5] *Al-Mu'jam Al-Kabīr*, 7:244, *Al-Majma'* 7:219.

### The Fourth Ḥadīth from the Paternal Uncle of Ḥasnā'

Aḥmad reported that Ḥasnā' bint Mu'āwiyah, from Bani Ṣuraym, said that his paternal uncle said to him: "I said, 'O Messenger of Allāh, who is in Paradise' He said,

«الْبَيْ فِي الْجَنَّةِ، وَالشَّهِيدُ فِي الْجَنَّةِ، وَالْمَوْلُودُ فِي الْجَنَّةِ، وَالزَّيْدُ فِي الْجَنَّةِ»

«Prophets are in Paradise, martyrs are in Paradise, infants are in Paradise and baby girls who were buried alive are in Paradise.»<sup>[1]</sup>

### It is Makrūh to discuss this Matter

In order to discuss this issue we need good, sound proof, but people who have no knowledge of *Sharī'ah* may try to speak about it. For this reason some of the scholars did not like to discuss it. This view has been narrated from Ibn 'Abbās, Al-Qāsim bin Muḥammad bin Abi Bakr Aṣ-Ṣiddīq, Muḥammad bin Al-Ḥanafiyyah and others.<sup>[2]</sup>

Ibn Hibbān recorded in his *Ṣaḥīh* that Jarīr bin Hāzim said: I heard Abu Rajā' Al-'Uṭārdi saying that he heard Ibn 'Abbās (may Allāh be pleased with them both) saying, "While he was on the *Minbar*, the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«لَا يَزَالُ أَمْرُ هَذِهِ الْأُمَّةِ مُوَاتَا - أَوْ مُقَارِبَا - مَا لَمْ يَتَكَلَّمُوا فِي الْوِلْدَانِ وَالْقَدَرِ»

«This Ummah will be fine so long as they do not talk about children and the divine decree.»

Ibn Hibbān said: "This means talking about the children of the idolators."<sup>[3]</sup> Abu Bakr Al-Bazzār also recorded it via Jarīr bin Hāzim, then he said, "A group narrated it from Abu Rajā' from Ibn 'Abbās, but it is *Mauqūf*."<sup>[4]</sup>

﴿وَإِذَا أَرَدْنَا أَنْ نُهْلِكَ قَرْيَةً أَمَرْنَا مُتْرَبِيهَا فَفَسَدُوا فِيهَا فَحَقَّ عَلَيْهَا الْقَوْلُ فَدَمَرْنَاهَا تَدْمِيرًا﴾

﴿16. And when We decide to destroy a town (population), Amarnā those who live luxuriously. Then, they transgress therein, and thus the word (of torment) is justified against it (them). Then We destroy it with complete destruction.﴾

[1] Aḥmad 5:58, Al-Majma' 7:219.

[2] Aḥmad 5:73.

[3] Ibn Hibbān 8:256.

[4] Kashf Al-Astār 3:35.

### Meanings of Amarnā

The commentators differed over the meaning of this word. It was said that the phrase translated here as “Amarnā those who live luxuriously. Then, they transgress therein” means, “We send Our decree upon them” as Allāh says elsewhere:

﴿أَتَيْنَا أَمْرًا لَيْلًا أَوْ نَهَارًا﴾

﴿Our decree reaches it by night or by day﴾

For [Amarnā cannot mean “Our command”] because Allāh does not command or enjoin immorality.

Or, they said it means that Allāh subjugated them to commit immoral deeds, so they deserved the punishment. Or it was said that it means: “We commanded them to obey Us, but they committed immoral sins, so they deserved punishment.” This was reported from Ibn Jurayj from Ibn ‘Abbās,<sup>[1]</sup> and it is also the view of Sa‘īd bin Jubayr.<sup>[2]</sup>

﴿أَمَرْنَا مُتْرَفِيهَا فَفَسَدُوا فِيهَا﴾

﴿Amarnā those who live luxuriously. Then, they transgress therein,﴾

‘Ali bin Abi Ṭalḥah reported that Ibn ‘Abbās said: [this means] “We gave power to the evil people, so they committed sin therein (in the town), and because they did that, Allāh destroyed them with the punishment.” This is similar to the *Ayah*:

﴿وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا فِي كُلِّ قَرْيَةٍ أَكْبَرًا مُجْرِمِينَ﴾

﴿And thus We have set up in every town great ones of its wicked people﴾<sup>[3]</sup> [6:133]

This was also the view of Abu Al-‘Āliyah, Mujāhid and Ar-Rabi’ bin Anas.<sup>[4]</sup>

﴿لَئِنْ أَرَادْنَا أَنْ نَهْلِكَ قَرْيَةً أَمَرْنَا مُتْرَفِيهَا فَفَسَدُوا فِيهَا﴾

﴿And when We decide to destroy a town (populaton), Amarnā

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:403.

[2] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:403.

[3] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:404.

[4] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:404.

*those who live luxuriously. Then, they transgress therein,﴾*

Al-'Awfi reported that Ibn 'Abbās said, (it means) "We increase their numbers."<sup>[1]</sup> This was also the view of 'Ikrimah, Al-Ḥasan, Aḍ-Ḍaḥḥāk and Qatādah,<sup>[2]</sup> and it was reported from Mālik and Az-Zuhri.

﴿وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِنَ الْقُرُونِ مِنْ بَدِّ نُوْحٍ ۚ وَكَفَىٰ بِرَبِّكَ بِذُنُوبِ عِبَادِهِ ۖ خَبِيرًا ۝﴾

﴿17. And how many generations have We destroyed after Nūḥ!  
And sufficient is your Lord as All-Knower and Seer of the sins  
of His servants.﴾

### A Threat to Quraysh

Warning the disbelievers of the Quraysh for rejecting His Messenger Muḥammad ﷺ, Allāh says that He destroyed other nations who rejected the Messengers after Nūḥ. This indicates that during the centuries between Ādam and Nūḥ, humans were following Islam, as Ibn 'Abbās said: "Between Ādam and Nūḥ there were ten generations, during all of which humans were following Islam."<sup>[3]</sup> The meaning (of the *Ayah*) is: "You disbelievers are not more dear to Allāh than they were, and you have rejected the most noble of the Messengers and the best of creation, so you are more deserving of punishment."

﴿وَكَفَىٰ بِرَبِّكَ بِذُنُوبِ عِبَادِهِ ۖ خَبِيرًا ۝﴾

﴿And sufficient is your Lord as All-Knower and Seer of the sins  
of His servants.﴾

means, He knows everything they do, good and evil, and nothing at all is hidden from Him, may He be glorified and exalted.

﴿مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدِ الْمَالَةَ عَمَلْنَا لَهُ فِيهَا مَا نَشَاءُ لِمَنْ نُرِيدُ ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَا لَهُ جَهَنَّمَ يَصْلَاهَا مَذْمُومًا  
مَذْمُورًا ۝ وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ وَسَعَىٰ لَهَا سَعْيَهَا وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ سَعْيُهُمْ  
مَشْكُورًا ۝﴾

﴿18. Whoever desires the quick-passing (transitory enjoyment of

<sup>[1]</sup> Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:404.

<sup>[2]</sup> Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:404, 405.

<sup>[3]</sup> Al-Majma' 6:318.



*this world), We readily grant him what We will for whom We like. Then, afterwards, We have appointed for him Hell; he will burn therein disgraced and rejected.﴾*

﴿19. And whoever desires the Hereafter and strives for it, with the necessary effort due for it while he is a believer, then such are the ones whose striving shall be appreciated, (rewarded by Allāh).﴾

### **The Reward of Those who desire this World and Those who desire the Hereafter**

Allāh tells us that not everyone who desires this world and its luxuries gets what he wants. That is attained by those whom Allāh wants to have it, and they get what He wills that they should get. This *Āyah* narrows down the general statements made in other *Āyāt*. Allāh says:

﴿عَجَّلْنَا لَهُ فِيهَا مَا نَشَاءُ لِمَنْ نُرِيدُ ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَا لَهُ جَهَنَّمَ﴾

﴿We readily grant him what We will for whom We like. Then, afterwards, We have appointed for him Hell﴾  
meaning, in the Hereafter,

﴿يَسْلُكُهَا﴾

﴿he will burn therein﴾ means, he will enter it until it covers him on all sides,

﴿مَذْمُومًا﴾

﴿disgraced﴾ means, blamed for his bad behaviour and evil deeds, because he chose the transient over the eternal,

﴿مَذْهُورًا﴾

﴿rejected.﴾ means, far away (from Allāh's mercy), humiliated and put to shame.

﴿وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ﴾

﴿And whoever desires the Hereafter﴾ wanting the Hereafter and its blessings and delights,

﴿وَسَعَىٰ لَهَا سَعْيَهَا﴾

﴿and strives for it, with the necessary effort due for it﴾

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

٢٨٤

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْعَاجِلَةَ عَجَلْنَا لَهُ فِيهَا مَا نَشَاءُ لِمَنْ نُرِيدُ ثُمَّ  
 جَعَلْنَا لَهُ جَهَنَّمَ يَصْلَاهَا مَذْمُومًا مَدْحُورًا ﴿٢٠﴾ وَمَنْ أَرَادَ  
 الْآخِرَةَ وَسَعَى لَهَا سَعْيَهَا وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَئِكَ كَانَ  
 سَعْيُهُمْ مَشْكُورًا ﴿٢١﴾ كَلَّا نُنْزِلُ هَؤُلَاءَ وَهَؤُلَاءَ مِنْ عَطَاءِ  
 رَبِّكَ وَمَا كَانَ عَطَاءُ رَبِّكَ مَحْظُورًا ﴿٢٢﴾ أَنْظِرْ كَيْفَ فَضَّلْنَا  
 بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَلِلْآخِرَةِ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَاتٍ وَأَكْبَرُ تَفْضِيلًا  
 ﴿٢٣﴾ لَا تَجْعَلْ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ فَتَقْعُدَ مَذْمُومًا مَدْحُورًا ﴿٢٤﴾  
 وَفَضَى رَبُّكَ أَلا تَعْبُدُ إِلَّا إِلَاهَهُ وَالَّذِينَ إِحْسَنًا إِنَّمَا  
 يَبْتَغُونَ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا  
 أَوْفٍ وَلَا تَنْهَرُهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا ﴿٢٥﴾ وَأَخْفِضْ  
 لَهُمَا جَنَاحَ الذُّلِّ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ وَقُلْ رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي  
 صَغِيرًا ﴿٢٦﴾ رَبُّكُمْ أَغْلَمُ بِمَا فِي نُفُوسِكُمْ إِنَّ تَكُونُوا صَالِحِينَ  
 فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ لِلْأَوَّلِينَ غَفُورًا ﴿٢٧﴾ وَمَا يَذَّالِقُنَّ حَقَّهُ  
 وَالْمَسْكِينُ وَابْنُ السَّبِيلِ وَلَا يُبْدِي رَبُّبْدِيرًا ﴿٢٨﴾ إِنَّ الْمَعْدِينَ  
 كَانُوا إِخْوَانَ الشَّيَاطِينِ وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِرَبِّهِ كَفُورًا ﴿٢٩﴾

seeking it in the right way, which is following the Messenger ﷺ.

﴿وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ﴾

﴿while he is a believer,﴾ means, his heart has faith, i.e., he believes in the reward and punishment,

﴿فَأُولَئِكَ كَانَ سَعْيُهُمْ مَشْكُورًا﴾

﴿then such are the ones whose striving shall be appreciated, (rewarded by Allāh).﴾

﴿كَلَّا نُنْزِلُ هَؤُلَاءَ وَهَؤُلَاءَ مِنْ عَطَاءِ رَبِّكَ وَمَا كَانَ عَطَاءُ رَبِّكَ مَحْظُورًا ﴿٢٢﴾ أَنْظِرْ كَيْفَ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَلِلْآخِرَةِ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَاتٍ وَأَكْبَرُ تَفْضِيلًا﴾

﴿20. On each these as well as those We bestow from the bounties of your Lord. And the bounties of your Lord can never be forbidden.﴾

﴿21. See how We prefer one above another (in this world), and verily, the Hereafter will be greater in degrees and greater in preferment.﴾

Allāh says:

﴿كَلَّا﴾

﴿On each﴾ meaning, on each of the two groups, those who desire this world and those who desire the Hereafter, We bestow what they want

﴿مِنْ عَطَاءِ رَبِّكَ﴾

﴿from the bounties of your Lord.﴾

means, He is the One Who is in control of all things, and He is never unjust. He gives to each what he deserves, whether it is eternal happiness or doom. His decree is unstoppable, no one can withhold what He gives or change what He wants. Allāh says:

﴿وَمَا كَانَ عَطَاءُ رَبِّكَ مَحْظُورًا﴾

﴿And the bounties of your Lord can never be forbidden.﴾

meaning, no one can withhold or prevent them. Qatādah said,

﴿وَمَا كَانَ عَطَاءُ رَبِّكَ مَحْظُورًا﴾

﴿And the bounties of your Lord can never be forbidden.﴾

"(It means) they can never decrease".<sup>[1]</sup>

﴿وَمَا كَانَ عَطَاءُ رَبِّكَ مَحْظُورًا﴾

﴿And the Bounties of your Lord can never be forbidden﴾

Al-Ḥasan and others said, "(It means) they can never be prevented."

Then Allāh says:

﴿أَنْتَظِرُ كَيْفَ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ﴾

﴿See how We prefer one above another,﴾

meaning in this world, so that some are rich and some are poor, and others are in between; some are beautiful, some are ugly and others are in between; some die young while others live to a great age, and some die in between.

﴿وَلَا آخِرَ أَكْبَرِ دَرَجَتٍ وَأَكْبَرِ تَفْضِيلًا﴾

﴿and verily, the Hereafter will be greater in degrees and greater in preferment.﴾

means, the differences between them in the Hereafter will be greater than the differences between them in this world. Some of them will be in varying levels of Hell, in chains and fetters, while others will be in the lofty degrees of Paradise, with its blessings and delights. The people of Hell will vary in their positions and levels, just as the people of Paradise will. In

<sup>[1]</sup> Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:410.

Paradise there are one hundred levels, and the distance between one level and another is like the distance between heaven and earth. It is recorded in the Two *Ṣaḥīḥs* that the Prophet ﷺ said:

«إِنَّ أَهْلَ الدَّرَجَاتِ الْعُلَى لَيَرَوْنَ أَهْلَ عِلْيَيْنَ كَمَا تَرَوْنَ الْكَوْكَبَ الْغَائِبَ فِي أَفْقِ السَّمَاءِ»

«The people of the highest levels (of Paradise) will see the people of 'Ilīyīn<sup>[1]</sup> as if they are looking at distant stars on the horizon.»<sup>[2]</sup>

Allāh says:

﴿وَلَا أُخِرُ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَتٍ وَأَكْبَرُ تَفْضِيلًا﴾

«and verily, the Hereafter will be greater in degrees and greater in preferment.»

﴿لَا تَجْعَلْ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا مَآخَرَ فَتَقَعُدَ مَذْمُومًا مَحْدُولًا﴾

«22. Set not up with Allāh any other ilāh (god), or you will sit down reproved, forsaken (in the Hellfire).»

### Do not associate Anything in Worship with Allāh

Addressing those who are responsible among this *Ummah*, Allāh says, “Do not admit any partner into your worship of your Lord.”

﴿فَتَقَعُدَ مَذْمُومًا﴾

«or you will sit down reproved,» meaning, because of associating others with Him.

﴿مَحْدُولًا﴾

«forsaken.» means, because the Lord, may He be exalted, will not help you; He will leave you to the one whom you worshipped, and he has no power either to benefit or to harm, because the Only One Who has the power to benefit or to harm is Allāh alone, with no partner or associate. Imām Aḥmad reported that ‘Abdullāh bin Mas‘ūd said: “The Messenger of

[1] See *Sūrat Al-Muṭaffifīn* 83:18-21.

[2] *Faṭḥ Al-Bārī* 6:368, Muslim 4:2177.

Allāh ﷻ said:

«مَنْ أَصَابَتْهُ قَاقَةٌ فَأَنْزَلَهَا بِالنَّاسِ لَمْ تُسَدِّ قَاقَتُهُ، وَمَنْ أَنْزَلَهَا بِاللَّهِ أَرْسَلَ اللَّهُ لَهُ بِالْعَنَى  
إِمَّا أَجَلًا وَإِمَّا غِنًى عَاجِلًا»

«Whoever is afflicted with poverty and goes and asks people for help, will never get rid of his poverty, but if he asks Allāh for help, then Allāh will grant him the means of independence sooner or later.»<sup>[1]</sup>

This was also recorded by Abu Dāwūd and At-Tirmidhi, who said, “*Ḥasan Ṣaḥīḥ Gharīb*”.<sup>[2]</sup>

﴿وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ ۖ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا ۖ إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكَفَرُ  
أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لِمَا أُنْفِيَ وَلَا تَنْهَرُهُمَا وَقُلْ لَّهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا ۖ﴾ وَأَنْقِضْ  
لَهُمَا جَنَاحَ الذَّلِيلِ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ وَقُلْ رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي صَغِيرًا ﴿٢٣﴾

﴿23. And your Lord has Qaḍā [decreed] that you worship none but Him. And that you be dutiful to your parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of disrespect, nor reprimand them but address them in terms of honor.﴾

﴿24. And lower unto them the wing of submission and humility through mercy, and say: "My Lord! Bestow on them Your mercy as they did bring me up when I was young."﴾

### The Command to Worship Allāh Alone and to be Dutiful to One's Parents

Allāh commands us to worship Him alone, with no partner or associate. The word *Qaḍā* [normally having the meaning of decree] here means “commanded”. Mujāhid said that

﴿وَقَضَىٰ﴾

﴿And He has Qaḍā﴾ means enjoined.<sup>[3]</sup> This is also how Ubayy bin Ka'b, Ibn Mas'ūd and Aḍ-Ḍaḥḥāk bin Muzāhim recited the *Āyah* as:

[1] Aḥmad 1 :407.

[2] Abu Dāwūd 2 :296, *Tuḥfat al-Aḥwadhī* 6 :617.

[3] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17 :414.

﴿وَوَصَّىٰ رَبُّكَ ٱلْأَنفُسَ أَنْ تَعْبُدُوا إِلَٰهًا﴾

“And your Lord has *Waṣṣa* [enjoined] that you worship none but Him.”<sup>[1]</sup>

The idea of worshipping Allāh is connected to the idea of honoring one's parents. Allāh says:

﴿وَبِٱلْوَٰلِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا﴾

﴿And that you be dutiful to your parents.﴾ Here He commands good treatment of parents, as He says elsewhere:

﴿أَنْ أَشْكُرَ لِي وَلِوٰلِدَيْكَ إِلَىٰ ٱلْعَصْرِ﴾

﴿give thanks to Me and to your parents. Unto Me is the final destination﴾ [31:14]

﴿إِنَّمَا يَلْتَمِسُ شَيْءٌ عِنْدَكَ ٱلْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَّهُمَا شَيْءٌ﴾

﴿If one of them or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of disrespect,﴾

means, do not let them hear anything offensive from you, not even say “Uff!” which is the mildest word of disrespect,

﴿وَلَا تَنْهَرُهُمَا﴾

﴿and do not reprimand them﴾

means, do not do anything horrible to them.

﴿وَلَا تَنْهَرُهُمَا﴾

﴿and do not reprimand them﴾

‘Aṭā’ bin Rabāh said that it meant, “Do not raise your hand against them.”<sup>[2]</sup> When Allāh forbids speaking and behaving in an obnoxious manner, He commands speaking and behaving in a good manner, so He says:

﴿وَقُلْ لَّهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا﴾

﴿but address them in terms of honor.﴾ meaning gently, kindly, politely, and with respect and appreciation.

﴿وَأَنْفِضْ لَهُمَا جَنَاحَ ٱلنَّيْلِ مِنَ ٱلرَّحْمَةِ﴾

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:413, 414.

[2] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:417.

﴿And lower unto them the wing of submission and humility through mercy,﴾ means, be humble towards them in your actions.

﴿وَقُلْ رَبِّ ارْحَمْنَاهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّنِي صَغِيرًا﴾

﴿and say: "My Lord! Bestow on them Your Mercy as they did bring me up when I was young."﴾

means, say this when they grow old and when they die. Ibn 'Abbās said: "But then Allāh revealed:

﴿مَا كَانِ لِلنَّبِيِّ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنْ يَسْتَغْفِرُوا لِلْمُشْرِكِينَ﴾

﴿It is not (proper) for the Prophet and those who believe to ask Allāh's forgiveness for the idolators...﴾<sup>[1]</sup> [9:13]

There are many *Ḥadīths* which speak about honoring one's parents, such as the *Ḥadīth* narrated through a number of chains of narration from Anas and others, which states that the Prophet ﷺ climbed up on the *Minbar*, and then said, ((*Āmīn*, *Āmīn*, *Āmīn*..)) It was said, "O Messenger of Allāh, why did you say *Āmīn*?" He said:

«أَتَانِي جِبْرِيلُ فَقَالَ: يَا مُحَمَّدُ رَغِمَ أَنْفُ رَجُلٍ ذُكِرَتْ عَنْدَهُ فَلَمْ يُصَلِّ عَلَيْكَ، قُلْ: آمِينَ، فَقُلْتُ: آمِينَ، ثُمَّ قَالَ: رَغِمَ أَنْفُ رَجُلٍ دَخَلَ عَلَيْهِ شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ ثُمَّ خَرَجَ فَلَمْ يُغْفَرْ لَهُ، قُلْ: آمِينَ، فَقُلْتُ: آمِينَ، ثُمَّ قَالَ: رَغِمَ أَنْفُ رَجُلٍ أَذْرَكَ وَالِدَيْهِ أَوْ أَحَدَهُمَا فَلَمْ يَدْخُلْهُ الْجَنَّةَ، قُلْ: آمِينَ، فَقُلْتُ: آمِينَ»

«Jibrīl came to me and said, "O Muḥammad, he is doomed who hears you mentioned and does not say *Ṣallā* upon you." He said, "Say *Āmīn*," so I said *Āmīn*. Then he said, "He is doomed who sees the month of Ramaḍān come and go, and he has not been forgiven." He said, "Say *Āmīn*," so I said *Āmīn*. Then he said, "He is doomed who grows up and both his parents or one of them are still alive, and they do not cause him to enter Paradise." He said, "Say *Āmīn*," so I said *Āmīn*."<sup>[2]</sup>

### Another Ḥadīth

Imām Aḥmad reported from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet ﷺ said:

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:421.

[2] *Tuḥfat Al-Aḥwadhī* 5:550.





*enjoins you concerning your close relatives then the next in closeness.*<sup>[1]</sup>

This was recorded by Ibn Mājah from the Ḥadīth of 'Abdullāh bin 'Ayyāsh.<sup>[2]</sup>

### Another Ḥadīth

Aḥmad recorded that a man from Banu Yarbū' said: "I came to the Prophet ﷺ while he was talking to the people, and I heard him saying,

«يَدُ الْمُعْطِيِ أَعْلَىٰ، أُمُّكَ وَأَبَاكَ، وَأَخْتُكَ وَأَخَاكَ، ثُمَّ أَذْنَاكَ أَذْنَاكَ»

*«The hand of the one who gives is superior. (Give to) your mother and your father, your sister and your brother, then the closest and next closest.»*<sup>[3]</sup>

﴿رَبُّكَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا فِي نُفُوسِكُمْ إِنْ تَكُونُوا صَالِحِينَ فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ لِلْأَوَّابِ غَفُورًا﴾

«25. Your Lord knows best what is in your souls. If you are righteous, then, verily, He is Ever Most Forgiving to those who turn to Him in repentance.»

### Omissions committed against Parents are pardoned with Good Relations and Repentance

Sa'īd bin Jubayr said: "This refers to a man who said something that he did not think would be offensive to his parents." According to another report: "He did not mean anything bad by that."<sup>[4]</sup> So Allāh said:

﴿رَبُّكَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا فِي نُفُوسِكُمْ إِنْ تَكُونُوا صَالِحِينَ﴾

«Your Lord knows best what is in your souls. If you are righteous,»

﴿فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ لِلْأَوَّابِ غَفُورًا﴾

«He is Ever Most Forgiving to those who turn to Him in repentance.»

[1] Aḥmad 4:132.

[2] Ibn Mājah 2:1207.

[3] Aḥmad 4:64.

[4] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:422.

Qatādah said: "To the obedient who pray."<sup>[1]</sup>

﴿فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ لِلْأَوَّابِ غَفُورًا﴾

«He is Ever Most Forgiving to those who turn to Him in repentance.»

Shu'bah narrated from Yahyā bin Sa'īd from Sa'īd bin Al-Mūsayyib; "This refers to those who commit sin then repent, and commit sin then repent."<sup>[2]</sup>

'Atā' bin Yasār, Sa'īd bin Jubayr and Mujāhid said: "They are the ones who return to goodness."<sup>[3]</sup> Mujāhid narrated from 'Ubayd bin 'Umayr, concerning this *Āyah*: "This is the one who, when he remembers his sin when he is alone, he seeks the forgiveness of Allāh." Mujāhid agreed with him on that.<sup>[4]</sup>

Ibn Jarīr said: "The best view on this matter is of those who said that it refers to the one who repents after committing sin, who comes back from disobedience to obedience and who leaves that which Allāh hates for that which He loves and is pleased with."<sup>[5]</sup> What he said is correct, for Allāh says,

﴿إِنَّ إِلَيْنَا إِيَابَهُمْ﴾

«Verily, to Us will be their return» (88:25).

And according to a *Ṣaḥīḥ Ḥadīth*, the Messenger of Allāh would say when he ﷺ returned from a journey,

«أَيُّونَ تَأْتِيُونَ، عَابِدُونَ رَبَّنَا حَامِدُونَ»

«We have returned repenting, worshipping and praising our Lord.»<sup>[6]</sup>

﴿وَمَا تَذَكَّرِ الْبَيْتِ وَلَا يَذْكُرُ الْبَيْتِ﴾ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا إِخْوَانَ الشَّيْطَانِ وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِرَبِّهِمْ كَفُورًا ﴿وَمَا تُرْضَىٰ عَنْهُمْ آيَاتُهُ رَحْمَةً مِن رَّبِّكَ رُحْمًا قُلْ لَهُمْ قَوْلًا نُّسُورًا﴾

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:422.

[2] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:423.

[3] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:424, 425.

[4] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:424.

[5] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:425.

[6] *Faṭḥ Al-Bārī* 3:724.

﴿26. And give to the kinsman his due, and to the Miskīn (poor), and to the wayfarer. But spend not wastefully (your wealth) in the manner of a spendthrift.﴾

﴿27. Verily, the spendthrifts are brothers of the Shayāṭīn (devils), and the Shayṭān is ever ungrateful to his Lord.﴾

﴿28. And if you turn away from them and you are awaiting a mercy from your Lord for which you hope, then, speak unto them a soft, kind word.﴾

### **The Command to maintain the Ties of Kinship and the Prohibition of Extravagance**

When Allāh mentions honoring one's parents, He follows this with the command to treat one's relatives well and to maintain the ties of kinship. According to the Ḥadīth:

«أُمَّكَ وَأَبَاكَ، ثُمَّ أَدْنَاكَ أَدْنَاكَ» وفي رواية «ثُمَّ الْأَقْرَبُ فَلَا اقْرَبُ»

«Your mother and your father, then your closest relatives and the next closest.»<sup>[1]</sup>

According to another Ḥadīth:

«مَنْ أَحَبَّ أَنْ يَنْسَطَ لَهُ فِي رِزْقِهِ وَيُنْشَأَ لَهُ فِي أَجَلِهِ، فَلْيَصِلْ رَحِمَهُ»

«Whoever would like to see his provision expanded and his life extended, let him maintain his ties of kinship.»<sup>[2]</sup>

﴿وَلَا يَذَرُ بَذِيرًا﴾

﴿But spend not wastefully (your wealth) in the manner of a spendthrift.﴾

When Allāh commands spending, He forbids extravagance. Spending should be moderate, as stated in another Āyah:

﴿وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَنْفَقُوا لَمْ يَسْرِفُوا وَلَمْ يَقْتُرُوا﴾

﴿And those who, when they spend, are neither extravagant nor stingy﴾. [25:67]

Then He says, to discourage extravagance:

﴿إِنَّ الْمُبَذِّرِينَ كَانُوا إِخْوَانَ الشَّيَاطِينِ﴾

<sup>[1]</sup> Aḥmad 2:226.

<sup>[2]</sup> Muslim 4:1982.

﴿Verily, the spendthrifts are brothers of the Shayāṭīn,﴾

They have this trait in common. Ibn Mas'ūd said: "This refers spending extravagantly when it is not appropriate."<sup>[1]</sup> Ibn 'Abbās said likewise.<sup>[2]</sup> Mujāhid said: "If a man spends all his wealth on appropriate things, then he is not a spendthrift, but if he spends a little inappropriately, then he is a spendthrift."<sup>[3]</sup> Qatādah said: "Extravagance means spending money on sin in disobeying Allāh, and on wrongful and corrupt things."<sup>[4]</sup>

Imām Aḥmad recorded that Anas bin Mālik said: "A man came from Banu Tamīm to the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ and said: 'O Messenger of Allāh, I have a lot of wealth, I have a family, children, and the refinements of city life, so tell me how I should spend and what I should do.' The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«تُخْرِجُ الزَّكَاةَ مِنْ مَالِكَ إِنْ كَانَ، فَإِنَّهَا طَهْرَةٌ تُطَهِّرُكَ، وَتَصِلُ أَقْرَبَاءَكَ، وَتَعْرِفُ حَقَّ السَّائِلِ وَالْجَارِ وَالْمِسْكِينَ»

«Pay the Zakāh on your wealth if any is due, for it is purification that will make you pure, maintain your ties of kinship, pay attention to the rights of beggars, neighbors and the poor.»

He said: 'O Messenger of Allāh, make it less for me.' He [recited]:

﴿وَمَا يَذَا الْقُرْنُ حَقَّهُ وَالْمِسْكِينَ وَالنَّسِيلَ وَلَا يُبْذَرُ بَذِيرًا﴾

«And give to the kinsman his due, and to the Miskīn (poor) and to the wayfarer. But spend not wastefully in the manner of a spendthrift.﴾

The man said, 'That is enough for me, O Messenger of Allāh. If I pay Zakāh to your messenger, will I be absolved of that duty before Allāh and His Messenger?' The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«نَعَمْ، إِذَا أَذَيْتَهَا إِلَى رَسُولِي فَقَدْ بَرَّتَ مِنْهَا وَلَكَ أَجْرُهَا، وَإِنْ مَهَا عَلَى مَنْ بَذَلَهَا»

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:428.

[2] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:429.

[3] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:429.

[4] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:429.

«Yes, if you give it to my messenger, you will have fulfilled it, and you will have the reward for it, and the sin is on the one who changes it.»<sup>[1]</sup>

﴿إِنَّ الْبَذِيرَ كَانُوا إِخْوَانَ الشَّيْطَانِ﴾

«Verily, the spendthrifts are brothers of the Shayāṭīn.»

meaning, they are their brothers in extravagance, foolishness, failing to obey Allāh and committing sin. Allāh said:

﴿وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِرَبِّهِ كَفُورًا﴾

«and the Shayṭān is ever ungrateful to his Lord.»

meaning, he is an ingrate, because he denied the blessings of Allāh and did not obey Him, turning instead to disobedience and rebellion.

﴿وَأِمَّا تَرَضَيْتُمْ عَنْهُمْ آيَةً رَحْمَةً مِن رَّبِّكَ﴾

«And if you turn away from them and you are awaiting a mercy from your Lord»

If your relatives and those to whom We have commanded you to give, ask you for something, and you do not have anything, and you turn away from them because you have nothing to give,

﴿فَقُلْ لَهُمْ قَوْلًا مَّيْسُورًا﴾

«then, speak unto them a soft, kind word.»

meaning, with a promise. This was the opinion of Mujāhid, Ṭkrimah, Saʿīd bin Jubayr, Al-Ḥasan, Qatādah and others.<sup>[2]</sup>

﴿وَلَا تَجْعَلْ يَدَكَ مَغْلُولَةً إِلَىٰ عُنُقِكَ وَلَا تَبْسُطْهَا كُلَّ الْبَسْطِ فَتَقْعُدَ مَلُومًا مَّحْسُورًا ۚ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ

يَبْسُطُ الزُّرَّ لِمَن بَشَاءَ وَيَقْدِرُ إِنَّمَا كَانَ يَحْيَاوُوهَ خَيْرًا بَصِيرًا﴾

«29. And let not your hand be tied (like a miser) to your neck, nor overextend it (like a spendthrift), so that you become blameworthy and in severe poverty.»

<sup>[1]</sup> Aḥmad 3:136. Some scholars consider this Ḥadīth authentic, although it is not confirmed that its narrator, Saʿīd bin Abi Hilāl, actually heard from Anas bin Mālīk.

<sup>[2]</sup> Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:431, 432

﴿30. Truly, your Lord expands the provision for whom He wills and straitens (for whom He wills). Verily, He is Ever All-Knower, All-Seer of His servants.﴾

### **Moderation in Spending**

Allāh enjoins moderation in living. He condemns miserliness and forbids extravagance.

﴿وَلَا تَجْعَلْ يَدَكَ مَغْلُولَةً إِلَىٰ عُنُقِكَ﴾

﴿And let not your hand be tied (like a miser) to your neck,﴾

this means, do not be miserly and stingy, never giving anything to anyone, as the Jews - may the curses of Allāh be upon them - said, "Allāh's Hand is tied up (i.e., He does not give and spend of His bounty)". They attributed miserliness to Him, Exalted and Sanctified be the Most Generous Bestower!

﴿وَلَا تَبْسُطْهَا كُلَّ الْبَسْطِ﴾

﴿nor overextend it (like a spendthrift)﴾

means, nor be extravagant in spending and giving more than you can afford, or paying more than you earn, lest you become blameworthy and find yourself in severe poverty. If you are a miser, people will blame you and condemn you, and no longer rely on you. When you spend more than you can afford, you will find yourself without anything to spend, so you will be worn out, like an animal that cannot walk, so it becomes weak and incapable. It is described as worn out, which is similar in meaning to exhausted. As Allāh says:

﴿فَإِنِجِ الْبَصَرَ هَلْ رَأَىٰ مِنْ فُطُورٍ ۚ ثُمَّ انْجِجْ الْبَصَرَ كَرَّتَيْنِ يَنْقَلِبْ إِلَيْكَ الْبَصَرُ خَاسِئًا وَهُوَ حَسِيرٌ ۝﴾

﴿Then look again: "Can you see any rifts?" Then look again and yet again, your sight will return to you in a state of humiliation and worn out.﴾ (67:3-4)

meaning, unable to see any faults. Similarly, Ibn 'Abbās, Al-Ḥasan, Qatādah, Ibn Jurayj, Ibn Zayd and others understood this *Āyah* as miserliness and extravagance.<sup>[1]</sup> It was reported

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:434, 435.

in the Two Ṣaḥīḥs from the Ḥadīth of Abu Az-Zinād from Al-A'raj that Abu Hurayrah heard the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ say:

«مَثَلُ الْبَخِيلِ وَالْمُنْفِقِ كَمَثَلِ رَجُلَيْنِ عَلَيْهِمَا جُبَّتَانِ مِنْ حَدِيدٍ مِنْ تَحْتِهِمَا إِلَى تَرَاقِيهِمَا، فَأَمَّا الْمُنْفِقُ فَلَا يُنْفِقُ إِلَّا سَبْعَتْ - أَوْ وَفَرَتْ - عَلَى جِلْدِهِ حَتَّى تُخْفِيَ بَنَانَهُ وَتَغْفُوَ أَثَرَهُ، وَأَمَّا الْبَخِيلُ فَلَا يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُنْفِقَ شَيْئًا إِلَّا لَزِقَتْ كُلُّ خَلْقَةٍ مِنْهَا مَكَانَهَا، فَهُوَ يُوسِعُهَا فَلَا تَسْيعُ»

«The parable of the miser and the almsgiver is that of two persons wearing iron cloaks from their chests to their collar-bones. When the almsgiver gives in charity, the cloak becomes spacious until it covers his whole body to such an extent that it hides his fingertips and covers his tracks (obliterates his tracks - or, his sins will be forgiven). And when the miser wants to spend, it (the iron cloak) sticks and (its) every ring gets stuck to its place, and he tries to widen it, but it does not become wide.»<sup>[1]</sup>

This version was recorded by Al-Bukhāri in the Book of Zakāh.

In the Two Ṣaḥīḥs it is recorded that Mu'āwiyah bin Abi Muzarrid narrated from Sa'īd bin Yasār that Abu Hurayrah said: "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«مَا مِنْ يَوْمٍ يُضِيحُ الْعِبَادُ فِيهِ إِلَّا وَمَلَكَانِ يَنْزِلَانِ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ يَقُولُ أَحَدُهُمَا: اللَّهُمَّ أَغْطِ مُنْفِقًا خَلْفًا، وَيَقُولُ الْآخَرُ: اللَّهُمَّ أَغْطِ مُمْسِكًا تَلْفًا»

«There is no day when a person wakes up but two angels come down from heaven. One of them says, 'O Allāh, compensate the one who gives (in charity),' and the other one says, 'O Allāh, destroy the one who withholds.'»

Muslim recorded from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet ﷺ said:

«مَا نَقَصَ مَالٌ مِنْ صَدَقَةٍ، وَمَا زَادَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا أَنْفَقَ إِلَّا عِزًّا، وَمَنْ تَوَاضَعَ لِلَّهِ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ»

«Wealth never decreases because of Ṣadaqah (charity). Allāh never increases a servant who gives in charity except in honor, and whoever is humble for the sake of Allāh, Allāh will raise

[1] Faṭḥ Al-Bārī 3 :358, Muslim 2 :708.

him in status.<sup>[1]</sup>

According to a *Ḥadīth* narrated by Abu Kathīr from ‘Abdullāh bin ‘Amr, who attributed it to the Prophet ﷺ:

«إِيَّاكُمْ وَالشَّعْ فَإِنَّهُ أَهْلَكَ مَنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ، أَمَرَهُمْ بِالْبُخْلِ فَبَخِلُوا، وَأَمَرَهُمْ بِالْقَطِيعَةِ فَقَطَعُوا، وَأَمَرَهُمْ بِالْفُجُورِ فَفَجَرُوا»

«Beware of stinginess for it destroyed the people who came before you. It commanded them to be miserly, so they were miserly; and it commanded them to cut the ties of kinship, so they cut them; and it commanded them to commit immoral actions, so they did so.»<sup>[2]</sup>

﴿إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَقْدِرُ﴾

«Truly, your Lord expands the provision for whom He wills and straitens (for whom He wills).»

This *Āyah* is telling us that Allāh is the One Who provides or withholds, the Bestower Who is running the affairs of His creation as He wills. He makes rich whomever He wills, and He makes poor whomever He wills, by the wisdom that is His. He said:

﴿إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا يُعَادُونَ. خَيْرًا بَصِيرًا﴾

«Verily, He is Ever All-Knower, All-Seer of His servants.»

meaning, He knows and sees who deserves to be rich and who deserves to be poor.

In some cases, richness may be decreed so that a person gets carried away, leading to his own doom. In other cases, poverty may be a punishment. We seek refuge with Allāh from both.

﴿وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ خَشْيَةً إِمَّا تَوَدُّوْنَ أَنْ تَرْزُقَهُمْ وَإِنَّا كَرُّنَا قَتْلَهُمْ كَانَ خِطَاً كَبِيراً﴾

«31. And kill not your children for fear of poverty. We shall provide for them as well as for you. Surely, the killing of them is a great sin.»

[1] Muslim 4:2001.

[2] Aḥmad 2:159.



### Prohibition of killing Children

This Āyah indicates that Allāh is more compassionate towards His servants than a father to his child, because He forbids killing children just as He enjoins parents to take care of their children in matters of inheritance. The people of *Jāhiliyyah* would not allow their daughters to inherit from them, and some would even kill their daughters lest they make them more poor. Allāh forbade that and said:

﴿وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ خَشْيَةَ إِمْلَاقٍ﴾

﴿And kill not your children for fear of poverty.﴾

meaning, lest they may make you poor in the future. This is why Allāh mentions the children's provision first:

﴿نَحْنُ نَرْزُقُكُمْ وَإِيَّاهُمْ﴾

﴿We shall provide for them as well as for you.﴾

In Sūrat Al-An'ām, Allāh says:

﴿وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ مِنْ إِمْلَاقٍ﴾

﴿kill not your children because of poverty.﴾ [6:151]

﴿نَحْنُ نَرْزُقُهُمْ وَإِيَّاكَ﴾

﴿We provide sustenance for you and for them﴾ [6:151]

and,

﴿إِنَّ قَتْلَهُمْ كَانَ خِطْئًا كَبِيرًا﴾

﴿Surely, the killing of them is a great sin.﴾

means, a major sin. In Two Ṣaḥīḥs it is recorded that 'Abdullāh bin Mas'ūd said: "I said, 'O Messenger of Allāh, which sin is the worst?' He said,

«أَنْ تَجْعَلَ لِلَّهِ بَدَأَ وَهُوَ خَلَقَكَ . قُلْتُ : ثُمَّ أَيُّ؟ قَالَ : أَنْ تَقْتُلَ وَلَدَكَ خَشْيَةَ أَنْ يَطْعَمَ مَعَكَ . قُلْتُ : ثُمَّ أَيُّ؟ قَالَ : أَنْ تُزَانِيَ بِحَلِيلَةِ جَارِكَ»

«To appoint rivals of Allāh when He has created you.» I asked, 'Then what?' He said, «To kill your child lest he should eat with you.» I asked, 'Then what?' He said, «To commit adultery with your neighbor's wife.»<sup>[1]</sup>

[1] Fath Al-Bārī 8:13.

﴿وَلَا تَقْرُبُوا الزِّنَىٰ إِنَّكُمْ كَانُمْ فَحِشَةً وَكَأَنَّ سَبِيلًا﴾

﴿32. And come not near to unlawful sex. Verily, it is Fāhishah (immoral sin) and an evil way.﴾

### **The Command to avoid Zinā (Unlawful Sex) and Everything that leads to it**

Allāh says, forbidding His servants to commit Zinā or to approach it or to do anything that may lead to it:

﴿وَلَا تَقْرُبُوا الزِّنَىٰ إِنَّكُمْ كَانُمْ فَحِشَةً﴾

﴿And come not near to unlawful sex. Verily, it is a Fāhishah (immoral sin)﴾ meaning a major sin,

﴿وَكَأَنَّ سَبِيلًا﴾

﴿and an evil way.﴾ meaning, a terrible way to behave.

Imām Aḥmad recorded Abu Umāmah saying that a young man came to the Prophet ﷺ and said, "O Messenger of Allāh! Give me permission to commit Zinā (unlawful sex)." The people surrounded him and rebuked him, saying, "Stop! Stop!" But the Prophet ﷺ said,

«أَذْنُهُ»

«Come close» The young man came to him, and he said,

«اجْلِسْ»

«Sit down» so he sat down. The Prophet ﷺ said,

«أَتُحِبُّ لَأُمِّكَ»

«Would you like it (unlawful sex) for your mother?» He said, "No, by Allāh, may I be ransomed for you." The Prophet ﷺ said,

«وَلَا النَّاسُ يُحِبُّونَهُ لِأُمَّهَاتِهِمْ»

«Neither do the people like it for their mothers.» The Prophet ﷺ said,

«أَتُحِبُّ لَابْنَتِكَ؟»

«Would you like it for your daughter?» He said, "No, by Allāh, may I be ransomed for you." The Prophet ﷺ said,

«وَلَا النَّاسُ يُجِبُّونَهُ لِبَنَاتِهِمْ»

«Neither do the people like it for their daughters.» The Prophet ﷺ said,

«أَفْتَجِبُّهُ لِأَخِيكَ؟»

«Would you like it for your sister?» He said, "No, by Allāh, may I be ransomed for you." The Prophet ﷺ said,

«وَلَا النَّاسُ يُجِبُّونَهُ لِأَخَوَاتِهِمْ»

«Neither do the people like it for their sisters.» The Prophet ﷺ said,

«أَفْتَجِبُّهُ لِعَمِّكَ؟»

«Would you like it for your paternal aunt?» He said, "No, by Allāh, O Allāh's Messenger! may I be ransomed for you." The Prophet ﷺ said,

«وَلَا النَّاسُ يُجِبُّونَهُ لِعَمَّائِهِمْ»

«Neither do the people like it for their paternal aunts.» The Prophet ﷺ said,

«أَفْتَجِبُّهُ لِخَالَتِكَ؟»

«Would you like it for your maternal aunt?» He said, "No, by Allāh, O Allāh's Messenger! may I be ransomed for you." The Prophet ﷺ said,

«وَلَا النَّاسُ يُجِبُّونَهُ لِخَالَاتِهِمْ»

«Neither do the people like it for their maternal aunts.» Then the Prophet ﷺ put his hand on him and said,

«اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ ذَنْبَهُ، وَطَهِّرْ قَلْبَهُ، وَأَخْصِنْ فَرْجَهُ»

«O Allāh, forgive his sin, purify his heart and guard his chastity.» After that the young man never paid attention to anything of that nature.<sup>[1]</sup>

«وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَنْفُسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَمَنْ قُتِلَ مَظْلُومًا فَقَدْ جَعَلْنَا لَوْلِيهِ سُلْطَانًا فَلَا

يُسْرِفُ فِي الْقَتْلِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ مَنْصُورًا ﴿٣٣﴾»

[1] Aḥmad 5:256.

«33. And do not kill anyone whose killing Allāh has forbidden, except for a just cause. And whoever is killed wrongfully (not by mistake), We have given his heir the authority. But let him not exceed limits in the matter of taking life. Verily, he is helped.»

### Prohibition of Unlawful Killing

Allāh forbids killing with no legitimate reason. It was reported in the Two *Ṣaḥīḥs* that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«لَا يَجِلُّ دَمُ امْرِئٍ مُسْلِمٍ يَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ، إِلَّا بِأَخَذِ ثَلَاثٍ: النَّفْسُ بِالنَّفْسِ، وَالزَّانِي الْمُخْصَنُ، وَالتَّارِكُ لِدِينِهِ الْمَفَارِقُ لِلْجَمَاعَةِ»

«The blood of a Muslim who bears witness to *Lā ilāha illallāh* and that Muḥammad is the Messenger of Allāh, is not permissible (to be shed) except in three cases: a soul for a soul (i.e., in the case of murder), an adulterer who is married, and a person who leaves his religion and deserts the *Jamā'ah*.»<sup>[1]</sup>

The following is recorded in the books of the *Sunan*:

«لَزَوَالِ الدُّنْيَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَهْوَنُ مِنْ قَتْلِ مُسْلِمٍ»

«If the world were to be destroyed, it would be of less importance to Allāh than the killing of a Muslim.»<sup>[2]</sup>

«وَمَنْ قُتِلَ مَظْلُومًا فَقَدْ جَعَلْنَا لِرِيعِهِ سُلْطَانًا»

«And whoever is killed wrongfully, We have given his heir the authority.»

The authority is over the killer. The heir has the choice; if he wishes, he may have him killed in retaliation, or he may forgive him in return for the payment of the *Diyah* (blood money), or he may forgive him with no payment, as is reported in the *Sunnah*. The great scholar and Imam Ibn 'Abbās understood from the general meaning of this *Āyah* that Mu'āwiyah should take power, because he was the heir of 'Uthmān, who had been killed wrongfully, may Allāh be

[1] *Faṭḥ Al-Bārī* 12:209, Muslim 3:1302.

[2] *Tuḥfat Al-Aḥwadhī* 4:256, An-Nasa'i, 7:82, Ibn Mājah 2:874.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

٢٨٥

الْإِسْرَاءُ

وَمَا تَعْرَضْن عَنْهُمْ أُتِيعَآءَ رَحْمَوِيْنَ رَبِّكَ تَرْجُوْهُمَا فَقُلْ لَهُمْ قَوْلًا  
 مِّسْوَرًا ﴿٣٨﴾ وَلَا تَجْعَلْ يَدَكَ مَغْلُوْلَةً إِلَى عُنُقِكَ وَلَا تَبْسُطْهَا  
 كُلَّ الْبَسْطِ فَتَقْعُدَ مَلُومًا مَّحْسُوْرًا ﴿٣٩﴾ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ  
 لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَقْدِرُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ بِعِبَادِهِ خَبِيرًا بَصِيرًا ﴿٤٠﴾ وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا  
 أَوْلَادَكُمْ خَشْيَةً إِمَّا تَحْنُ تُرْزَقُهُمْ وَإِن كَانَ لِقُلُوْبُهُمْ كَانَ  
 خِطْئًا كَبِيرًا ﴿٤١﴾ وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا الرِّزْقَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَحِشَةً وَسَاءَ  
 سَبِيلًا ﴿٤٢﴾ وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَمَنْ  
 قُتِلَ مَظْلُوْمًا فَقَدْ جَعَلْنَا لَوْلِيْهِ سُلْطٰنًا فَلَا يَسْرِفْ فِي  
 الْقَتْلِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ مَنْصُوْرًا ﴿٤٣﴾ وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا مَالَ الْيَتِيْمِ إِلَّا بِالْيَمِيْنِ  
 إِلَى أَحْسَنُ حَقٍّ يَبْلُغُ أَشَدُّ وَأَوْفُوا بِالْعَهْدِ إِنَّ الْعَهْدَ كَاتٍ  
 مَسْهُوْلًا ﴿٤٤﴾ وَأَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ إِذَا كَلَّمْتُمْ وَزِنُوا بِالْقِسْطَاسِ الَّتِي سَفِيْحٌ  
 ذٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيْلًا ﴿٤٥﴾ وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ  
 إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْهُوْلًا ﴿٤٦﴾  
 وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا إِنَّكَ لَنْ تَخْرِقَ الْأَرْضَ وَلَنْ تَبْلُغَ  
 الْمِجَالَ طُوْلًا ﴿٤٧﴾ كُلُّ ذٰلِكَ كَانَ سَيِّئُهُ عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ مَكْرُوْمًا ﴿٤٨﴾

pleased with him, and Mu'awiyah did eventually take power, as Ibn 'Abbās said on the basis of this Āyah. This is one of the stranger of matters.

﴿فَلَا يَسْرِفْ فِي الْقَتْلِ﴾

﴿But let him not exceed limits in the matter of taking life.﴾

They said: this means the heir should not go to extremes in killing the killer, such as mutilating the body or taking revenge on persons other than the killer.

﴿إِنَّهُ كَانَ مَنْصُوْرًا﴾

﴿Verily, he is helped.﴾ means, the heir is helped against the

killer by the Shar'ah and by divine decree.

﴿وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا مَالَ الْيَتِيْمِ إِلَّا بِالْيَمِيْنِ إِلَى أَحْسَنُ حَقٍّ يَبْلُغُ أَشَدُّ وَأَوْفُوا بِالْعَهْدِ إِنَّ الْعَهْدَ كَاتٍ مَسْهُوْلًا ﴿٤٤﴾ وَأَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ إِذَا كَلَّمْتُمْ وَزِنُوا بِالْقِسْطَاسِ الَّتِي سَفِيْحٌ ذٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيْلًا ﴿٤٥﴾﴾

﴿34. And come not near to the orphan's property except to improve it, until he attains the age of full strength. And fulfill (every) covenant. Verily, the covenant will be questioned about.﴾

﴿35. And give full measure when you measure, and weigh with a balance that is straight. That is good (advantageous) and better in the end.﴾

### The Command to handle the Orphan's Wealth properly and to be Honest in Weights and Measures

﴿وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا مَالَ الْيَتِيمِ إِلَّا بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ حَتَّىٰ يَبْلُغَ أَشُدَّهُ﴾

«And come not near to the orphan's property except to improve it, until he attains the age of full strength.»

meaning, do not dispose of the orphan's wealth except in a proper manner.

﴿وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ إِسْرَافًا وَبِدَارًا أَن يَكْبُرُوا وَمَن كَانَ غَنِيًّا فَلْيَسْتَعْفِفْ وَمَن كَانَ فَقِيرًا فَلْيَأْكُلْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ﴾

«but consume it [the orphan's property] not wastefully and hastily fearing that they should grow up, and whoever (among guardians) is rich, he should take no wages, but if he is poor, let him have for himself what is just and reasonable (according to his labor).» [4:6]

In *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim* it is recorded that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said to Abu Dharr:

«يَا أَبَا ذَرٍّ إِنِّي أَرَاكَ ضَعِيفًا، وَإِنِّي أُحِبُّ لَكَ مَا أُحِبُّ لِنَفْسِي: لَا تَأْمُرَنَّ عَلَى اثْنَيْنِ، وَلَا تَوَلَّيْنِ مَالَ الْيَتِيمِ»

«O Abu Dharr, I see that you are weak (in administering), and I like for you that which I like for myself. Do not let yourself be appointed as Amīr over two people, and do not let yourself be appointed as guardian of an orphan's property.»<sup>[1]</sup>

﴿وَأَوْفُوا بِالْعَهْدِ﴾

«And fulfill (every) covenant.» meaning, everything that you promise people, and the covenants that you agree to, because the person who makes a covenant or a promise will be asked about it:

﴿إِنَّ الْعَهْدَ كَانَ مَسْئُولًا﴾

«Verily, the covenant will be questioned about.»

﴿وَأَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ إِذَا كِلْتُمْ﴾

<sup>[1]</sup> Muslim 3:1458.

﴿And give full measure when you measure.﴾ meaning, do not try to make it weigh less nor wrong people with their belongings.

﴿وَرَوُّوا بِالْقِسْطِ﴾

﴿and weigh with a balance﴾ meaning scales,

﴿الَّتِي﴾

﴿that is straight.﴾ meaning that which is not distorted nor that which will cause confusion.

﴿ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ﴾

﴿that is good﴾ for you, in your daily life and in your Hereafter. So Allāh says:

﴿وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا﴾

﴿and better in the end.﴾ meaning, with regard to your ultimate end in the Hereafter.

﴿ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا﴾

﴿That is good (advantageous) and better in the end.﴾

Sa'īd narrated that Qatādah said that this means "Better in reward and a better end."<sup>[1]</sup> Ibn 'Abbās used to say: "O people, you are entrusted with two things for which the people who came before you were destroyed - these weights and measures."<sup>[2]</sup>

﴿وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ

مَسْئُولًا﴾

﴿36. And follow not that of which you have no knowledge. Verily, the hearing, and the sight, and the heart of each of those ones will be questioned (by Allāh).﴾

### Do not speak without Knowledge

'Ali bin Abi Ṭalḥah reported that Ibn 'Abbās said: "This means) do not say (anything of which you have no knowledge)."<sup>[3]</sup> Al-'Awfī said: "Do not accuse anyone of that of

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:446.

[2] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:446.

[3] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:446.

which you have no knowledge.”<sup>[1]</sup> Muḥammad bin Al-Hanafīyyah said: “It means bearing false witness.”<sup>[2]</sup> Qatādah said: “Do not say, ‘I have seen’, when you did not see anything, or ‘I have heard’, when you did not hear anything, or ‘I know’, when you do not know, for Allāh will ask you about all of that.”<sup>[3]</sup> In conclusion, what they said means that Allāh forbids speaking without knowledge and only on the basis of suspicion, which is mere imagination and illusions. As Allāh says:

﴿اجْتَنِبُوا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الظَّنِّ إِنَّ بَعْضَ الظَّنِّ إِثْمٌ﴾

«Avoid much suspicion; indeed some suspicions are sins.»  
[49:12]

According to a Ḥadīth:

«إِيَّاكُمْ وَالظَّنَّ فَإِنَّ الظَّنَّ أَكْذَبُ الْحَدِيثِ»

«Beware of suspicion, for suspicion is the falsest of speech.»<sup>[4]</sup>

The following Ḥadīth is found in *Sunan Abu Dāwud*:

«بِئْسَ مَطِئَةُ الرَّجُلِ: رَغْمُوا»

«What an evil habit it is for a man to say, ‘They claimed...’<sup>[5]</sup>»

According to another Ḥadīth:

«إِنَّ أَفْرَى الْفِرَى أَنْ يُرَى الرَّجُلُ غَيْبَهُ مَا لَمْ تَرَاهُ»

«The worst of lies is for a man to claim to have seen something that he has not seen.»<sup>[6]</sup>

In the *Ṣaḥīḥ* it says:

«مَنْ تَحَلَّمَ حُلْمًا كُلَّفَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَنْ يَغْقِدَ بَيْنَ شَعِيرَتَيْنِ وَلَيْسَ بِغَائِلٍ»

«Whoever claims to have seen a dream (when he has not seen) will be told on the Day of Resurrection to make a knot between

[1] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:447.

[2] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:447.

[3] Aṭ-Ṭabari 17:446.

[4] *Faḥ Al-Bāri* 9:106.

[5] Abu Dāwud 5:254.

[6] *Faḥ Al-Bāri* 12:446.



two barley grains, and he will not be able to do it.»<sup>[1]</sup>

﴿كُلُّ أُولَٰئِكَ﴾

﴿each of those ones﴾ means these faculties, hearing, sight and the heart,

﴿كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا﴾

﴿will be questioned.﴾ means, the person will be asked about them on the Day of Resurrection, and they will be asked about him and what he did with them.

﴿وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَمًا إِنَّكَ لَن تَخْرِقَ الْأَرْضَ وَكَلَّ تَبْلَعُ لَبَآئِلَ طُولًا ﴿٣٧﴾ كُلُّ ذَٰلِكَ كَانَ سَيِّئُهُ عِندَ رَبِّكَ مَكْرُومًا ﴿٣٨﴾﴾

﴿37. And walk not on the earth with conceit and arrogance. Verily, you can neither rend nor penetrate the earth nor can you attain a stature like the mountains in height.﴾

﴿38. All the bad aspects of these (the above mentioned things) are hateful to your Lord.﴾

### Condemnation of strutting

Allāh forbids His servants to strut and walk in a boastful manner:

﴿وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَمًا﴾

﴿And walk not on the earth with conceit and arrogance.﴾

meaning, walking in boastful manner and acting proud, like those who are arrogant oppressors.

﴿إِنَّكَ لَن تَخْرِقَ الْأَرْضَ﴾

﴿Verily, you can neither rend nor penetrate the earth﴾

means, you cannot penetrate the earth with your walking. This was the opinion of Ibn Jarīr.

﴿وَكَلَّ تَبْلَعُ لَبَآئِلَ طُولًا﴾

﴿nor can you attain a stature like the mountains in height.﴾

means, with your arrogance, pride and self-admiration. Indeed,

<sup>[1]</sup> Fath Al-Bārī 12:446.

such behavior may bring about the opposite of what one pretends to be, as was reported in the *Ṣaḥīḥ*:

«بَيْنَمَا رَجُلٌ يَمْشِي فِيمَنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ وَعَلَيْهِ بُرْدَانِ يَتَخَوَّرُ فِيهِمَا، إِذْ خُفِيَ بِهِ الْأَرْضُ فَهُوَ يَتَجَلَجَلُ فِيهَا إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ»

«While a man from the people before you was walking arrogantly in his garments, the earth swallowed him and he is still sinking down into it, until the Day of Resurrection.»<sup>[1]</sup>

Allāh also tells us about Qārūn, who went to his people wearing his finery, then Allāh caused the earth to swallow him and his house.

﴿كُلُّ ذَلِكَ كَانَ سَعْيَكُمْ عِندَ رَبِّكَ مَكْرُومًا﴾

«All the bad aspects of these (the above mentioned things) are *Sayī'uhu* [hateful] to your Lord.»

Some scholars recite this as *Sayī'atan*, meaning evil deeds, i.e., everything mentioned is forbidden, from the *Āyah*,

﴿وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ خَشْيَةً إِمَّا تَوُكِّلُوا﴾

«And kill not your children for fear of poverty» [17:31]

up to this [38] *Āyah*. So everything that is mentioned here is a *Sayī'ah* (evil deed) for which a person is to be blamed before Allāh, Who does not like or accept these deeds. As for the recitation *Sayī'uhu*, it is a genitive construction, meaning the bad aspects of these i.e., everything mentioned from the *Āyah*,

﴿وَفَضَّلَ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ﴾

«And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him» [17:23]

up to this *Āyah*, [17:38] meaning that the worst of these mentioned are disliked by Allāh. This was the view of Ibn Jarīr, may Allāh have mercy on him.

[This is the end of Volume Five. Volume Six begins with *Āyah* number 39 of *Sūrat Al-Isrā'*.]

[1] Muslim 3:1654.