

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

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God said:

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'I have prepared for My devout servants what no eye has ever seen,

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no ear has ever heard of

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and no human mind has ever thought of'.

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Read, if you will: 'No one can imagine what blissful delights have been kept in store for them as a reward for what they used to do'. (32: 17) ⁽¹⁾

1 Related by al-Bukhari, 3244; Muslim, 2824.

From the Qur'an

﴿For those who do good there is a good reward, and more besides. Neither darkness nor any disgrace will overcast their faces. These are destined for paradise, where they will abide.﴾ (10: 26)

﴿No one can imagine what blissful delights have been kept in store for them as a reward for what they used to do. (17) Is, then, the one who is a believer to be compared to one who is wicked? The two are certainly not equal. (18) Those who believe and do righteous deeds will have the gardens of repose for an abode in recompense for what they used to do.﴾ (32: 17-19)

﴿Let all this be a reminder. The God-fearing will certainly have a good place to return to: (49) gardens of perpetual bliss, with gates wide open to them. (50) They will be comfortably seated there, and they will call for abundant fruit and drink, (51) having beside them well-matched mates of modest gaze. (52) This is what you are promised for the Day of Reckoning: (53) this, Our provision for you will never end.﴾ (38: 40-54)

﴿Such is the Paradise which the God-fearing are promised: In it are rivers of water for ever pure, rivers of milk the taste of which never alters, rivers of wine, a delight for those who drink, and rivers of honey pure and clarified. In it they shall have all kinds of fruit. And there they receive forgiveness by their Lord. Are they to be compared to those who are to abide in the Fire and be given a drink of scalding water that tears their bowels?﴾ (47: 15)

The Narrator

According to the best reports, Abu Hurayrah's name was 'Abd al-Rahmān ibn Şakhr al-Dawsī, who emanated from a branch of the Yemeni Azd. He embraced Islam through al-Tufayl ibn 'Amr al-Dawsī. He stayed close to the Prophet for nearly four years. He was very keen to learn and memorize the Prophet's hadiths. He was the Prophet's companion who narrated the largest number of hadiths. He died in Madinah in Year 58 AH, 678 CE.

Summary

God, Mighty and Exalted, informs us that He has prepared for his righteous servants a great variety of comforts and luxuries, the like of which no human being has ever seen or heard of, or even imagined.



Message and Meaning

- 1 This is a hadith which the Prophet (peace be upon him) narrates as stated by God, Mighty and Exalted, but it is not part of the Qur'an. It is called *qudsī* hadith, i.e. a sacred hadith.⁽¹⁾
- 2 God, Blessed and Exalted, states that He has prepared for His devout servants, as reward for their obedience and worship, what they have never seen. They have hardly seen things that bear the same names, such as trees and rivers, as well as palaces made of gold, silver, carved pearls, etc.
- 3 The Prophet (peace be upon him) emphasizes that the luxuries of Heaven are unlike anything in our world. Indeed, no one has ever heard of what they are like.
- 4 God confirms that what He has prepared will never be known to humans in this life. Since they have never experienced anything like it through their two faculties of perception, i.e. seeing and hearing, they cannot imagine the nature of such a splendid life. Whatever people may imagine of types of luxury and comfort, they cannot visualize what they will have.
- 5 God further confirms all this quoting His own revelation and inviting us to read: 'No one can imagine what blissful delights have been kept in store for them'. (32: 17) This means that no one knows what God keeps in store for the believers among His servants: it is all happiness, riches, luxuries that delight the eyes and please the souls.

The Qur'an frequently speaks about Heaven and its happiness. Therefore, the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: 'A little place in Heaven where only a whip may be placed is better than this world and all it contains'.⁽²⁾



1 Although a *qudsī* hadith is revealed by God, it is expressed by the Prophet (peace be upon him). Unlike the Qur'an, such a hadith may not be recited in prayer. Moreover, its reading is not an act of worship. – Editor's note.
2 Related by al-Bukhari, 3250.

Implementation



The best love is to love righteous and devout people, because they are with God, 'He loves them and they love him'. (5: 54) They present to Him their acts of obedience and worship, but He has no need of that, and He prepares for them what no eye has seen, no ear has heard of and no mind has ever imagined. It behoves every believer to stick to such people. Whenever one feels lazy or complacent, one should remember the fine abode God has made ready for them.



Al-Ḥasan said: 'Such people concealed their [good] deeds in this present life; so God has concealed for them what no eye has ever seen and no ear has ever heard of'.⁽¹⁾ In this case, every Muslim should do in private what no one knows except the One who has prepared that abundance of secret luxury.



Heaven is already in existence, and God has prepared it for his righteous servants. If some worldly but forbidden pleasure is offered to you, remind yourself that Heaven is already waiting and it is only a matter of perseverance for a short time before you will be taken there.



Many people feel the temptation of worldly pleasures, imagine themselves enjoying them and hope to have them, even though the entire pleasures and enjoyments of this world, real and imaginary, cannot equal a hand span in Heaven. A wise person will keep reminding himself of Heaven and what it offers in order to keep yearning for it.



You, as well as your family and friends, should often remember Heaven and its description, and remind others of it. God has made this easier nowadays with easier ways of learning and communication.



The greatest blessing of all in Heaven is seeing God, Mighty and Exalted, even though we do not see Him in this life. God says: 'Some faces will on that Day be radiant with happiness, (22) looking towards their Lord'. (75: 22-23) Jarīr ibn 'Abdullāh narrated: 'We were sitting with God's Messenger (peace be upon him) when he looked at the moon on a night when it was full and said: "You shall indeed see your Lord as you see this moon, and you shall not be barred from seeing Him"'.⁽²⁾ The worst suffering that will be inflicted on the wretched ones is that they will be deprived of seeing Him. God says: 'No indeed! On that Day they shall be shut out from their Lord'. (83: 15)

1 Al-Zamakhsharī, *Tafsīr al-Kashshāf*, Vol. 3, p. 513.

2 Related by al-Bukhari, 554; Muslim, 633.

