

The Final Abode – Jannah Week 3: Ask for Firdaws al-'Ala

DIFFERENCES IN RANK IN THIS LIFE

وَمَا لَكُمْ أَلَّا تُنْفِقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلِلَّهِ مِيرَاثُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَا يَسْتَوِي مِنْكُمْ مَنْ أَنْفَقَ مِنْ قَبْلِ الْفَتْحِ وَقَتْلَ أَوْلِيَّتِكَ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَةً مَنِ
الَّذِينَ أَنْفَقُوا مِنْ بَعْدِ وَقَاتِلُوا وَكَلَّا وَعَدَّ اللَّهُ الْحَسَنَى وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ

'And why do you not spend in the cause of Allah while to Allah belongs the heritage of the heavens and the earth? Not equal among you are those who spent before the conquest [of Makkah] and fought [and those who did so after it]. Those are greater in degree than they who spent afterwards and fought. But to all Allah has promised the best [reward]. And Allah, with what you do, is Acquainted' [Hadīd 57:10]

The rank of being a forerunner toward good

- ❖ The value of sincerity and sacrifice in doing good actions for the best and eternal reward, Jannah
- ❖ To Allah belongs the right to differentiate in rank in this life and the Hereafter
- ❖ Allah (swt) differentiates between His Prophets as He does between the rest of His believing slaves

تِلْكَ الرُّسُلُ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ مِنْهُمْ مَنْ كَلَّمَ اللَّهُ وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَهُمْ دَرَجَاتٍ

'Those messengers - some of them We caused to exceed others. Among them were those to whom Allah spoke, and He raised some of them in degree...' [Baqarah 2:253]

أَفَنْ اتَّبَعَ رِضْوَانُ اللَّهِ كَمَنْ بَاءَ بِسَخَطٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَمَا لَهُ جَهَنَّمَ وَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ هُمْ دَرَجَاتٌ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ بِصِرْمِهِمْ يَعْمَلُونَ

'So, is one who pursues the pleasure of Allah like one who brings upon himself the anger of Allah and whose refuge is Hell? And wretched is the destination. They are [varying] degrees in the sight of Allah, and Allah is Seeing of whatever they do' [Āle 'Imrān 3:162-163]

أَجْعَلْتُمْ سَقَايَةَ الْحَاجِّ وَعِمَارَةَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ كَمَنْ ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَجَاهِدَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ لَا يَسْتَوِينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ
الظَّالِمِينَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَهَاجَرُوا وَجَاهَدُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَةً عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَأَوْلِيَّتِكَ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ
مِنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ لَهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُقِيمٌ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ

'Have you made the providing of water for the pilgrim and the maintenance of al-Masjid al-Haram equal to [the deeds of] one who believes in Allah and the Last Day and strives in the cause of Allah? They are not equal in the sight of Allah. And Allah does not guide the wrongdoing people. The ones who have believed, emigrated and striven in the cause of Allah with their wealth and their lives are greater in rank in the sight of Allah. And it is those who are the attainers [of success]. Their Lord gives them good tidings of mercy from Him and approval and of gardens for them wherein is enduring pleasure. [They will be] abiding therein forever. Indeed, Allah has with Him a great reward [at-Tawbah 9:19-22]

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أَمَّنْ هُوَ قَنْتُ أِنَاءَ آيَلٍ سَاجِدًا وَقَآئِمًا يُحَذِرُ الْآخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُو رَحْمَةَ رَبِّهِ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولَئِكَ الْأَلْبَابِ

Is one who is devoutly obedient during periods of the night, prostrating and standing [in prayer], fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the mercy of his Lord, [like one who does not]? Say, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" Only they will remember [who are] people of understanding [Zumar 39:9]

وَعَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - { الْمُؤْمِنُ الْقَوِيُّ خَيْرٌ وَأَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِ الضَّعِيفِ، وَفِي كُلِّ خَيْرٍ إِحْرَاضٌ عَلَى مَا يَنْفَعُكَ، وَاسْتَعْنِ بِاللَّهِ، وَلَا تَعْجِزْ }

Abu Hurairah (ra) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: "A believer who is strong (and healthy) is better and dearer to Allah than the weak believer, but there is goodness in both of them. Be keen on what benefits you and seek help from Allah, and do not give up..."¹

THERE ARE LEVELS IN PARADISE

مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْعَاجِلَةَ عَجَّلْنَا لَهُ فِيهَا مَا نَشَاءُ لِمَنْ نُرِيدُ ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَا لَهُ جَهَنَّمَ يَصْلَاهَا يَمْدُومًا مَدْحُورًا وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ وَسَعَى لَهَا سَعْيَهَا وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَئِكَ كَانَ سَعْيُهُمْ مَشْكُورًا كَلَّا تُمَدُّ هُنَّ لِأَنَّ هُنَّ لَآءٌ وَهُنَّ لَآءٌ مِنْ عَطَاءِ رَبِّكَ وَمَا كَانَ عَطَاءُ رَبِّكَ مَحْظُورًا

Whoever should desire the immediate - We hasten for him from it what We will to whom We intend. Then We have made for him Hell, which he will [enter to] burn, censured and banished. But whoever desires the Hereafter and exerts the effort due to it while he is a believer - it is those whose effort is ever appreciated [by Allah]. To each [category] We extend - to these and to those - from the gift of your Lord. And never has the gift of your Lord been restricted [Isrā' 17:18-20]

Differences between the Levels of al-Jannah

- ❖ Paradise consists of levels, some of which are above others, and its people will be of differing levels and categories according to their position in Paradise
- ❖ The Prophet ﷺ explained that the people will be in different levels in Paradise according to their status

عَنْ أَبِي سَعِيدٍ الْخُدْرِيِّ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " إِنَّ أَهْلَ الْجَنَّةِ يَتَرَاءَوْنَ أَهْلَ الْغُرَفِ مِنْ فَوْقِهِمْ كَمَا يَتَرَاءَوْنَ الْكُوكَبَ الدَّرِيِّ الْغَابِرَ فِي الْأَفُقِ مِنَ الْمَشْرِقِ أَوْ الْمَغْرِبِ، لِتَفَاضُلِ مَا بَيْنَهُمْ ". قَالُوا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، تِلْكَ مَنَازِلُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ لَا يَبْلُغُهَا غَيْرُهُمْ قَالَ " بَلَى وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ، رِجَالٌ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَصَدَّقُوا الْمُرْسَلِينَ ".

¹ Muslim 1569

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*Narrated Abu Sa`id Al-Khudri: The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "The people of Paradise will look at the dwellers of the lofty mansions (i.e. a superior place in Paradise) in the same way as one looks at a brilliant star far away in the East or in the West on the horizon; all that is because of their superiority over one another (in rewards)." On that the people said, "O Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)! Are these lofty mansions for the prophets which nobody else can reach? The Prophet (ﷺ) replied, "No! "By Allah in whose Hands my life is, these are for the men who believed in Allah and also believed in the Apostles."*²

The level of reward is determined by righteous actions

- ❖ ‘Allah has raised the ranks of the people who strive in the cause of Allah by seventy grades, between every two grades in the distance of years by a fast horse’³
- ❖ ‘Ad-Dhahāk said, ‘Some of them will be better than other. Those who are placed in [a] better position will realise their position. And those who at a lower grade will not feel that anyone else has been placed over them’⁴

أَنْظُرَ كَيْفَ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَلِلْآخِرَةِ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَاتٍ وَأَكْبَرُ تَفْضِيلًا^ج

Look how We have favored [in provision] some of them over others. But the Hereafter is greater in degrees [of difference] and greater in distinction [Isrā’ 17:21]

لَا يَسْتَوِي الْقَاعِدُونَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ غَيْرِ أُولِي الضَّرَرِ وَالْمُجَاهِدُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ فَضَّلَ اللَّهُ الْمُجَاهِدِينَ بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ عَلَى الْقَاعِدِينَ دَرَجَةً وَكُلًّا وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْحَسَنَى وَفَضَلَ اللَّهُ الْمُجَاهِدِينَ عَلَى الْقَاعِدِينَ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا دَرَجَاتٍ مِنْهُ وَمَغْفِرَةً وَرَحْمَةً وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا^ج

Not equal are those believers remaining [at home] - other than the disabled - and the mujahideen, [who strive and fight] in the cause of Allah with their wealth and their lives. Allah has preferred the mujahideen through their wealth and their lives over those who remain [behind], by degrees. And to both Allah has promised the best [reward]. But Allah has preferred the mujahideen over those who remain [behind] with a great reward. Degrees [of high position] from Him and forgiveness and mercy. And Allah is ever Forgiving and Merciful [An-Nisā’ 4:95-96]

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ، وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ، وَصَامَ رَمَضَانَ، كَانَ حَقًّا عَلَى اللَّهِ أَنْ يُدْخِلَهُ الْجَنَّةَ هَاجِرًا، فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ، أَوْ جَلَسَ فِي أَرْضِهِ الَّتِي وُلِدَ فِيهَا ". قَالُوا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَفَلَا نُنَبِّئُ النَّاسَ بِذَلِكَ. قَالَ " إِنَّ فِي الْجَنَّةِ مِائَةَ دَرَجَةٍ أَعَدَّهَا اللَّهُ لِلْمُجَاهِدِينَ فِي سَبِيلِهِ، كُلُّ دَرَجَتَيْنِ مَا بَيْنَهُمَا كَمَا بَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ، فَإِذَا سَأَلْتُمْ اللَّهَ فَسَلُوهُ الْفَرْدُوسَ، فَإِنَّهُ أَوْسَطُ الْجَنَّةِ وَأَعْلَى الْجَنَّةِ، وَفَوْقَهُ عَرْشُ الرَّحْمَنِ، وَمِنْهُ تَفْجَرُ أَنْهَارُ الْجَنَّةِ ".

Narrated Abu Hurairah (ra): The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Whoever believes in Allah and His Apostle offers prayers perfectly and fasts (the month of) Ramadan then it is incumbent upon Allah to admit him into Paradise,

² Sahih al-Bukhari 3256

³ Ibn al Qayyim (2020), p.81; Ibn Muhayriz

⁴ Ibid

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whether he emigrates for Allah's cause or stays in the land where he was born." They (the companions of the Prophet) said, "O Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)! Should we not inform the people of that?" He said, "There are one-hundred degrees in Paradise which Allah has prepared for those who carry on Jihad in His Cause. The distance between every two degrees is like the distance between the sky and the Earth, so if you ask Allah for anything, ask Him for the Firdaus, for it is the last part of Paradise and the highest part of Paradise, and at its top there is the Throne of Beneficent, and from it gush forth the rivers of Paradise."⁵

- ❖ The differences between people in the Hereafter will be greater than the differences between them in this life
- ❖ The difference between the levels or ranks of the Hereafter is greater than the differences here in this life

وَمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُكُمْ بِالَّتِي تُقَرِّبُكُمْ عِنْدَنَا زُلْفَىٰ إِلَّا مَنْ ءَامَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَأُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ جَزَاءُ الْوَعْدِ بِمَا عَمِلُوا وَهُمْ فِي الْغُرُفَاتِ ءَامِنُونَ

And it is not your wealth or your children that bring you nearer to Us in position, but it is [by being] one who has believed and done righteousness. For them there will be the double reward for what they did, and they will be in the upper chambers [of Paradise], safe [and secure] [Saba' 34:37]

- ❖ al-Qurtubi said, "Know that these chambers will differ in height, and appearance **according to the deeds of their occupants**. Some of them will be higher than others. When the Prophet ﷺ said, "No, by the One is Whose Hand is my soul, they are for the men who believed in Allah (swt) and also in His Messengers; he did not mention deeds or anything other than faith and belief in the Messengers, **with no doubts or questions**
- ❖ Otherwise, how could these chambers be reached through the faith and belief of the ordinary people? If that were the case, then all the Muslims would reach these highest levels, and that is impossible"
- ❖ Their place will be the high-dwellings, which tells you that this is faith that gives one tranquility and certainty, and fills the heart. A person with such faith is content no matter what happens to him, and in all situations and circumstances. If he does a good deed, he does not mix it with the opposite, which are evil deeds. Good deeds that are uncontaminated with evil deeds cannot be achieved except by the one whose imaan is very great and who is content and has no doubts, no matter what his circumstances. The faith and deeds of the one whose good deeds are contaminated are not like that, so his status will be lower"⁶

The high station of patience

- ❖ Having patience requires self-sacrifice and being steadfast for the sake of Allah, attributes of being al-Muqarraboon, as Allah (swt) says:

أُولَٰئِكَ يُجْزَوْنَ الْغُرْفَةَ بِمَا صَبَرُوا وَيُلَقَّوْنَ فِيهَا تَحِيَّةً وَسَلَامًا

Those will be awarded the Chamber for what they patiently endured, and they will be received therein with greetings and [words of] peace [Furqān 25:75]

⁵ Sahih al-Bukhari 7423

⁶ Al-Ashqar, U.S. (2005) p.59; al-Qurtubi, at-Tadhkirah, p. 464

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The Highest Position in Paradise

- ❖ It is called al-Waseelah and will be attained, insha'Allah, by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ
- ❖ From al-waslah meaning link, it is the best part of paradise and nearest to the throne of Allah

حَدَّثَنِي أَبُو هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " سَلُوا اللَّهَ لِي الْوَسِيلَةَ " . قَالُوا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَمَا الْوَسِيلَةُ قَالَ " أَعْلَى دَرَجَةٍ فِي الْجَنَّةِ لَا يَنَالُهَا إِلَّا رَجُلٌ وَاحِدٌ أَرْجُو أَنْ أَكُونَ أَنَا هُوَ " . قَالَ هَذَا حَدِيثٌ غَرِيبٌ إِسْنَادُهُ لَيْسَ بِالْقَوِيِّ . وَكَعْبٌ لَيْسَ هُوَ بِمَعْرُوفٍ وَلَا نَعْلَمُ أَحَدًا رَوَى عَنْهُ غَيْرَ لَيْثِ بْنِ أَبِي سَلِيمٍ .

*Narrated Abu Hurairah: that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: "Ask Allah to grant me Al-Wasilah." They said: "O Messenger of Allah! And what is Al-Wasilah?" He said: "The highest level of Paradise. No one will attain it except for one man, and I hope that I am him."*⁷

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو بْنِ الْعَاصِ، أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ " إِذَا سَمِعْتُمُ الْمُؤَذِّنَ فَقُولُوا مِثْلَ مَا يَقُولُ ثُمَّ صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ فَإِنَّهُ مَنْ صَلَّى عَلَيَّ صَلَاةً صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ بِهَا عَشْرًا ثُمَّ سَلُوا اللَّهَ لِي الْوَسِيلَةَ فَإِنَّهَا مَنْزِلَةٌ فِي الْجَنَّةِ لَا تَنْبَغِي إِلَّا لِعَبْدٍ مِنْ عِبَادِ اللَّهِ وَأَرْجُو أَنْ أَكُونَ أَنَا هُوَ فَمَنْ سَأَلَ لِي الْوَسِيلَةَ حَلَّتْ لَهُ الشَّفَاعَةُ " .

*'Abdullah b. Amr b. al-As reported Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) as saying: When you hear the Mu'adhhdhin, repeat what he says, then invoke a blessing on me, for everyone who invokes a blessing on me will receive ten blessings from Allah; then beg from Allah al-Wasila for me, which is a rank in Paradise fitting for only one of Allah's servants, and I hope that I may be that one. If anyone who asks that I be given the Wasila, he will be assured of my intercession*⁸

أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ يَبْتَغُونَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمُ الْوَسِيلَةَ أَيُّهُمْ أَقْرَبُ وَيَرْجُونَ رَحْمَتَهُ وَيَخَافُونَ عَذَابَهُ إِنَّ عَذَابَ رَبِّكَ كَانَ مَحْذُورًا

«Those whom they invoke seek means of access to their Lord, [striving as to] which of them would be nearest, and they hope for His mercy and fear His punishment. Indeed, the punishment of your Lord is ever feared [al-Isrā' 17:57]

The Lowest Position in Paradise

وعن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: "إن أدنى مقعد أحدكم من الجنة أن يقول له: تمن فيتمنى ويتمنى، فيقول له: هل تمنيت؟ فيقول: نعم، فيقول له: فإن لك ما تمنيت ومثله معه"

*Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "The lowest place of any of you in Jannah will be that Allah will tell him to express his wish. He will wish and wish again. Allah will then ask him: 'Have you expressed your wish?' He will answer: 'Yes, I have.' Allah will say: 'You will have what you have wished for and the like thereof along with it.'"*⁹

⁷ Tirmidhi 3612, Sahih

⁸ Sahih Muslim 384

⁹ Riyad as-Salihin 1893, Muslim

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THE NAMES OF PARADISE

Paradise has different names to indicate its qualities but all of the names refer to the same place

1. Jannah, the Gardens

- ❖ It is the general name to include all sources of pleasure, delight, joy, happiness and the coolness of the eyes
- ❖ Meaning covering and hiding, from the word janīn meaning foetus as it is hidden. Jannah is hidden by trees.

سَابِقُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا عَرْضُ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ أُعِدَّتْ لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ ۗ ذَٰلِكَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَن يَشَاءُ ۗ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ

Race toward forgiveness from your Lord and a Garden whose width is like the width of the heavens and earth, prepared for those who believed in Allah and His messengers. That is the bounty of Allah which He gives to whom He wills, and Allah is the possessor of great bounty [Hadīd 57:21]

2. Dār al-Salām, the Home of Peace

لَهُمْ دَارُ السَّلَامِ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَهُوَ وَلِيُّهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

For them will be the Home of Peace with their Lord. And He will be their protecting friend because of what they used to do [Al-An'ām 6:127]

- ❖ It is the place of safety from every affliction and distress and its residents will be greeted with peace
- ❖ Linked with name of Allah, al-Salam, the Giver of Safety

3. Dār al-Khuld, the Home of Eternity

إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَرِزْقُنَا مَا لَهُ مِن نَّفَادٍ

Indeed, this is Our provision; for it there is no depletion [Sād 38:54]

وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ سُعِدُوا ففِي الْجَنَّةِ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا مَا دَامَتِ السَّمَوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ رَبُّكَ عَطَاءٌ غَيْرِ مَجْذُودٍ

And as for those who were [destined to be] prosperous, they will be in Paradise, abiding therein as long as the heavens and the earth endure, except what your Lord should will - a bestowal uninterrupted [Hūd 11:108]

4. Dār al-Muqāmah, the Home of staying forever

وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَذْهَبَ عَنَّا الْحَزْنَ إِنَّ رَبَّنَا لَغَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ الَّذِي أَحَلَّنَا دَارَ الْمُقَامَةِ مِن فَضْلِهِ ۗ لَا يَمَسُّنَا فِيهَا فُجُورٌ وَلَا يَمَسُّنَا فِيهَا

And they will say, "Praise to Allah, who has removed from us [all] sorrow. Indeed, our Lord is Forgiving and Appreciative. He who has settled us in the home of duration out of His bounty. There touches us not in it any fatigue, and there touches us not in it weariness [of mind]." [Fatir 35:34-35]

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5. Jannah al-Ma’wa, the Garden of Restfulness – Name of one of the gardens¹⁰

وَأَمَّا مَنْ خَافَ مَقَامَ رَبِّهِ وَنَهَى النَّفْسَ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ فَإِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ هِيَ الْمَأْوَىٰ

But as for he who feared the position of his Lord and prevented the soul from [unlawful] inclination. Then indeed, Paradise will be [his] refuge [Naziāt 79: 40-41]

6. Jannah ‘Adn, the Gardens of Eden

جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ الَّتِي وَعَدَ الرَّحْمَنُ عِبَادَهُ بِالْغَيْبِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ وَعْدُهُ مَأْتِيًا

[Therein are] gardens of perpetual residence which the Most Merciful has promised His servants in the unseen. Indeed, His promise has ever been coming [Maryam 19:61]

7. Dār al-Hayawān, the Home of perpetual life

وَمَا هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا لَهْوٌ وَلَعِبٌ وَإِنَّ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ لَهِيَ الْحَيَوَانُ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ

And this worldly life is not but diversion and amusement. And indeed, the home of the Hereafter - that is the [eternal] life, if only they knew [Ankabūt 29:64]

- ❖ The home of the Hereafter has no more death or will not perish as does this life in this Dunya
- ❖ ‘The life of the Hereafter is free from trouble and ending’¹¹

8. Al-Firdaws

أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْوَارِثُونَ الَّذِينَ يَرِثُونَ الْفِرْدَوْسَ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ

Those are the inheritors. Who will inherit al-Firdaws. They will abide therein eternally [Muminūn 23:10-11]

- ❖ Implies all the Gardens and especially spoken for the best and highest of them¹²
- ❖ The highest and most spacious, exclusively under the Throne of Allah

9. Al-Na’īm, the Bliss

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ يَهْدِيهِمْ رَبُّهُم بِإِيمَانِهِمْ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهِمُ الْأَنْهَارُ فِي جَنَّاتِ النَّعِيمِ

Indeed, those who have believed and done righteous deeds - their Lord will guide them because of their faith. Beneath them rivers will flow in the Gardens of Pleasure [Yunus 10:9]

10. Al-Maqām al-Amīn

¹⁰ Ibn al-Qayyim (2020) p.99

¹¹ Ibn al-Qayyim (2020) p.100

¹² Ibid

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إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي مَقَامٍ أَمِينٍ

Indeed, the righteous will be in a secure place; [Dukhan 44:55]

11. Maq'ad Sidq

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَنَهَرٍ فِي مَقْعَدٍ صِدْقٍ عِنْدَ مَلِيكٍ مُّقْتَدِرٍ

Indeed, the righteous will be among gardens and rivers. In a seat of honor near a Sovereign, Perfect in Ability [Qamar 54: 54-55]

- ❖ It will have perfect and permanent pleasure, from 'sidq' meaning established truth and 'qadam sidq' meaning sure footing

وعن عبد الله بن عمرو بن العاص رضي الله عنهما عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: "يقال لصاحب القرآن: اقرأ وارتق ورتل كما كنت ترتل في الدنيا، فإن منزلتك عند آخر آية تقرؤها"

'Abdullah bin 'Amr bin Al-'As (May Allah be pleased with them) reported: The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "The one who was devoted to the Qur'an will be told on the Day of Resurrection: 'Recite and ascend (in ranks) as you used to recite when you were in the world. Your rank will be at the last Ayah you recite.'" ¹³

¹³ Riyad as-Salihin 1001; Abu Dawud and Tirmidhi

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THE TYPES OF PARADISE

*The comparison of the two gardens*¹⁴

- ❖ The inhabitants of the highest levels of Paradise will enjoy greater pleasures than the people below them
- ❖ Two gardens will be lower in status, than the other two. The first two are for the muqarraboon [those who are close to Allah], whilst the second two are for ashaab al-yameen [those of the Right Hand]¹⁵
- ❖ al-Qurtubi said: "When He described the two pairs of gardens, He referred to the difference between them
- ❖ Everyone will have two gardens, one for reward of good actions and the other for discipline from evil¹⁶

عَنْ أَبِي بَكْرٍ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ قَيْسٍ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " جَنَّاتٍ مِنْ فِضَّةٍ أَيْتَهُمَا وَمَا فِيهِمَا، وَجَنَّاتٍ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ أَيْتَهُمَا وَمَا فِيهِمَا، وَمَا بَيْنَ الْقَوْمِ وَبَيْنَ أَنْ يَنْظُرُوا إِلَى رَبِّهِمْ إِلَّا رِداءُ الْكَبِيرِ عَلَى وَجْهِهِ فِي جَنَّةِ عَدْنٍ "

Narrated `Abdullah bin Qais: The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "(There will be) two Paradises of silver and all the utensils and whatever is therein (will be of silver); and two Paradises of gold, and its utensils and whatever therein (will be of gold), and there will be nothing to prevent the people from seeing their Lord except the Cover of Majesty over His Face in the Paradise of Eden (eternal bliss).¹⁷

The gardens of those close to Allah	The gardens of those of the Right Hand
<p>وَلَنْ خَافَ مَقَامَ رَبِّهِ جَنَّاتٍ</p> <p>But for he who has feared the position of his Lord are two gardens [55:46]</p>	<p>وَمِنْ دُونِهِمَا جَنَّاتٍ</p> <p>And below them both [in excellence] are two [other] gardens [55:62]</p>
<p>فِيهِمَا عَيْنَانِ تَجْرِيَانِ</p> <p>In both of them are two springs, flowing [55:50]</p>	<p>فِيهِمَا عَيْنَانِ نَضَّاحَتَانِ</p> <p>In both of them are two springs, spouting [55:66]</p>
<p>فِيهِمَا مِنْ كُلِّ فَاكِهَةٍ زَوْجَانِ</p> <p>In both of them are of every fruit, two kinds [55:52]</p>	<p>فِيهِمَا فَاكِهَةٌ وَنَخْلٌ وَرُمَّانٌ</p> <p>In both of them are fruit and palm trees and pomegranates [55:68]</p>
<p>مُتَّكِنِينَ عَلَى فُرُشٍ بَطَّائِنُهَا مِنْ إِسْتَبْرَقٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ دَانٍ</p> <p>[They are] reclining on beds whose linings are of silk brocade, and the fruit of the two gardens is hanging low [55:54]</p>	<p>مُتَّكِنِينَ عَلَى رَفْرَفٍ خُضْرٍ وَعَبْقَرِيٍّ حِسَانٍ</p> <p>Reclining on green cushions and beautiful fine carpets [55:76]</p>
<p>كَأَنَّهُنَّ الْيَاقُوتُ وَالْمَرْجَانُ</p> <p>As if they (hoor al-‘ayn) were rubies and coral [55:58]</p>	<p>فِيهِنَّ خَيْرَاتٌ حِسَانٌ</p> <p>In them are good and beautiful women [55:70]</p>
<p>ذَوَاتَا أَفْئَانٍ</p> <p>Having [spreading] branches [55:48]</p>	<p>مُدْهَاهَا مَتَانٌ</p> <p>Dark green [in color] [55:64]</p>

¹⁴ Ibn al-Qayyim (2020) p.58; at-Tadkhirah, p. 440

¹⁵ Ibn al-Qayyim (2020) p.59; at-Tadkhirah, 440

¹⁶ Ibn al-Qayyim (2020) p.106

¹⁷ Sahih al-Bukhari 7444

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