

رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

LOWER
YOUR
WING

My Ummah





In the Name of Allah,
The Compassionate, The Merciful



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WING

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صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ



Birds, soaring and diving, must end their flight slowly. Landing and lowering their wings is harder than taking off and stretching their wings.

Like a bird coming down from sky to earth that slows its wing beats and lowers them to gently touch land so was the Command of **ALLAH** (Glorified be He) to His Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) regarding believers:

(And lower your wing to those of the believers who follow you)⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Translated meanings of Ash-Shu'ara' 26: 215.

Lower your wing
Lay down your pride
Let go of your own life
Adopt patience
Give and care for people
Relieve their burdens
Remove their ignorance
Let not your eyes overlook them
Man or woman, young or old, rich or poor,
strong or weak, enslaved or free
Humble yourself to them, O Muhammad
(peace and blessings be upon him)
And turn the darkness into light



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“Whenever a windy and cloudy day came,” Lady ‘Aishah (may Allah⁽¹⁾ be pleased with her) narrated, “It was known on the face of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), pacing (anxiously) back and forth. When it rained, he (peace and blessings be upon him) was happy with it and relieved of that (anxiety).”

I asked him (about the reason for his anxiety), and he (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “I was afraid lest torment should be sent upon my Ummah.”⁽²⁾

“When he (peace and blessings be upon him) saw rain, he (peace and blessings be upon him) used to say, “Mercy.”⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾ The Name is indicative and all-inclusive of every Divine Name and Attribute of Absolute Perfection: the One God, the Maker, the Almighty, the All-Merciful, etc.; in Arabic it means ‘the One exclusively worthy of deification and worship’. ‘Allah’ is the same word that Arabic-speaking Christians and Jews use for God.

⁽²⁾ People of one faith from every race.

⁽³⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of Istisqa’ (Prayer for Rainfall), Hadith no. 1495.



He (peace and blessings be upon him) passed a whole night in prayer, reciting one Ayah:

“If You punish them, they are Your servants, and if You forgive them, verily You, only You, are the Almighty, the All-Wise.”⁽¹⁾

With it he (peace and blessings be upon him) bowed, prostrated, and supplicated until it was morning.

In the morning, his Companion, Abu Dhar (may Allah be pleased with him), asked him, **“O Messenger of Allah, you kept reciting this Ayah until it was morning, bowing and prostrating with it?”** He (peace and blessings be upon him) replied, **“I begged of my Lord, the Exalted and the Glorious, intercession for my**

⁽¹⁾ Translated meanings of Al-Ma'idah 5: 118.





Ummah. He granted it to me, and it will be attained, by Allah's Will, by whoever associates nothing with Allah, the Exalted and the Glorious.”⁽¹⁾

Such was his life, full of solicitude for people universally; specifically those whom he (peace and blessings be upon him) would not live with, see, or hear - his followers yet to come. So much that he (peace and blessings be upon him) missed them; so much that he (peace and blessings be upon him) cried for them with earnest supplications. Physically, he (peace and blessings be upon him) would not live among those endless future generations for whom he (peace and blessings be upon him) was sent. They would head into the

⁽¹⁾ Abu Dhar: Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Ansar (Supporters), Hadith no. 20365.





wide open arena of life alone, some getting on and some getting off their different journeys. They must have his words in their ears and hearts—like those of a father as his children carry on with their lives—advising and reminding of that which is forever good, forever righteous, and forever beneficial for them.

His words, therefore, were ongoing thoughts for them, flowing through him and motivating his actions.

Time and again we hear him say it and come to know how he (peace and blessings be upon him) lived it, engaging his mind and heart, **“My Ummah”**:





- “The likeness of my Ummah is that of rain, knowing not whether its beginning is better or its end.”⁽¹⁾
- “O Lord, my Ummah, weak are their bodies, their hearts, their hearing, their eyes, and their trunks. Lighten the duties for us.” The All-Mighty said, “O Muhammad!” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Labbaik and Sa'daik.”⁽²⁾ Allah said, “With Me the Word cannot be changed. It will be as I have enjoined on you in the Mother of the Book. Every good deed is (rewarded) ten times its

⁽¹⁾ Anas bin Malik, Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Amthal (Parables), Hadith no. 2795.

⁽²⁾ I am Yours to Command. I am at Your Service.





like. It is fifty (prayers) in the Mother of the Book (in reward), but upon you only five (to perform).”⁽¹⁾

- “I begged of my Lord three things. He granted me two and did not grant me one. I begged Him not to destroy my Ummah by drought, and He granted me that. I begged Him not to destroy my Ummah by drowning, and He granted me that. And I begged Him not to let them fight among themselves, but He did not grant me that.”⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ Anas bin Malik, *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of At-Tawhid (Monotheism), Hadith no. 6963.*

⁽²⁾ Sa’d bin Abu Waqqas, *Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Fitan wa Ashrat As-Sa’ah (Turmoil and Portents of the Last Hour), Hadith no. 5145.*





- “For every Prophet there is a special supplication with which he supplicated (Allah) for his Ummah, and it was granted to him. I wish, by Allah’s Will, to defer my supplication as intercession for my Ummah on the Day of Resurrection.”⁽¹⁾
- “Do you think it (intercession) is for the pious? No, it is for the guilty, the oft-sinning, the impure.”⁽²⁾
- “O Allah, bless my Ummah in its early rising.”⁽³⁾

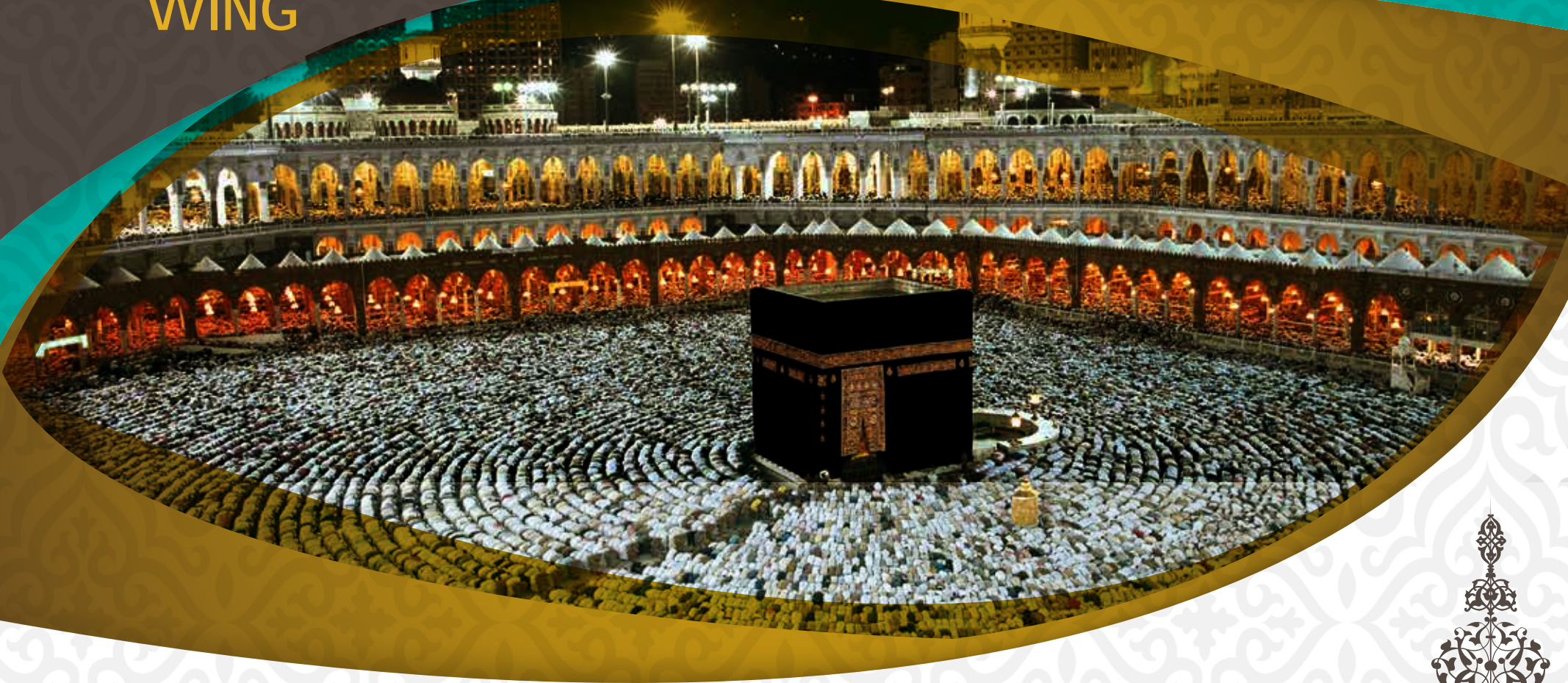


⁽¹⁾ Abu Hurairah, Sahih Muslim, Book of Iman, Hadith no. 298.

Abu Musa Al-Ash’ary, Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of Az-Zuhd (Renunciation of

⁽²⁾ Worldly Pleasures), Hadith no. 4301.

⁽³⁾ Sakhr Al-Ghamidi, Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Jihad (Striving), Hadith no. 2239.



- “O Allah, whoever is given charge over any matter of my Ummah and is hard upon them, be You hard upon him. And whoever is given charge over any matter of my Ummah and is kind to them, be You kind to him.”⁽¹⁾
- “If I command you to do something, do of it as much as you can, and if I forbid you from something, forsake it.”⁽²⁾
- “O Ummah of Muhammad, by Allah, if you know what I know, you would weep much and laugh little.”⁽³⁾



⁽¹⁾ Lady ‘Aishah, Sahih Muslim, Book of Imarah (Emirate), Hadith no. 3407.

⁽²⁾ Abu Hurairah, Sahih Muslim, Book of Hajj (Pilgrimage), Hadith no. 2380.

⁽³⁾ Lady ‘Aishah, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Aiman wa Al-Nudhur (Oaths and Vows), Hadith no. 6141.



- “The thing I fear most for my Ummah is the practice of the people of Lut (Lot, peace and blessings be upon him).”⁽¹⁾
- “By Allah, it is not poverty that I fear for you, but I fear lest the life of this world be lavished on you as it was lavished on those who came before you, and you compete with one another over it as they competed over it, and it destroys you as it destroyed them.”⁽²⁾
- “I shall boast of outnumbering by you the (other) Ummahs, so do not return after me disbelievers, striking the necks of one another.”⁽³⁾



⁽¹⁾ Jabir bin ‘Abdullah, Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of Al-Hudud (Prescribed Penalties), Hadith no. 2553.

⁽²⁾ ‘Amr bin Awf, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Maghazi (Expeditions), Hadith no. 3712.

⁽³⁾ As-Sunabihi, Musnad Ahmad, Book of Kuffans (Kufis), Hadith no. 18302.



- “This Ummah has been favored over the other Ummahs with three (merits): the (whole) earth is made for it a purifier and Masjid (praying place), its rows (in congregational prayer) are made like the rows of angels, and I have been given these Ayat (Qur’anic verses) of the last of Surat Al-Baqarah (286-285) from a treasure beneath the Throne. No Prophet was given them before me.”⁽¹⁾
- “Jibril (Gabriel ⁽²⁾) came to me and gave me the glad tidings, ‘Whoever dies from your Ummah associating nothing with Allah shall



⁽¹⁾ Hudhaifah bin Al-Yaman, Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Ansar, Hadith no. 22167.

⁽²⁾ Peace be upon him.



enter Paradise.’ I said, ‘Even if they committed Zina (sexual intercourse outside marriage), and even if they committed theft?’ He said, ‘Even if they committed Zina, and even if they committed theft.’”⁽¹⁾

● “I shall surely know my Ummah on the Day of Resurrection from among the (other) Ummahs.” They said, “O Messenger of Allah, how shall you know your Ummah.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “I shall know them. They shall be given their records (of deeds) in their right hands. I shall know them by the mark on their faces from

⁽¹⁾ Abu Dhar, Sahih Muslim, Book of Iman (Faith), Hadith no. 137.





the traces of prostration. And I shall know them by their light running forward before them.”⁽¹⁾

- “The first group that shall enter Paradise from my Ummah will be like the moon on a fully moonlit night, then those who will follow them will be like the brightest star in the sky, then after that they shall be in (varying) degrees. They will not excrete, urinate, blow their nose, or spit. Their combs (will be) of gold, their censers (will be) of aloe, and their sweat (will be) musk. Their form will be that of a single person, after the

⁽¹⁾ Abu Dhar and Abu Ad-Darda', Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Ansar, Hadith no. 20745.





image of their father Adam (peace and blessings be upon him), sixty cubits tall.”⁽¹⁾

- “Verily, Allah has pardoned my Ummah for whatever their souls whisper to them, as long as they do not utter it or act upon it.”⁽²⁾
- “My Ummah shall never agree upon an error; therefore, if you see disagreement you must follow the great majority.”⁽³⁾
- “Verily, Allah sends to this Ummah at the outset of every hundred years one who rejuvenates for it its religion.”⁽⁴⁾

⁽¹⁾ Abu Hurairah, Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Jannah wa Sifat Na’imiha wa Ahliha (Paradise, Its Description, Its Bounties and Its Inhabitants), Hadith no. 5064.

⁽²⁾ Abu Hurairah, Sahih Muslim, Book of Iman, Hadith no. 181.

⁽³⁾ Anas bin Malik, Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of Fitana (Trials), Hadith no. 3940.

⁽⁴⁾ Abu Hurairah, Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Al-Malahim (Battles), Hadith no. 3740.



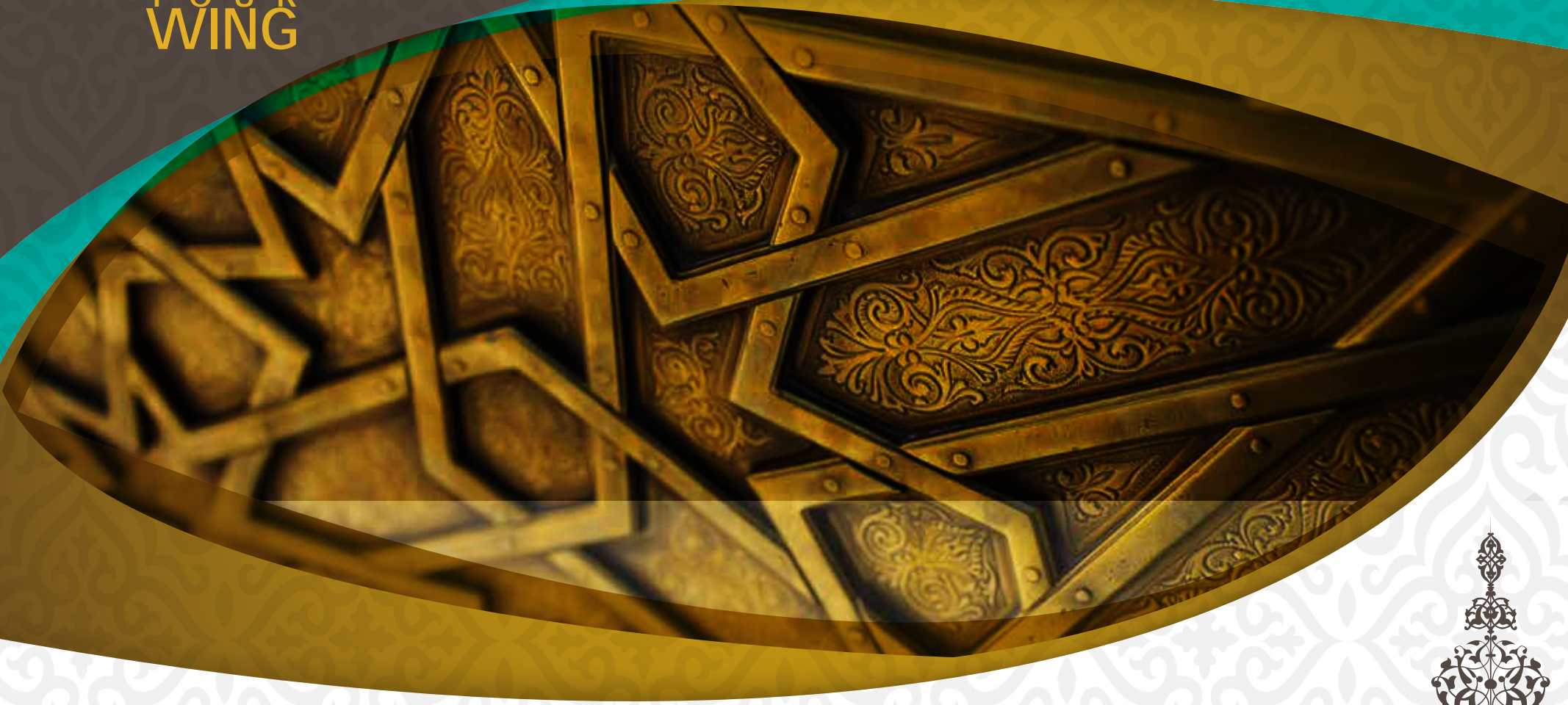


- “Allah only gives victory to this Ummah because of its weak ones, by their supplication, prayer, and sincerity.”⁽¹⁾
- “A group of my Ummah will continue fighting for the truth, victorious until the Day of Resurrection.”⁽²⁾
- “Who from my Ummah would learn five qualities to act upon or teach to those who would act upon them?” I (Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him) said, “I, O Messenger of Allah.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) took my hand and counted

⁽¹⁾ Sa’d bin Abu Waqqas, *Sunan An-Nasa’iy, Book of Jihad, Hadith no. 3127.*

⁽²⁾ Jabir bin ‘Abdullah, *Sahih Muslim, Book of Imarah, Hadith no. 3547.*





them on it, saying, “Guard yourself against things forbidden, you will be the most worshipful (devout) of people. Be content with what Allah has allotted you, you will be the richest of people. Be good to your neighbor, you will be a believer. Love for people what you love for yourself, you will be a Muslim. And do not laugh much; much laughing deadens the heart.”⁽¹⁾

● “O Messenger of Allah, is there anyone better than us? We embraced Islam and strived with you,” Abu ‘Ubaidah binAl-Jarrah (may Allah be pleased with

⁽¹⁾ Abu Hurairah, Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Mukthrin, Hadith no. 7748.





him) said, to which the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) replied, “Yes, people who will come after you. They will believe in me although they have not seen me.”⁽¹⁾

● “Among those who would love me most from among my Ummah are the people who would come after me; each one of them would wish to see me, even at the cost of his family and wealth.”⁽²⁾

● The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) went to the graveyard and said, “Peace be upon you, abode of

⁽¹⁾ Abu Jumu'ah, Sunan Ad-Darmy, Book of Ar-Riqaq (Heart-Softeners), Hadith no. 2626.

⁽²⁾ Abu Hurairah, Sahih Muslim, Al-Jannah wa Sifat Na'imiha wa Ahliha (Paradise, Its Description, Its Bounties and Its Inhabitants), Hadith no. 5060.





believing people. If Allah wills, we shall soon join you. I wish we had seen our brothers.” They said, “Are we not your brothers, O Messenger of Allah?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “You are my companions. Our brothers are those who have not come yet.” They said, “How will you recognize those of your Ummah who have not come yet, O Messenger of Allah?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Tell me, if a man has white-footed horses with a white blaze among pure, deep-black horses, will he not recognize his own horses?” They said, “Yes, O Messenger of Allah.” He





(peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Truly, they will come with shining faces and limbs because of ablution. I am their predecessor at the Cistern (Al-Kawthar River in Paradise).”⁽¹⁾

- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) sacrificed two rams on a feast day, and said when he (peace and blessings be upon him) made them face the Qiblah (Ka‘bah-direction faced in prayers), “I have turned my face toward He who created the heavens and the earth as one upright, and I am not of those who associate

⁽¹⁾ Abu Hurairah, Sahih Muslim, Book of Taharah, Hadith no. 367.





others with Allah. Indeed, my Salah (prayer), my sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, Lord of the worlds. He has no partner. And of this I have been commanded, and I am the first of the Muslims. O Allah, (it comes) from You and (is dedicated) to You, on behalf of Muhammad and his Ummah.”⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ 2 Jabir bin ‘Abdullah, Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of Al-Adahi (Sacrifices), Hadith no. 3112.



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Muhammad ﷺ

ﷺ



ﷺ



It is most difficult to get to the truth of the personality of Muhammad. Only a glimpse of it is able to be caught. What a dramatic succession of picturesque scenes. There is Muhammad the Prophet; there is **Muhammad the General; Muhammad the King; Muhammad the Warrior; Muhammad the Businessman; Muhammad the Preacher; Muhammad the Philosopher; Muhammad the Statesman; Muhammad the Orator; Muhammad the Reformer; Muhammad the Refuge of orphans; Muhammad the Protector of slaves; Muhammad the Emancipator of women; Muhammad the Law-giver; Muhammad the Judge; Muhammad the Saint.** And in each of these magnificent roles, in each of these areas of human activity, he is a hero. ⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ Quoted, with slight modifications, from Prof. K. S. Ramakrishna Rao.

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