

The inheritance of Paradise

source: *alkhawf wa rraja* – fear and hope (of Allaah) – tape no. 1

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Aboo Hurairah (rad iyallaahu `anhu)¹ said that the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم)² said: “Whoever fears (Allaah) sets out at nightfall,³ and whoever sets out at nightfall will reach the goal. Indeed, the goods of Allaah are expensive; indeed, the goods of Allaah is Paradise.”⁴

Shaykh al-Albaanee (rahimahullaah)⁵ comments:

“The meaning of this is that there is a price for entering Paradise and that entering it does not happen by feeling safe (from the plan of Allaah) and *at-tawaakul* (not taking any means and saying ‘Allaah will provide for me’), but rather it happens by (doing) righteous deeds and *at-tawakkul* (taking the means and putting one’s trust) in Allaah, the Blessed and Most High; as Allaah, the Might and Majestic, said: ‘And say (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)) **Do deeds! Allaah will see your deeds, and (so will) His Messenger** (صلى الله عليه وسلم).’⁶

And in this hadeeth, there is an indication of the noble aayah that says: [This is the Paradise which you have been made to inherit because of your deeds which you used to do (in the life of the world)],⁷ and in the other aayah: [Enter you Paradise because of that (the good) which you used to do (in the world)].⁸ And here, it occurs to many students who have some participation in studying the Sunnah, as they read or at least hear the statement of the Messenger (of Allaah) (عليه الصلاة والسلام)⁹ which is established in the saheehayn¹⁰ that he (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: “None of you will enter Paradise by his (good) deeds, but rather by the Favour of Allaah and His Mercy.’ They said, ‘Not even you O Messenger of Allaah?’ He (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, ‘Not even myself, unless Allaah encompasses me with His Favour and His Mercy.’”¹¹ So it seems that there is a contradiction between this hadeeth and the previous aayah along with our hadeeth in this book of ours where (the Prophet) (عليه السلام)¹² said: ‘Indeed, the goods of Allaah are expensive; indeed, the goods of Allaah is Paradise.’ Hence, there is a price (that one must pay) for Paradise and the two previous aayaat indicate that the price of Paradise is righteous deeds, and there is no doubt that good deeds do not benefit the one who does them at all except if he is truly a believer in Allaah and His Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم). So therefore, the price of Paradise is ‘Eemaan (faith) and righteous deeds. Then how does one reconcile between these three texts – this reality that we learned from our hadeeth tonight, ‘Indeed, the goods of Allaah are expensive’ and from the two previous aayaat – and between this hadeeth: ‘None of you will enter Paradise by his (good) deeds, but rather by the Favour of Allaah and His Mercy’?

¹ (rahimahullaah) (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) May Allaah have mercy on him

² (صلى الله عليه وسلم) May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him

³ Shaykh al-Albaanee explains: “i.e., he is headed for good and righteous deeds early, and he hastens to do them.”

⁴ Saheeh at-Tirmidhee no.2450

⁵ (rahimahullaah) (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) May Allaah have mercy on him

⁶ Surat ut-Tawbah, 9:105

⁷ Surat uz-Zukhruf, 43:72

⁸ Surat un-Nahl, 16:32

⁹ (عليه الصلاة والسلام) (alayhi as-Salaat wa Salaam) Upon him prayer and peace

¹⁰ the two Saheehs, i.e. Saheeh al-Bukhaaree and Saheeh Muslim

¹¹ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.5673, Saheeh Muslim no.2816

¹² (عليه السلام) (alaihis-salaam) Peace be upon him

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The reconciliation between (these two) is that... that which is negated in the last hadeeth '**None of you will enter Paradise by his (good) deeds**' is one thing and that which is confirmed in the aayah '**Enter you Paradise because of that (the good) which you used to do (in the world)**' is something else. That which is established in the aayah and the like is merely the entrance (into Paradise), i.e., the key to Paradise, as mentioned in some narrations from Wahb bin Munabbih (rad iyallaahu `anhu) in Saheeh al-Bukhaaree: '**...the key to Paradise is *laa ilaaha illallaah* (none has the right to be worshiped but Allaah).**'¹³ So the key to Paradise is this 'Eemaan (faith) and righteous deeds. But, if this Muslim enters Paradise and he enjoys in it, as mentioned in some authentic narrations, that which '**no eye has seen, no ear has heard and (that which) has not come to the mind of a human being,**'¹⁴ then this type of enjoyment is not by means of a price that this enjoyer presented, but rather (it is) by the Favour of Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, and His Mercy.

So the price of merely entering (into Paradise) is 'Eemaan (faith) and righteous deeds. As for, part of the specific nature of enjoyment in Paradise which we pointed to previously – there is in it what '**no eye has seen, no ear has heard and (what) has not come to the mind of a human being**' – then there is no price for this; it is impossible for a price to be determined for it. Why?

It has been mentioned in Saheeh Muslim from the hadeeth of 'Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (rad iyallaahu `anhu) that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:¹⁵ '**Indeed, I know the last man to come out from the Fire and the last man to enter Paradise. A man will come out of the Fire crawling.**' The meaning of this is that he comes out of the Fire being the most punished in it from the Muslims, and he comes out destroyed, exhausted (and) fatigued. Therefore, he is not able to walk straight as Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, created him. But rather, he crawls until his life returns to him and his limbs are energetic and active. So he walks in this manner until Allaah, the Blessed and Most High, shows him a very great tree from far such that he is captivated by its beauty and splendour. And he wished for the Favour of Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, and His Mercy after He saved him from the His severe punishment. Thus, he says: 'O my Lord! Bring me to this tree so that I may be shaded by its shade, eat from its fruit¹⁶ and drink from its water.' Then Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, says, while having more knowledge of His slave: 'Would you ask me for other than it?' (The man) says: 'No O Lord, I will not ask you for other than it.' So Allaah, the Blessed and Most High, brings him to that tree such that he is shaded by its shade, eats from its fruit and drinks from its water. Then, he continues on his way toward Paradise. Meanwhile, another tree appears to him which is more radiant, more beautiful and greater than the first one. So he hopes again and wishes more and more for the Favour of Allaah, so he asks Him and says: 'O my Lord! Bring me to this tree'- and repeats the previous saying, then he is shaded by its shade and so on. Then Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, says: 'Would you ask me for other than it?' (The man) says: 'I will not ask you for other than it,' while (Allaah) is more knowledgeable of him; our Lord knows that he will wish and wish until he enters Paradise. So He brings him to that tree such that he is shaded by its shade, eats from its fruit¹⁷ and drinks from its water. Then, he continues on his way until he comes near the door of Paradise such that part of its refreshment, scent and joy come to him and he hears the voices of the people of Paradise. Thus, he says: 'O my Lord! Let me enter Paradise,' and maybe he says 'Let me enter past the door of Paradise.' So Allaah, the Blessed and Most High, says: 'Enter Paradise, and there is for you the like of the world and ten times as much.' So, the slave – almost not believing in the like of this divine favour when (Allaah) says to him 'there is for you in Paradise the like of the world and ten times as much' – says: 'Are you mocking me while you are the Lord?' And here, the narrator of the hadeeth laughed, who was 'Abdullaah bin Mas'ood (rad iyallaahu `anhu) as we mentioned. So he was asked by the one to whom he was narrating this hadeeth: 'Why did you laugh?' He said: 'Because when the Messenger (of Allaah) (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ) narrated the statement of the slave to His Lord '**Are you mocking me while you are the Lord,**' he (عليه الصلاة والسلام) had also laughed.' They had asked the Messenger (of Allaah) (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ) himself (about his reason for laughing), so he (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: '**Because Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, laughed at His slave when he said 'Are you mocking me while you are the Lord.'**

¹³ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree, Book 23, Chapter 1

¹⁴ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.4779

¹⁵ the following includes the narrations of Saheeh Muslim no.186 and no.187, in addition to the Shaykh's commentary

¹⁶ the wording, "eats from its fruit," is found in Saheehul-Jaami no.1557 and attributed to the second tree

¹⁷ the wording, "eats from its fruit," is found in Saheehul-Jaami no.1557

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What is clear from the hadeeth is that this person is the last to come out from the Fire and the last to enter Paradise, and he will have the like of the world and ten times as much. So does this destroyed person, who was the last to come out of the Fire, deserve this vast dominion in Paradise for his (good) deeds? No, this is by the Favour of Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, and His Mercy...

Thus, if we regard this detailed explanation, the contradiction disappears between this hadeeth and the two aayaat. And this is one of the many examples in which some contradiction appears to some people, even the sincere ones amongst them, between some texts, whether from the Qur'aan and Sunnah or from each of them individually. So, the Muslim must not be hasty and he must reflect on both texts, and if the way for reconciling between the two is not possible for him, he (should) ask the one who is above him, as our Lord, the Blessed and Most High, said: **'So ask the people of the Reminder if you do not know.'**¹⁸

asaheeha translations

¹⁸ Soorah ul-Ambeeyaa, 21:7