

# **Hell in the Koran**

**By**

**Dr. Mohsen El-Guindy**

## **Introduction**

Salvation of people from Hell Fire is the main purpose of the religion of Islam. Because Allah's punishment in the Day of Judgment is overwhelmingly severe, a last Warner had to be sent in order to save people from a terrible abode awaiting them if they don't adhere to the one true religion of Allah. Muhammad was the last attempt to warn against the severe chastisement of the Day of Judgment and to present Allah's last revelation in its final form and for the last time. Muhammad came then to rescue people from Hell Fire. This is why Muhammad is considered in the Koran as a mercy sent to all beings.

**And We did not send you but as a mercy to all beings** (Al Anbiya', 107).

Because the Koran is the last divine Revelation to mankind, no other divine Book talked in detail about the frightening torture of Hell-fire as the Koran did. Compared with the Koran, the description of Hell and its torture as mentioned in the Old and New Testaments is rare, vague and ambiguous. In the Koran however, Hell-fire stands as a vigilant watch guard, an abode for the sinners and those denying the Oneness of Allah and associating with Him other deities.

The Prophet of Islam said:

**“Shall I not inform you of the biggest of the major sins? To join others in worship with Allah, to be undutiful to one's parents and to bear false witness.”**

Allah described the Day of Judgment in the Koran where all people will be resurrected to receive their reckoning. Every moment that passes brings people nearer to their doom, yet they are heedless and even turn away from the Message that would save them.

**The Reckoning is ever approaching mankind, and yet they turn away in heedless** (Al Anbiya', 1).

On the Day of Judgment the universe as we know it, will be folded up like a scroll of parchment, for it will have done its work, and Allah will do so, for that is His promise.

**On the Day when We shall roll up heaven as a scroll is rolled for the books, as We originated the first creation so shall We bring it back again, a promise binding on Us, truly We shall fulfill it (Al Anbiya', 104).**

In the day of Judgment the heaven will look like a metallic substance melted in oil, and the mountains shall be like carded wool, and no friend puts a question to a friend or asks about him. The situation will be an endless moment of anxiety and fear to concern oneself even with the closest that he or she had rendered dear.

All the infidels will see each other but they will be dumbfounded, and the wicked shall wish he could be redeemed from that endless and severe punishment with the lives of his own children, and with the lives of his wife and brother, and with the lives of his kindred who in life afforded him protection, and with the lives of all those on earth, just to escape the horror which doubles all his torment and his woe. But never will he succeed in avoiding the tormenting Hell Fire

**On the Day when the sky shall be as molten brass;  
And the mountains shall be as tufts of wool;  
And no close friend shall question close friend;  
As they are given sight of them, the sinner will wish that he might  
ransom himself from the chastisement of that Day, even by his sons-  
His companion wife, his brother-  
His kin who sheltered him  
And all that are in the earth, so that it might save him (Al-Ma'arij 8-14).**

The quake of the universe on the Day of Judgment is astounding, and it will excite intense horror. On that Day every nursing mother forget suckling and every pregnant female shall miscarry what is conceived in her womb, and people will be stunned and thrown into confusion while not intoxicated, but it is actually the reflection of Allah's wrath speaking thunder.

**O people fear your Lord! Indeed! The shaking of the Hour is a mighty thing;  
The Day when you shall see it, every suckling mother shall be startled from the child she suckled, and every pregnant one shall lay down her burden, and you shall see mankind as inebriated, yet they shall not be inebriated, but the chastisement of Allah is severe (Al Hajj 1, 2).**

The Day of Judgment is an Eventual Day when no master shall avail his subordinates nor can a subordinate avail his master, nor can anyone afford them help except those to whom Allah will extend His Mercy.

**The Day of Judgment is the appointed time for all of them;  
A Day when no guardian shall avail his ward any, nor shall they be helped;  
Except those upon whom Allah has Mercy, surely He is the Almighty,  
All Merciful Ad-Dukhan 40-42).**

The Koran teaches that Hell is a real place of severe torture prepared by Allah for the atheists, pagans, infidels, polytheists and sinners. Hell is not a mere state of mind or a spiritual entity as the unbelievers claim. The horror, pain, anguish, and punishment are all real. Paradise and Hell presently exist and are eternal.

## **Hell in the Koran**

The Koran speaks of Hell in the past tense and states that it has already been created:

**And fear the Fire prepared for the unbelievers (Al-Imran, 131).**

Every soul must pass by the Fire, an inevitable event that is promised by Allah and no one is destined to escape it. Then Allah shall save the god-fearing by His mercy, while the wrongdoers will be left hobbling on their knees in hell.

**Not one of you there is, but he shall pass by it; that for thy Lord is a thing decreed, determined.**

**Then We shall deliver those that were god-fearing; and the evildoers We shall leave there, hobbling on their knees (Maryam 71, 72).**

Hell has levels of heat and punishment that differ according to the extent of disbelief and sins of those being punished. The lower level of Hell, the greater is the intensity of heat. Since the hypocrites will suffer the worst punishment, so will they be in the lowest part of Hell.

Allah says:

**Surely the hypocrites will be in the lowest depths of the Fire (An-Nisa, 145).**

Hell has seven gated, for each of those gates is a specific class of sinners assigned.

**Seven gates it has, and unto each gate a set portion of them belongs (Al-Hijr, 44).**

Anas Ibn Malek - one of the Prophet's companions - said, "The archangel Gabriel came suddenly to the Prophet of Islam, his face was pale and he looked distressed. The Prophet asked him, **"Why do you look so pale and so distressed?"**

Gabriel said, **"I came to you at the same hour Allah had ordered the blowers of the fire to blow into it. Man, who knows that hell is true, fire**

**is true, torture of the grave is true, and torture of Allah is far greater, should not relax until he is sure that he had protected himself against Hell-fire.”**

The Prophet said, **“O Gabriel, describe Hell to me!”**

**Gabriel said, “When Allah created Hell, He inflamed it for one thousand years until it became red, then He inflamed it for another one thousand years until it became white, then He inflamed it for another one thousand years until it became black. Hell is black and dark, its flames and embers are not to be extinguished.**

**I swear by the One who sent you in truth, if a hole of a needle is opened from it, all the people of the universe would be burnt.**

**I swear by the One who sent you in truth, if a garment of an inhabitant of hell hangs down between heaven and earth, all the people of the universe would have died from its overwhelming heat and stench.**

**I swear by the One who sent you in truth, if a man in the west is being tortured in hell, a man in the east would be burnt out because of its tremendous burning heat.**

**Its heat is harsh, its bottom is harsh, its ornament is iron, its drink is lava and pus, its garment is cuttings of fire. It has seven doors; each door is divided into two parts, one for men and the other for women.”**

The Prophet asked, **“Are these doors like ours?”**

**Gabriel said, “No, the doors are opened and lined underneath each other, the walking distance from one door to the other is seventy years, and each door is seventy times hotter than the one above it. The enemies of Allah are led to the doors where the tormentors of hell are waiting for them with fetters and chains. The chains are forced into their mouths to come out from their posteriors, their left hands are chained to their necks, and their right hands are forced into their hearts then pulled out from between their shoulders to be fastened with chains. Each sinner will be joined with a devil through a chain, and the tormentors of hell will hit them hard with heavy hammers while pulling them from their faces across the blazing ground.”**

The Prophet asked, **“Who are the inhabitants of these doors, Gabriel?”**

**Gabriel said, “The inhabitants of the lower door are the hypocrites, and those who blasphemed after attending the table of Jesus, and Pharaoh of Moses and his people. The name of this door is Elhaweya (Abyss). In the second door there will be those who associated with Allah other gods. The name of this door is Gaheem (hell). In the third door there will be the Sabeans (worshippers of stars). The name of this door is Sakar. The fourth door is the abode of Iblees (Satan) and those who followed him, as well as the magus. The name of the door is Laza (fire). The fifth door is the abode of those who blasphemed and committed sins from the Jews. The name of the door is Hotama (fragments). The sixth door is the abode of the Christians who associated with Allah other gods thus committing a grievous sin. The seventh door is for Muslims who committed grievous sins and died without repentance.”**

Hell is huge and immensely deep, it will house all the unbelievers and sinners from the beginning of time and there will be still room for more:

**On the day when We will say to Hell: 'Are you filled?' It will say, 'Are there any more?' (to come) (Qaf, 30).**

The fuel of Hell is men (all those who rebelled against Allah) and stones:

**O you who have believed, guard yourselves and your families against a Fire whose fuel is men and stones, and over which are harsh, terrible angels who disobey not Allah in what He commands them and do what they are commanded (At-Tahrim, 6).**

Another source of fuel is the false gods that were worshipped beside Allah:

**Surely you, and that you were serving apart from Allah, are fuel of the Fire; surely you will enter it.**

**If those had been gods, they would not have got there, yet every one of them shall therein abide forever (Al-Anbiya 98, 99).**

When the Quraish pagans listened to the above Koranic verses they were delighted and said, "We are pleased to be with our gods in Hell-Fire, and therefore Îsa (Jesus), the son of Mary will be with his worshippers in Hell-Fire. Allah denied and rejected their claim by stating in the Koran that those

for whom the good has preceded from Him, they shall be kept far from Hell (e.g. Jesus whom the Christians worshipped and Ezra whom the Jews worshipped).

**But as for those unto whom already the reward most fair has gone forth from Us, they shall be kept far from it (Hell-Fire) neither shall they hear any whisper of it, and they shall dwell forever in that their souls desired; the greatest terror shall not grieve them, and the angels shall receive them: "This is your day that you were promised." (Al-Anbiya' 101-103).**

The companion of the Prophet, Ibn Mas'ûd said: "When those who are destined to remain in Hell forever will be thrown in it, each one of them will be put in a separate Tabût (box) of Fire, so that he will not see anyone punished in the Hell-fire except himself." Then Ibn Mas'ûd recited the verse:

**There shall be sighing for them therein, and naught they shall hear (Al-Anbiya', 100).**

The description of Hell in the Koran in terms of agony and torture is intense and overwhelmingly frightening. Allah says about the torment of Hell:

**Nay, verily it is a furnace snatching away the scalp,  
Eager to roast-  
Inviting all those who turned their backs and turned away their faces  
from the Truth (Al Maarij 15-17).**

The dress of the people of Hell is garments of fire tailored for them. The Koran narrates that for those who disbelieved; garments of fire will be cut out for them, and on their heads will be poured hard water bubbling over in agitation. Boiling water which diffuses itself throughout to melt what is in their bellies and liquify their skins. They will be restricted in solitary confinement within cells ribbed and vaulted with iron. As often they seek relief to get away there from, they will be driven back therein, and it will be said to them: "Taste the torment of burning."

**...As for the unbelievers, for them garments of fire shall be cut, and there shall be poured over their heads boiling water whereby whatever is in their bellies and their skins shall be melted; for them await hooked iron rods; as often as they desire in their anguish to come forth from it,**



**they shall be restored into it, and: 'Taste the chastisement of the burning!'** (Al Hajj 19-22).

**And you will see the sinners that day coupled in fetters, of pitch their shirts, their faces enveloped by the Fire, that Allah may recompense every soul for its earnings; surely Allah is swift in reckoning** (Ibrahim 49-51).

Allah says about the heat of Hell:

**The Companions of the Left, O Companions of the Left! (they will be) in burning winds and boiling waters and the shadow of a smoking blaze neither cool, neither goodly** (Al-waqi'ah 41-44).

The air of Hell will be hot wind and the water will be boiling. The shade in Hell will be the shadow of black smoke. The smoke will be divided into three columns. Its shade will not offer any protection from the raging fire. The flying sparks will be like huge castles similar to string of marching yellow camels.

**Depart to that you cried was lies!  
Depart to a triple-massing shadow unshading against the blazing flame that shoots sparks (as huge) as a fortress, as if they were yellow camels (marching swiftly)** (Al-Mursalat 30-33).

The Prophet said about the fierceness of the fire:

**'Fire as we know it is one seventieth part of the Fire of Hell.'** Someone said, 'O Messenger of Allah, it is enough as it is! The Prophet said, '**It is as if sixty-nine equal portions were added to the fire as we know it.'**' (Sahih Al-Bukhari).

The Fire consumes everything, leaving nothing untouched. It burns skin reaching all the way to the bones, melting the contents of the stomach, leaping up to the hearts, and exposing the vital organs.

**I will cast him into Hell Fire. And what will make you know what Hell Fire is?**

**It spares not (any sinner), nor does it leave (anything unburnt).  
Burning and blackening the skins!** (Al-Muddathir 26-29).

The Fire never extinguishes:

**...Whenever it abates, We shall increase for them the fierceness of the Fire** (Al-Isra', 97).

The torment will never be reduced and the inhabitants of Hell will not have any break:

**...their torment shall not be lightened nor shall they be helped** (Al-Baqarah, 86).

**Taste! We shall increase you not save in chastisement** (Al-Naba', 30).

Allah described in the Koran the food of the people of Hell. The food will neither nourish nor taste good. It will only serve as a punishment to the people of Hell.

**No food will be for them but cactus thorn unfattening, unappeasing hunger** (Al-Ghashia 6, 7).

In the Koran Allah describes the bitter and disagreeable tree of Zaqqum as special food for the sinners in Hell. Its roots go deep into the bottom of Hell, its branches stretching allover; its ugly fruit is like the heads of the devils. Its food which is like molten metal will keep boiling inside the bellies and like water when it is brought to the boiling point. The angels who are posted as sentinels and keep guard of the Fire are commanded to seize hold of the sinner and take him to the depths of Hell, and pour on his head torrents of painfully tormenting boiling water. Then he is told, "Now taste and see, this is the just retribution which you had always doubted.

**Lo, the Tree of Zaqqum is the food of the sinner, like molten copper, bubbling in the belly as boiling water bubbles.**

**Take him, and thrust him into the midst of Hell, then pour over his head the chastisement of boiling water.**

**Taste! You are the mighty, the honorable.**

**Surely this is what you used to doubt** (Ad-Dukhan 43-50).

**Is that (Paradise) better as a hospitality, or the tree of Zaqqum? We have appointed it as a trial for the evildoers.**

**It is a tree that come forth in the root of Hell; the shoots of its fruit-stalks are like the heads of Satans, and they eat of it, and of it fill their bellies, then on top of it they have a brew of boiling water, then their return is unto Hell (Al-Saffat 62-68).**

People of Hell will get so hungry that they will eat from the tree of Zaqqum. When they fill their bellies with it, it will start to churn like boiling oil causing immense suffering. At that point they will rush to drink extremely hot water. They will drink it like thirsty camels, yet it will never quench their thirst. Rather their internals will be torn.

**Then you erring ones, you that cried lies, you shall eat of a tree called Zaqqum, and you shall fill therewith your bellies and drink on top of that boiling water lapping it down like thirsty camels. This shall be their hospitality on the Day of Doom (Al-Waqi'ah 51-56).**

**...They will be given to drink boiling water, so that it cuts up their bowels (Muhammad, 15).**

The thorny bushes and zaqqum will choke them and stick in their throats because of their foulness.

**Surely with us are fetters and a raging Fire and a food that chokes and a penalty grievous (Al-Muzzamil 12, 13).**

The Prophet of Islam said:

**"If a drop from Zaqqum were to land in this world, the people of earth and all their means of sustenance would be destroyed. So how must it be for one who must eat it?" (Tirmizi).**

In Hell the sinners will be made to drink pus that oozes out of their skin, the discharge that flows from the private parts of adulterers and the decaying skin and flesh of those being burnt. It is the juice of the people of Hell. Allah says:

**"So no friend has he here this Day, nor has he any food except filth from the washing of wounds which none do eat but those in sin." (Al-Haqqah 35-37).**

**...so let them taste it – boiling water and pus, and other torments of the like kind coupled together (Sâd 57, 58).**

The Prophet said:

**"Anyone who drinks intoxicants will be made to drink the mud of Khabal. They asked, 'O messenger of Allah, what is the mud of Khabal?' He said, 'The sweat of people of Hell' or the 'Juice of the people of Hell.'"** (Sahih Muslim).

Some sinners will be fed fire as a punishment:

**Indeed those who devour the property of orphans unjustly are only consuming fire in their bellies (An-Nisa, 10).**

**Indeed they who conceal what Allah has sent down of the Book and exchange it for a small price – those consume not into their bellies except the Fire (Al-Baqarah, 174).**

Allah tells in the Koran about the drink of people of Hell. They will be forced to drink boiling water which melts their bowels. Allah has prepared for them a fire whose scorching and merciless flames beset them on all sides as if it were a bed having an arched canopy and covered sides. As often as they cry for help they are given a draught of boiling water like molten brass or molten lead which scalds the faces.

**Are these like those who shall dwell forever in the Fire, and be given to drink boiling water, that tears their bowels asunder? (Muhammad, 15).**

**...Every obstinate arrogant dictator was brought to a complete destruction.**

**Beyond him Hell, and he is given to drink of oozing pus, the which he gulps, and can scarce swallow, and death comes upon him from every side, yet he cannot die; and still beyond him is a harsh chastisement (Ibrahim 16, 17).**

**Yeah, such! – then shall they taste it, - a boiling fluid and a fluid dark, murky, intensely cold! (Sâd, 57).**

The Prophet said about the drink of people of Hell:

**"It is like boiling oil, when it is brought near a person's face, the skin of the face falls off into it." (Musnad Ahmad, Tirmizi).**

Those who deny Allah and death claims them, if they offer as much gold as the earth can treasure shall not be accepted from them in expiation for their guilt. Such-like persons must expect endless suffering and shall find no one to afford them help.

**Surely those who disbelieve, and die disbelieving, there shall not be accepted from any one of them the whole earth full of gold, if he would ransom himself thereby; for them awaits a painful chastisement, and they shall have no helpers (Al-Imran, 91).**

**The sinner will wish that he might ransom himself from the chastisement of that day even by his sons, his companion wife, his brother, his kin who sheltered him, and whosoever is in the earth, all together, so that then it might deliver him (Al-Ma'arij 11-16).**

The Prophet of Islam said:

**"One of the people of Hell who found most pleasure in the life of this world will be brought forth on the Day of Resurrection and will be dipped into the Fire of Hell. Then he will be asked, 'O son of Adam, have you ever seen anything good?' Have you ever enjoyed any pleasure?' He will say, 'No, by Allah, O Lord.'"**

The Prophet also said:

**On the Day of Resurrection, Allah will ask the one whose punishment in the Fire is lightest, 'If you had whatsoever you wanted on earth, would you give it to save yourself?' He will say, 'Yes.' Allah will say, 'I wanted less than that from you when you were still in the loins of Adam. I asked you not to associate anything in worship with Me, but you insisted on associating others in worship with Me.'"**

Those who deny Allah's revelations and refuse to recognize His signs, Allah will expose them to a dreadful torture. As often as their skins are consumed,

Allah will replace them with new skins so that they taste the merciless but just punishment.

**Surely those who disbelieve in our signs, We shall certainly roast them at a Fire; as often as their skins are wholly burned, We shall give them in exchange other skins, that they may taste the chastisement. Surely Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise (An-Nisa, 56).**

Prophet Muhammad said:

**"Super-heated water will be poured onto their heads and will dissolve through it until it cuts up their inwards, expelling them; until it comes out of their feet, and everything is melted. Then they will be restored as they were."**

On the Day of Judgment Allah will humiliate the sinners by gathering them on their faces, blind, dumb and deaf.

**And We shall muster them on the Resurrection Day upon their faces, blind, dumb, deaf; their refuge shall be Hell and whensoever it abates We shall increase for them the blaze (Al-Isrâ', 97).**

There shall come a day when the sinners are dragged on their faces and told. 'Now feel the unbearable sensation which comes over your bodies by being cast into Hell Fire.

**The Day when they are dragged on their faces into the Fire: 'Taste now the touch of Sakar (one of the names of Hell) (Al-Qamar, 47, 48).**

Those who refuse to acknowledge the Koran shall come to know the fatal consequence of their denial of Allah's authority; they will be dragged in chains, plunged into boilers and from thence into Hell where they suffer severe torment.

**Those who cry lies to the Book and that wherewith We sent Our Messengers – soon they will know.**

**When the fetters and chains are on their necks, and they dragged into the boiling water, then into the Fire they are poured; then it is said to them, 'Where are those you associated, apart from Allah?' (Ghâfir 70-72).**

The Fire of Hell will leap up to the hearts. The fire will penetrate their bodies and reaches the innermost depths:

**No indeed; he shall be thrust into the Crusher; and what shall teach thee what is the Crusher?**

**The Fire of Allah kindled, roaring over the hearts, it shall be closed upon them, in columns outstretched (al-Humazah 4-9).**

The Fire will split the entrails as mentioned by the Prophet:

**"A man will be brought on the Day of Resurrection and thrown into the Fire. Then his entrails will be spilled out into the Fire and he will be forced to walk around and around like a donkey in a treadmill. The people of Hell will gather around him and say, 'O so-and-so, what is wrong with you?' He will say, 'I used to order you to do good, but I did not do it, and I used to forbid you to do evil, but I used to do it myself.' Then he will walk around and around like a donkey in a treadmill."**

The Prophet of Islam said about the Signs of the Day of Resurrection and the torture of Hell:

**"The Hour will not come until two big groups fight each other and both will suffer heavy casualties; till about thirty dajals (liars) appear and each one of them will claim that he is Allah's apostle; till the religious knowledge is taken away (by the death of religious scholars); earthquakes will increase in number; time will pass quickly; afflictions will appear; killing will increase; and wealth will be in abundance."**

**"On the Day of Resurrection, the sun would draw so close to the people that there would be left only a distance of one mile."**

**"The people would be submerged in perspiration according to their deeds, some up to their knees, some up to the waist and some would have the bridle of perspiration."** While saying this, the Prophet pointed his hand towards his mouth.

**"The Hell will be brought on that Day (the Day of Judgment) with seventy bridles every bridle would be controlled by seventy thousand angels."**

**“How can I feel at ease when the Angel of the Trumpet (Israfil) has put his lips to the Trumpet and is waiting for the order to blow it?”**

**”The inhabitant of Hell who will have the lightest punishment will be he who has two firebrands placed in his toes from which his brain will bubble like a pot, and he will think that he is having the severest punishment but in reality he is having the lightest punishment.”**

While the inhabitants of Paradise are permanent dwellers, the inmates of Hell are not necessarily imprisoned there forever; there are some who shall ultimately be freed. The Prophet of Islam said:

**“There shall come out of Hell-fire he who has said, ‘There is no deity except Allah’ and who has in his heart goodness weighing a barely-corn; then there shall come out of Hell-fire he who has said, ‘there is no deity except Allah’ and who has in his heart goodness weighing a grain of wheat; then there shall come out of Hell-fire he who has said, ‘There is no deity except Allah’ and who has in his heart goodness weighing an atom.”**

The Prophet also said:

**“Because the hearts of Muslim sinners had believed in Allah as the only true God, fire will not touch their hearts but only their bodies. After fire purifies them from their sins I will pray to Allah asking Him to grant them forgiveness. Allah will grant them forgiveness, and will allow me to bring them out from the Hell-fire. I will take them to a river called Elhayawan (give life to) where they wash their burnt bodies with its water. Their jet- black carbonized bodies will revive into perfect bodies, and they will enter paradise. Those will be called ‘emancipates of Al Rahman’ (All-Merciful)”.**

Hell however, is an eternal abode for the disbelievers:

**Surely the unbelievers, who have done evil, Allah would not forgive them neither guide them on any road but the road to Hell, therein dwelling forever and ever, and that for Allah is an easy matter(An-Nisa 168, 169).**



The Prophet also talked about some kinds of torture in Hell.

The Prophet's companion Sumurah bin Jundub narrated that one morning the Prophet said:

**“Last night two persons (angels) came to me (in a dream) and woke me up and said to me, ‘proceed!’ I set out with them and we came across a man lying down, and behold, another man was standing over his head, holding a big rock. Behold, he was throwing the rock at the man’s head, smashing it. The rock rolled away and the thrower followed it and took it back. By the time he reached the man, his head returned to its normal state. The thrower then did the same as he had done before. I said to my two companions, ‘Subhan Allah!’ (Glorified and exalted is Allah) Who are these two persons?’ They said, ‘Proceed’ So we proceeded and came to a man lying in a prone position, and another man standing over his head with an iron hook, and behold, he would put the hook in one side of the man’s mouth and tear off that side of his face to the back (of the neck), and similarly tear his nose from front to back, and his eye from front to back. Then he turned to the other side of the man’s face and did just as he had done with the first side. He hardly completed that (second) side when the first side returned to its normal state. Then he returned to it to repeat what he had done before. I said to my two companions, ‘Subhan Allah!’ Who are these two persons?’ They said to me, ‘proceed!’ And so we proceeded and came across something like a Tannur (a kind of baking oven, a pit usually clay lined for baking bread).’ In that oven there was much noise and voices. We looked into it and found naked men and women, and behold, a flame of fire was reaching to them from underneath, and when it reached them they cried loudly. I asked them, ‘Who are these?’ They said to me, ‘Proceed!’ And so we proceeded and came across a river red like blood. In the river there was a man swimming and on the bank there was a man who had collected many stones. While the other man was swimming, the man on the bank went near him. The former opened his mouth and the latter threw a stone into his mouth whereupon he went swimming again. Then again he returned to him and every time the former returned, he opened his mouth, and the latter threw a stone into it, and so on the performance was repeated. I asked my two companions, ‘Who are these two persons?’ They replied, ‘Proceed!’ And we proceeded till we came to a man with a repulsive appearance, the most repulsive appearance you ever saw a man having! Beside him there was a fire, and he was**

kindling it and running around it. I asked my companions, ‘Who is this man?’ They said to me, ‘Proceed! Proceed!’ So we proceeded till we reached a garden of deep green dense vegetation, having all sorts of spring colors. In the midst of the garden there was a very tall man, and I could hardly see his face because of his great height, and around him there were children in such a large number as I have never seen. I said to my companions, ‘Who is this?’ They replied, ‘Proceed, Proceed!’ So we proceeded till we came to a majestic huge garden, greater and better than I have ever seen! My two companions said to me, ‘Ascend up’ and I ascended up. So we ascended up till we reached a city built of gold and silver bricks, and we went to its gate and asked (the gatekeeper) to open the gate, and it was opened and we entered the city and found in it men with one side of their bodies as handsome as the most handsome person you have ever seen, and the other side as ugly as the ugliest person you have ever seen. My two companions ordered those men to throw themselves into the river. Behold, there was a river flowing across the city, and its water was like milk in whiteness. Those men went and threw themselves in it and then returned to us after the ugliness of their bodies disappeared, and they became in the best shape.”

The Prophet further added, ‘My two companions said to me, ‘This place is the And (Aden) Paradise, and that is your place.’ I Raised up my sight, and behold, there I saw a palace like a white cloud! I said to them, ‘May Allah bless you both! Let me enter it.’ They replied. ‘As for now, you will not enter it, but you shall enter it one day.’

I said to them, ‘I have seen many wonders tonight. What does that all mean which I have seen?’

They replied, ‘We will inform you: As for the first man you came upon whose head was being smashed with the rock, he is the symbol of the one who studies the Koran, and then neither recites it, nor acts on its orders, and sleeps, neglecting the enjoined prayers.

As for the man you came upon, whose sides of mouth, nostrils, and eyes were turn off from front to back, he is the symbol of the man who goes out of his house in the morning and tell lies that are spread all over the world.

And those naked men and women whom you saw in a construction resembling an oven, they are the adulterers and the adulteresses.

And the man whom you saw swimming in the river, and was given a stone to swallow, is the eater of Reba (usury).

**And the bad looking man whom you saw near the fire kindling it and going around it, is Malik; the gatekeeper of Hell.**

**And the tall man, whom you saw in the garden, is Ibrahîm (Abraham), and the children around him are those who die on alfitrah (Islamic Faith of monotheism).’ (84).**

The narrator added: Some Muslims asked the Prophet, “O Allah’s Messenger! What about the children of Al-Mushrikûn (polytheists, pagans, idolaters, and disbelievers in the Oneness of Allah and in His Messenger Muhammad peace be upon him)?”

The Prophet replied, **“And also the children of Al-Mushrikûn.”**

The Prophet continued, “My two companions added, **“The men you saw half handsome and half ugly were those persons who had mixed an act that was good with another that was evil, but Allah forgave them.”** (Sahîh Al-Bukhâri, vol.9, Hadith No. 171).

The Prophet talked about life after death and torture in the grave before Resurrection.

Aisha the Prophet’s wife reported that a Jewess visited her and made a mention of torture of the grave and said, ‘May Allah save you from the torture of the grave. Afterwards Aisha asked the Messenger of Allah - peace and blessings of Allah be upon him – about the torture of the grave and he said:

**”yes, torture of the grave is an undeniable fact.”** (agreed upon).

Othman the third caliph of Muslims and one of the greatest companions of the Prophet reported that when the Holy Prophet had completed the burial of the dead he stood on his grave and said:

**”Seek forgiveness for your brother and beseech (Allah) for his steadfastness (in the hour of his trial in the grave) for now he is being questioned.”** (Abu Dawud).

Al-Bara’ bin Azib narrated that the Messenger of Allah said:

**”Two angels come to him (the dead in the grave) and make him sit and then ask him, ‘Who is your Lord?’ He says that his Lord is Allah. Then**

**they say to him, ‘what is your religion?’ He says, ‘My religion is Islam’. Then they say, ‘who is that man who was sent amongst you?’ He says, ‘He is the Messenger of Allah.’ Then they say to him, ‘What makes you recognize him?’ He says, ‘I have recited the Book of Allah then affirmed my faith in it, and borne testimony that it is His word, that is the meaning of the verse: (Allah grants steadfastness to those who believe in Him with the firmly established word).**

**The Holy Prophet then said, ‘At that time an announcer from the Heaven would announce: My servant had spoken the truth. He would then order them (angels) to prepare for him bedding from Paradise and put upon him a dress of Paradise and open for him a door to the Paradise, so it would be opened.**

**The Messenger of Allah then said: ‘Afterwards its (of paradise) wind and odor would be perceived by him and his grave would be expanded for him to the extent of his sight.**

And as for the unbeliever he (the Holy Prophet) made a mention of his death saying:

**"His spirit is sent back to his body and two angels come to him and make him sit then say to him, ‘Who is your Lord?’ He says in response, ‘O, O, I know not.’ Then they say to him, ‘what is your religion?’ He says, O, O, I know nothing.’ Then they say, ‘Who is this man who was sent amongst you?’ He says, ‘O, O, I know not.’ Then an announcer from the Heaven called out that he has told a lie. So He orders them to prepare for him bedding of fire, put on him a dress of fire, and open for him a door to the fire.”**

The Prophet then said, **‘then its heat and hot wind reached him.’**

The Prophet also said, **‘His grave is narrowed till his ribs enter into one another. Then a blind and deaf angel is appointed for him. There is an iron rod with him. If the mountain were to be struck thereby, it would have become dust (powder).**

**So he strikes him with one stroke with it and its sound is heard by all creatures. So he becomes earth powder, then (again and again) his soul is returned to his body and he is again struck.”** (Musnad Ahmad and Abu Dawud).

Aisha reported that she heard the Messenger of Allah as saying:

**“People will be resurrected and gathered at the Day of Resurrection bare footed, naked and not circumcised.”**

I said, “Messenger of Allah, will the men and women be together and one of them shall look at the other?”

He said, **“Aisha, the condition will be so terrible that one would not be able to look at the other.”** (agreed upon).

Abu Sa’id al-Khudri reported that the Holy Prophet as saying:

**“Allah the Most High shall address Adam and he will say in response, ‘Here I am at Thy service, my Lord, and for Thy good and all benevolence is in Thy hand.’**

**Allah shall say, ‘Bring out (of your children) the group who deserve to be sent to the Hell-Fire.**

**He will ask, ‘And who are the people to be thrown into the Hell-Fire?’**

**Allah shall say, ‘From every thousand, nine hundred ninety-nine people. At that time the child will appear old and every pregnant female shall undergo the pang of abortion. And you see the people in the state of delirium whereas really they will not be in the state of delirium but because the torture of Allah will be very severe.’** (agreed upon).

Adi bin Hatim reported that the Messenger of Allah said:

**None is amongst you but his Lord will speak to him, nor will any curtain conceal Him. Then he will look at his right side and he will see nothing but his deeds he has sent forward. And he will look at his left side and he will see nothing but what he has sent forward. He will look before him and he will see nothing but Hell-Fire before his face. So, seek protection from Hell-fire even by charity of a fraction of a date.”** (agreed upon).

Ibn Omar reported that the Messenger of Allah said:

**Verily Allah will draw near the believer (on the Day of Judgment) and put his side on him and conceal him, and then He will ask him whether he knows his such and such sin? He will reply to his Lord in affirmative**

**and will confess all his sins, and he will feel in his mind that, undoubtedly, he is destroyed. Then Allah says, ‘I have concealed your sin in the worldly life and today I will forgive it. The believer will then be given his records of virtues. And as for the unbelievers and hypocrites they shall be called out before the whole creatures: ‘These are the people who had belied their lord. Beware! Allah’s curse be upon the oppressors.’ (agreed upon).**

Abu Hurairah reported that the Messenger of Allah said:

**Everyone who die, regrets.** The companions said, ‘Messenger of Allah, what is his regret?’ He said, **‘If he is virtuous, he will regret that he could not increase his good deeds. And if he is sinful, he will regret that he could not abstain from committing sins.’** (Tirmizi).

Aisha reported that she heard the Messenger of Allah as saying in one of his prayers:

**’O Allah, judge me lightly’**

I said, ‘Prophet of Allah, what is light judgment?’

He said: **‘that Allah look at my scroll and forgive me. Verily, he who will be judged strictly on that Day, O Aisha, he is in fact ruined.’** (Musnad Ahmad).