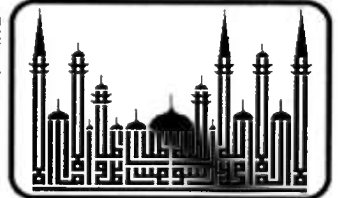


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Perspectives



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Editorial

In the last few decades, Neuroscience has identified the frontal-lobe of the brain as the area involved in the motivation and the foresight to plan, and to initiate movements. It is also thought to be the functional center for aggression.

Over 1400 years ago, the Qur'an referred to the frontal lobe as the area responsible for planning, motivating, and initiating good and sinful behavior, and as responsible for telling lies and speaking the truth. This is clear from the following two Qur'anic verses:

كَلَّا لئن لَمْ يَنْتَه لَنْسَفَعَا بِالنَّاصِيَةِ .
 نَاصِيَةٍ كَاذِبَةٍ خَاطِئَةٍ .
 (سورة العلق - آيات ١٥ و ١٦)

Nay! If he ceases not, We will catch him by the forelock (frontal lobe). A lying, sinful forelock!

(Qur'an 96:15,16)

The emerging science of "neurotheology", which aims at exploring the neurological underpinnings of spiritual and mystical experience, has discovered that the frontal-lobe circuits surge with activity when the person is involved in intense prayer, or uplifting ritual experience.

This gives a new dimension to the act of *sujjud* (prostration) to Allah, and of putting our forehead (the closest part of our face to the frontal lobe of the brain) on the ground. It helps us to understand the authentic *hadith* :

أقرب ما يكون العبد من ربه وهو
 ساجد فأكثروا الدعاء .
 (صحيح مسلم)

The person is closest to Allah during sujjud. Therefore, make as much Du'a (supplication) as you can. (Sahih Muslim)

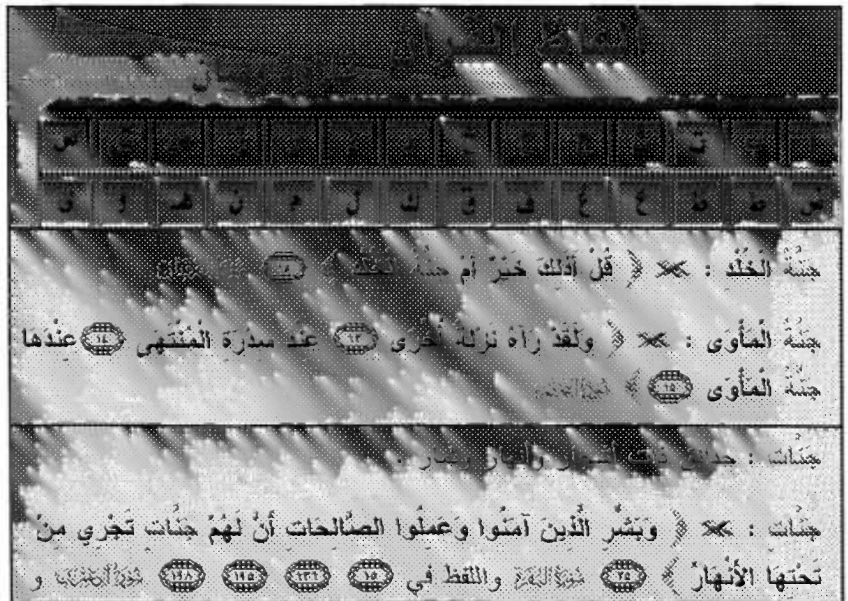
If the *sujjud* is performed with intense concentration, as a sign of loyalty and obedience to the Creator, it gives the feeling of spiritual enlightenment, inner peace and tranquillity.

I pray to Almighty Allah to give us the guidance and the strength to benefit from our *salah* and our *sujjud*, and to guard our frontal lobes, our brains and other organs from evil.

Ameen ☐

Electronic Lexicon of the Qur'anic Terms

A new software entitled *Alfadh Al-Qur'an (Recitation and Explanation)* has been developed by **Harf Information Technology**. The program is in Arabic. It includes a lexicon of the entire Qur'anic terms linked to indexes. The program has a morphological search for words or phrases at different levels. Qur'anic verses are displayed along with their explanation. Detailed information on each *Surah* in which the selected word occurs, including part number, and the order of revelation. Audio facility is also provided to listen to the recitation of the verses. The program runs under Windows 95, 98 or 2000 and can be obtained from **Digitek International Inc.**, 7631 Leesburg Pike, Suite B, Falls Church, VA 22043, Tel. (800) 33-Sakhr. ☐



Reflections

Dr. Ahmed K. Noor

Gardens of the Hereafter (Eternal Jannat / Paradise)

جَنَّاتِ الْآخِرَةِ

The hope and aspiration of every believer in God is to go to the Eternal Jannat (heaven / paradise). Many books and articles have been written about heaven and hell. In this article an attempt is made to give brief and simple descriptions of some aspects of the Eternal Jannat as presented in the Qur'an and the authentic *hadiths* (sayings of the Prophet - PBUH).

The Arabic word Jannah (Garden) جنة

The word *Jannah* and its derivatives are mentioned 147 times in the Qur'an. The word *Jannah* (Garden), plural *Jannat* (Gardens), comes from the root *Janna* جَنَّ which means covering. The trees of the Gardens mentioned in the Qur'an had many fruits and thick branches, which covered whoever lived there. The Qur'an mentions three categories of the Gardens (see the figure on page 3): The Garden which Allah send Adam and his wife to; Gardens on earth; and the Eternal Gardens of the hereafter, which are the focus of the present article. Varieties of Eternal Jannat are mentioned in the Qur'an, including Gardens of eternity / perpetual abode عدن , Gardens of delight / bliss جنات النعيم , Gardens of abode / repose جنات المأوى , and Al-Ferdous Gardens جنات الفردوس , which are the highest place in the middle of the Eternal Jannat. Henceforth, the Eternal Jannat will be referred to collectively as Paradise.

The fact that the inhabitants of paradise will become immortal, and remain there forever, is explicitly stated in 26 verses of the Qur'an. According to an authentic saying of the Prophet (PBUH), death will be placed between

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ
خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَمَسَاكِنَ طَيِّبَةً فِي جَنَّاتِ عَدْنٍ وَرِضْوَانٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ
ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ .
(سورة التوبة آية ٧٢)

Allah has promised to believers, men and women, Gardens under which rivers flow, to dwell therein, and beautiful mansions in Gardens of everlasting stay but the greatest bliss is the good pleasure of Allah that is the supreme triumph.

(Qur'an 9:72)

paradise and hell, and slaughtered.

Brief Description of Paradise

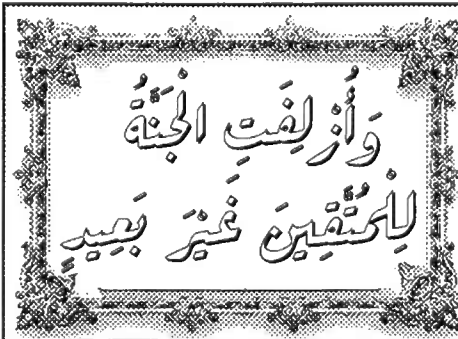
In Islam, Paradise is a final state of bliss. It is a place of fuller life beyond the grave, and of exceptional happiness and delight. In Paradise there will be complete satisfaction of human desires, and absence of sickness, pain, suffering and sadness. No words in the human languages can adequately describe the spiritual and sensual pleasure, enjoyment and bliss of paradise. This is clear from the Divine *hadith*:

I have prepared for My righteous servants what no eye has ever seen and no ear has ever heard, not has it ever occurred to human heart. Thus recite if you wish: and no soul knows what joy for them (the inhabitants of Paradise) has been kept hidden (Qur'an 32:17)

(Hadith Qudsi - Sahih Al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim)

Since the nature of paradise is far beyond our comprehension, its descriptions given in the Qur'an, and in the authentic *hadiths*, are allegorical.

Among the descriptions of paradise in the Qur'an are the following two (see the figure on page 5):



And the Jannah will be brought near to the people who have taqwa (consciousness of the presence of Allah), not far off" (Qur'an 50:31)

قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم
قال الله أعددت لعبادي الصالحين ما
لا عين رأت ولا أذن سمعت ولا
خطر على قلب بشر فاقروا إن
شئتم { فَلَا تَعْلَمُ نَفْسٌ مَّا أُخْفِيَ لَهُمْ
مِن قُرَّةِ أَعْيُنٍ } .
(حديث قدسي - صحيح البخاري
و صحيح مسلم)

مَثَلُ الْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي وَعَدَ الْمُتَّقُونَ تَجْرِي
مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ أَكْلُهَا دَائِمٌ وَظِلُّهَا
تِلْكَ عُقْبَى الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا وَعُقْبَى الْكَافِرِينَ
النَّارُ . (سورة الرعد - آية ٣٥)

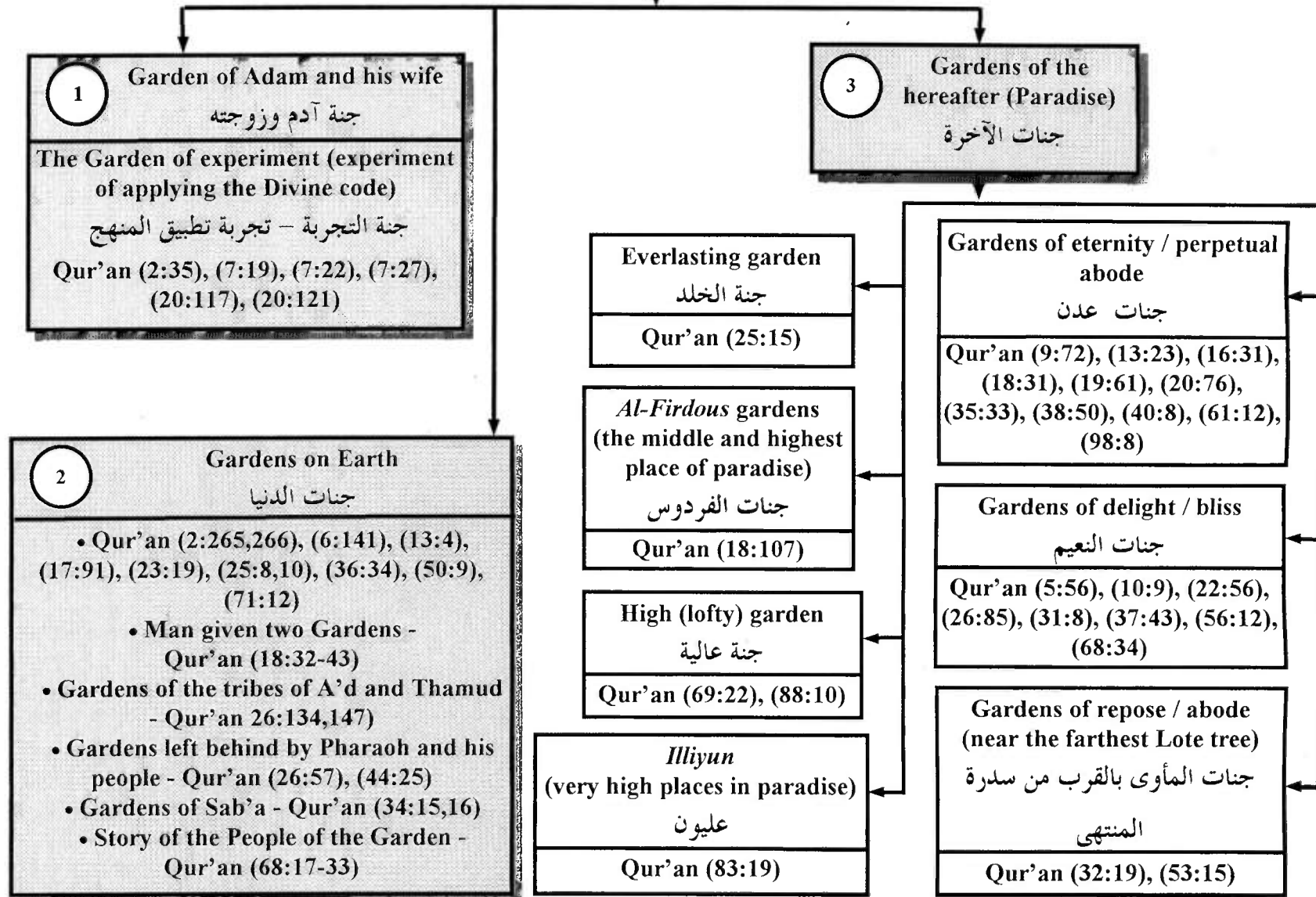
"The parable of the Garden which the righteous are promised! Beneath it flow rivers, its food and its shade shall be perpetual. Such is the compensation for the Righteous; and the end of unbelievers will be the fire."

(Qur'an 13:35)

مَثَلُ الْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي وَعَدَ الْمُتَّقُونَ فِيهَا
أَنْهَارٌ مِّن مَّاءٍ غَيْرِ آسِنٍ وَأَنْهَارٌ مِّن
لَّبَنٍ لَّمْ يَتَغَيَّرْ طَعْمُهُ وَأَنْهَارٌ مِّنْ خَمْرٍ لَّذَّةٍ
لِّلشَّارِبِينَ وَأَنْهَارٌ مِّنْ عَسَلٍ مُّصَفًّى وَلَهُمْ
فِيهَا مِن كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ وَمَغْفِرَةٌ مِّن
رَّبِّهِمْ كَمَنْ هُوَ خَالِدٌ فِي النَّارِ وَسُقُوا
مَاءً حَمِيمًا فَفَطَعُ أَمْعَاءَهُمْ .
(سورة محمد - آية ١٥)

(سورة محمد - آية ١٥)

Jannat (Gardens) mentioned in the Qur'an جنات ذكرت في القرآن



“ (Here is) a parable of the Garden which the righteous are promised: in it are rivers of water incorruptible; rivers of milk of which the taste never changes; rivers of wine, a joy to those who drink; and rivers of honey pure and clear. In it there are for them all kinds of fruits; and Grace from their Lord. (Can those in such Bliss) Be compared to such as shall dwell forever in the fire, and be given, to drink, boiling water, so that it cuts up their bowels (to pieces).”

(Qur'an 47:15)

Note that in the aforementioned two verses the word *matal* مثل (parable or allegory) is used before the description of paradise.

Some of the descriptions of paradise in the authentic *hadiths* are the following (see the figure on page 5):

إن في الجنة مائة درجة أعدها الله للمجاهدين في سبيل الله ما بين الدرجتين كما بين السماء والأرض .
(صحيح البخاري)

In Paradise there are a hundred grades (sections) which Allah has prepared for those who strive hard in His cause; and the distance between any two of those grades (sections) is like the distance between the heaven and the earth.

(Sahih Al-Bukhari)

في الجنة ثمانية أبواب فيها باب يسمى الرِّيَّان لا يدخله إلا الصائمون .
(صحيح البخاري)

In Paradise there are eight gates. The gate called Al-Rayyan is reserved for those who fast. (Sahih Al-Bukhari)

إن في الجنة شجرة يسير الراكب في ظلها مائة سنة ما يقطعها .
(صحيح البخاري وصحيح مسلم)

There is a tree in Paradise that is so huge that a rider will not be able to cross its (the tree's) shade even after traveling for one hundred years.

(Sahih Al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim)

Companions (inhabitants) of Paradise

The Qur'an mentions the categories of people who attain paradise. These include (see the figure on page 7) :

- The believers who do righteous deeds

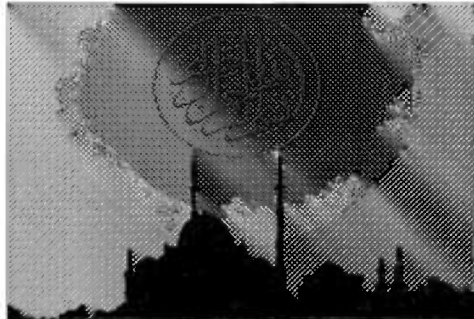
وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمْ فِيهَا
خَالِدُونَ. (سورة البقرة - آية ٨٢)

But those who have faith and work righteousness, they are companions of the Garden: therein shall they abide (for ever). (Qur'an 2:82)

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ النَّعِيمِ .

(سورة لقمان - آية ٨)

For those who believe and work righteous deeds, there will be Gardens of bliss. (Qur'an 31:8)



- The ones who have *taqwa* (consciousness of the presence of Allah) - the Jannah will be brought near them (Qur'an 50:31 - see the center of page 2)

- The ones who obey Allah and His messenger.

وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ يُدْخِلْهُ جَنَّاتٍ
تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا
فِيهَا . (سورة النساء - من آية ١٣)

Those who obey Allah and His messenger will be admitted to Gardens with rivers flowing beneath, to abide therein (for ever). (Qur'an 4:13)

- The ones who migrate and strive

hard in the way of Allah.

فَالَّذِينَ هَاجَرُوا وَأُخْرِجُوا مِنْ دِيَارِهِمْ
وَأُودُوا فِي سَبِيلِي وَقَاتَلُوا وَقُتِلُوا
لَأُكَفِّرَنَّ عَنْهُمْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ وَلَأُدْخِلَنَّهُمْ
جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ .
(سورة آل عمران - من آية ١٩٥)

Those who have left their homes, and were driven out therefrom, and suffered harm in My cause, and fought and were slain, verily, I will blot out from them their iniquities, and admit them into Gardens with rivers flowing beneath. (Qur'an 3:195)

- Wrong doers, who sincerely repent (before their death and before the final hour), believe and do righteous deeds.

إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَءَامَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا
فَأُولَٰئِكَ يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ وَلَا يظَلَمُونَ
شَيْئًا . (سورة مريم آية ٦٠)

Except those who repent and believe, and work righteousness: for these will enter the Garden and will not be wronged in the least. (Qur'an 19:60)

Conditions of the companions (inhabitants) of paradise

- Allah is well pleased with them and they with Him.

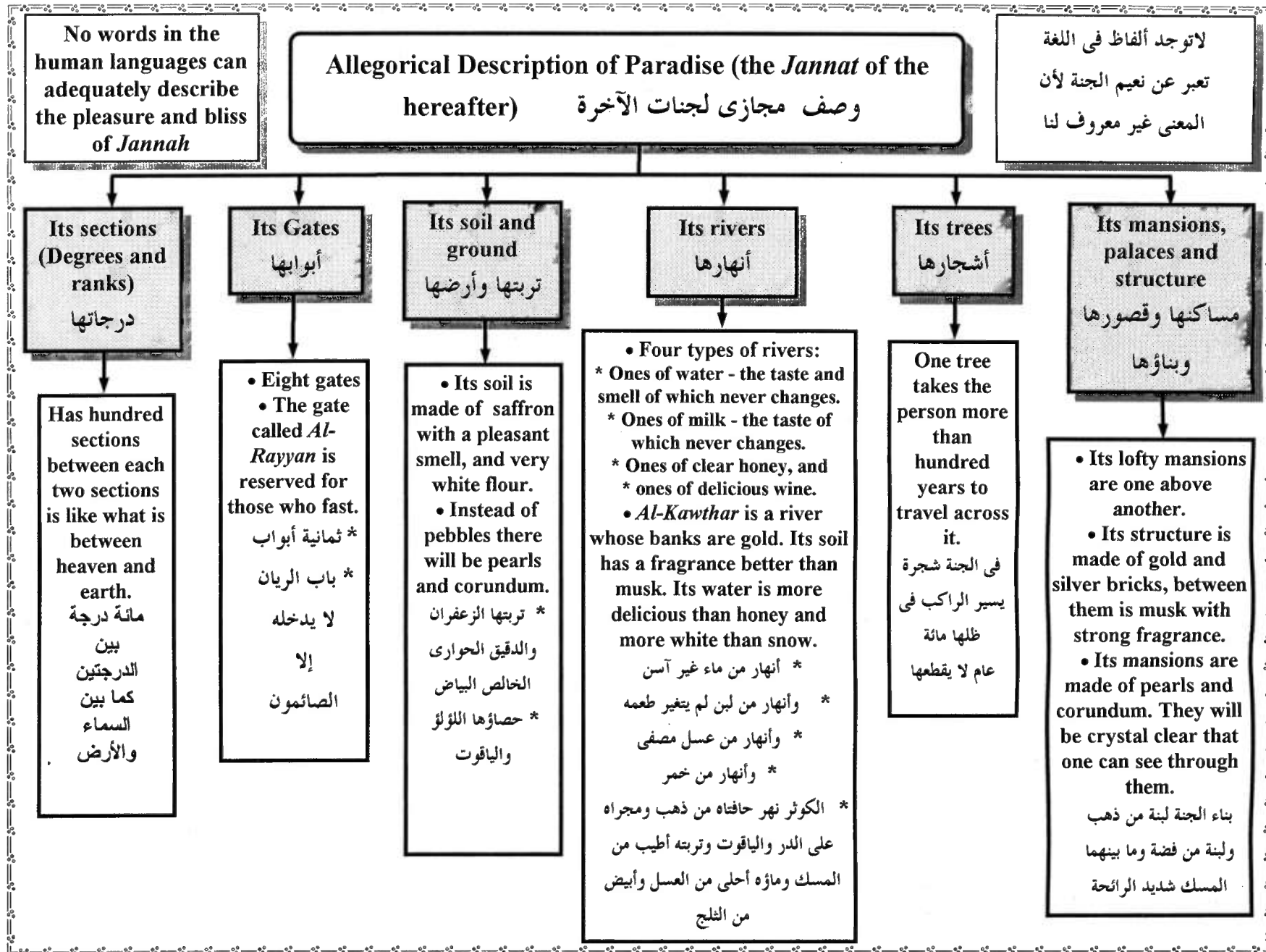
جَزَاءُ لَهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ
تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا
أَبَدًا رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ ذَلِكَ
لِمَنْ حَسِبَ رَبَّهُ .

(سورة البينة - آية ٨)

Their reward is with Allah: Gardens of eternity, beneath which rivers flow; they will dwell therein for ever; Allah well pleased with them, and they with Him: all this for such as fear their Lord and Cherisher. (Qur'an 98:8)

- They enter there in peace and security, and the angels salute them.





لَهُمْ دَارُ السَّلَامِ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ .
(سورة الأنعام - من آية ١٢٧)

For them will be a home of peace with their Lord. (Qur'an 6:127)

اذْخُلُوهَا بِسَلَامٍ ءَامِنِينَ .
(سورة الحجر - آية ٤٦)

(Their greeting will be); "enter you here in peace and security." (Qur'an 15:46)

- Rancor and ill-feeling is removed from their hearts.

وَنَزَعْنَا مَا فِي صُدُورِهِمْ مِّنْ غَلٍّ
إِخْوَانًا عَلَى سُرُرٍ مُّتَقَابِلِينَ .
(سورة الحجر - آية ٤٧)

And We shall remove from their hearts any lurking sense of injury; (they will be) brothers (joyfully) facing each other on raised couches. (Qur'an 15:47)

- They have pure mates and never age.

لَهُمْ فِيهَا أَزْوَاجٌ مُّطَهَّرَةٌ .
(سورة النساء - من آية ٥٧)

Therein shall they have spouses purified. (Qur'an 4:57)

- They do not suffer from heat or cold weather

لَا يَرَوْنَ فِيهَا شَمْسًا وَلَا زَمَهْرِيرًا .
(سورة الإنسان - من آية ١٣)

They will see there neither the sun's (excessive heat) nor excessive cold. (Qur'an 76:13)

- They wear green garments of the finest silk, gold embroidery and heavy brocade and have bracelets made of gold and pearls.

يُحَلِّوْنَ فِيهَا مِنْ أَسَاوِرَ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ
وَيَلْبَسُونَ ثِيَابًا خُضْرًا مِّنْ سُنْدُسٍ
وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ .
(سورة الكهف - من آية ٣١)

They will be adorned therein with bracelets of gold, and they will wear green garments of fine silk and heavy brocade. (Qur'an 18:31)

يُحَلِّوْنَ فِيهَا مِنْ أَسَاوِرَ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ
وَلؤلؤًا وَلَبَاسَهُمْ فِيهَا حَرِيرٌ .
(سورة الحج - من آية ٢٣)

They shall be adorned therein with bracelets of gold and pearls; and their garments there will be of silk. (Qur'an 22:23)

The food and drink of the dwellers of paradise

- Anything their souls may hanker for, and their eyes delight in.

وَفِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِيهِ الْأَنْفُسُ وَتَلَذُّ
الْأَعْيُنُ. (سورة الزخرف - من آية ٧١)

There will be there all that the souls could desire, all that the eyes could delight in. (Qur'an 43:71)

لَهُمْ مَا يَشَاءُونَ فِيهَا وَلَدَيْنَا مَزِيدٌ .
(سورة ق - آية ٣٥)

There will be for them therein all that they wish, and there is more with Us (Qur'an 50:35)

- Sustenance provided to them morning and evening.

وَهُمْ رِزْقُهُمْ فِيهَا بُكْرَةً وَعَشِيًّا .
(سورة مريم من آية ٦٢)

And they will have therein their sustenance, morning and evening. (Qur'an 19:62)

- Plenteous fruits - of every kind.

وَفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ . لَّا مَقْطُوعَةٍ وَلَا مَمْنُوعَةٍ
(سورة الواقعة - آيات ٣٢ و٣٣)

And fruit in abundance. Whose season is not limited, nor (supply) forbidden. (Qur'an 56:32&33)

يَذْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ .
(سورة ص - من آية ٥١)

Therein can they call (at pleasure) for

fruit in abundance, and (delicious) drink. (Qur'an 38:51)

- Meat - anything they shall desire.

وَأَمَدَدْنَاهُمْ بِفَاكِهَةٍ وَلَحْمٍ مِّمَّا
يَشْتَهُونَ . (سورة الطور - آية ٢٢)

And We shall bestow on them, of fruit and meat, anything they shall desire. (Qur'an 52:22)

وَلَحْمٍ طَيْرٍ مِّمَّا يَشْتَهُونَ .
(سورة الواقعة - آية ٢١)

And the flesh of fowls, any that they may desire. (Qur'an 56:21)

- Silver pitchers and crystal goblets will be passed around them.

وَيُطَافُ عَلَيْهِمْ بِبِئَانِيَةٍ مِّنْ فِضَّةٍ
وَأَكْوَابٍ كَانَتْ قَوَارِيرًا .
(سورة الإنسان - آية ١٥)

And amongst them will be passed round vessels of silver and goblets of crystal. (Qur'an 76:15)

- They will be offered pure drinks, and drinks flavored with *Kafur* (camphor) and *Zanjabil* (ginger) from a spring called *Salsabil* (Nectar).

يَشْرَبُونَ مِنْ كَأْسٍ كَانَ مِزَاجُهَا كَافُورًا
(سورة الإنسان - من آية ٥)

They shall drink of a cup mixed with Kafur (camphor). (Qur'an 76:5)

وَيُنشَقُونَ فِيهَا كَأْسًا كَانَ مِزَاجُهَا
رِزْجَبِيلًا عَيْنًا فِيهَا تُسَمَّى سَلْسَبِيلًا .
(سورة الإنسان - آيات ١٧ و١٨)

And they will be given to drink there of a cup mixed with Zanjabil (ginger). A fountain there called Salsabil.

(Qur'an 76:17&18)

I pray to Almighty Allah to strengthen our *Iman* (faith), protect us from the evil temptations of *Shaitan* (the evil one), and to provide us with opportunities to perform the righteous deeds that please Him, and through His mercy, admit us to paradise. □

The companions of Paradise (*Jannat* of the hereafter) and allegorical description of their food and drinks
 أهل الجنة في الآخرة ووصف مجازي لطعامهم وشرابهم

Who are they?

من هم؟

- Had pure faith and sound hearts.
- Followed the straight path.
- They had *taqwa* (consciousness of the Presence) of Allah.
- Worked deeds of righteousness.

Their condition

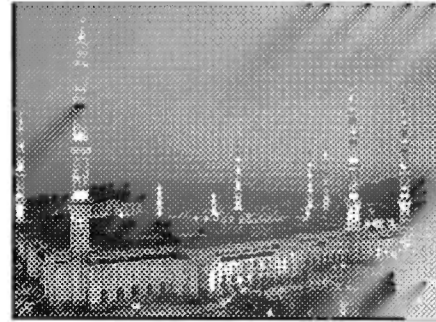
أحوالهم

- Allah is well pleased with them and they with Him. They receive the grace, honor and bounty of Allah.
- They enter there in peace, the Angels salute them, their greeting is *salam* (peace).
- They enjoy eternal peace, tranquillity and happiness.
- Rancour and ill-feeling is removed from their hearts. They will have no fear nor will they grieve.
- They have pure mates and never age.
- They do not suffer from heat or cold weather.
- They are well served.
- Reclining upon thrones of raised couches in pleasant shade.
- They wear green garments of the finest silk, gold embroidery and heavy brocade, and have bracelets of gold and pearls.

Their food

طعامهم

- All that their souls could desire, and all that their eyes could delight in (perpetual enjoyment).
- Sustenance provided morning and evening.
- Plenteous fruits - of every kind, - any that they select, in abundance.
- Meat - anything they shall desire.



Their drinks

شرابهم

- Silver pitchers will be passed around them, and glasses made from crystal, crystal set with silver, which they will measure out as they please.
- They will be offered pure drinks, and drinks flavored with *Kafur* (camphor) and *Zanjabil* (ginger) (from) a spring called *Salsabil* (Nectar).