

رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

LOWER
YOUR
WING

The Noblest Husband





In the Name of Allah,
The Compassionate, The Merciful



LOWER
YOUR
WING

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WING



صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ



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



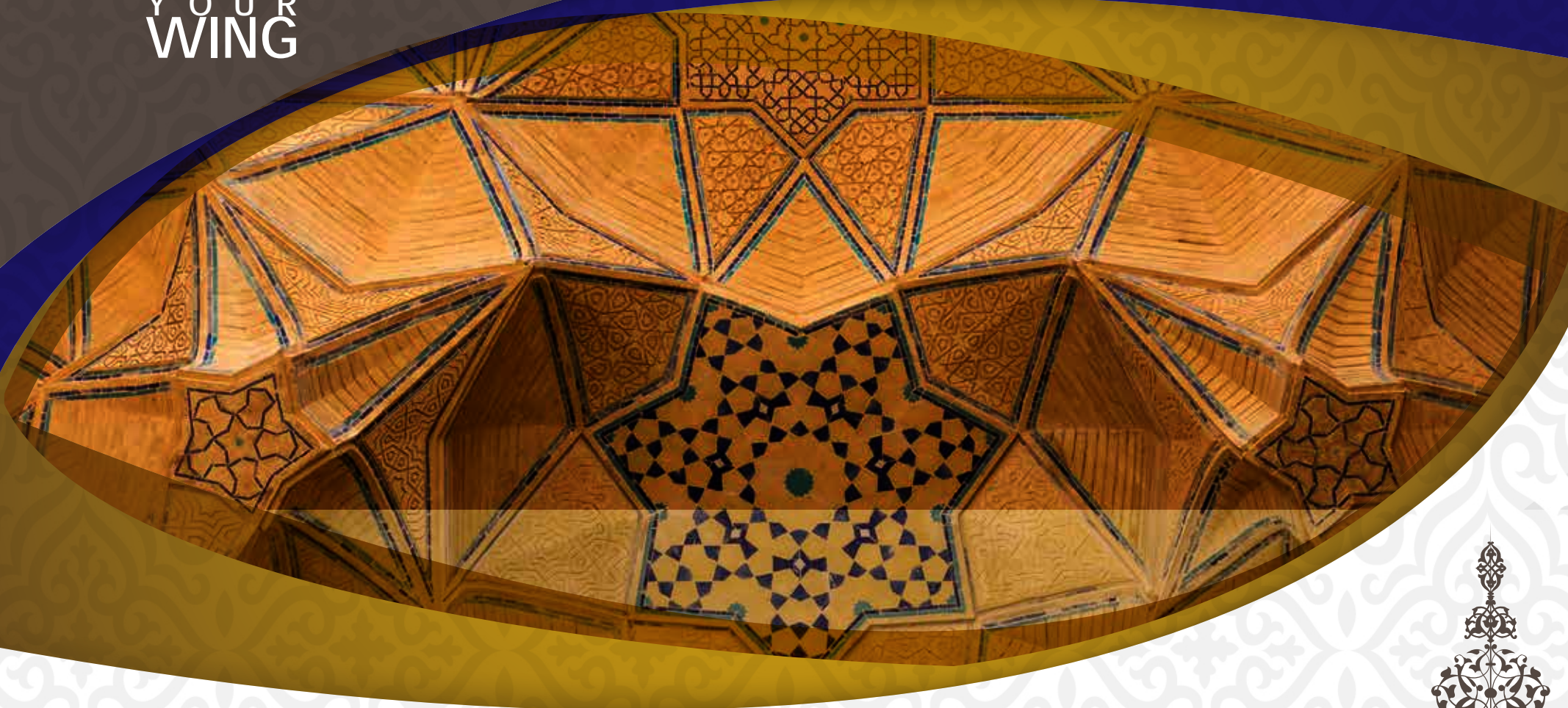
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Concerning wives, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said to husbands:

- **“Women are the counterparts of men.”⁽¹⁾**
- **“The most perfect of believers in faith are those who are most nobly mannered, and the best of you are those who are the most mannerly towards their wives.”⁽²⁾**
- **“The best of you is he who is best to his wife, and I am the best of you to my wife.”⁽³⁾**



(1) Lady 'Aishah, Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of At-Taharah (Purification), Hadith no. 105.

(2) Abu Hurairah, Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Ar-Rada' (Breastfeeding), Hadith no. 1082.

(3) Lady 'Aishah, Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Manaqib, Hadith no. 3830.



The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) shared his life with women, honored them, protected them, helped them, consulted them, listened to them, laughed with them... and even played with them and said, **“Everything with which a Muslim man amuses himself is vain, except his shooting with his bow, his training of his horse, and his playing with his wife, for they are among what is right.”**⁽¹⁾

Lady ‘Aishah narrated, **“The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) raced me, and I outstripped him.”**⁽²⁾ The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) had another race with his wife but this time he (peace and blessings be upon him) outstripped her. She said, **“When I became**



⁽¹⁾ ‘Uqbah bin ‘Amir Al-Juhany, Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of Jihad, Hadith no. 2801.

⁽²⁾ Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of An-Nikah, Hadith no. 1969.



fleshy, I raced him (again) and he (peace and blessings be upon him) outstripped me, saying, ‘This (makes up) for that.’”(1)

On a feast day, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) stood at the door of Lady ‘Aishah’s house while some Abyssinians (Ethiopians) were playing with their spears in the Masjid, screening his wife with his garment and lowering his shoulders to enable her to see their display. She kept watching until she was content. Lady ‘Aishah narrated:

It was a feast day, when Africans would play with leather shields and spears. Either I requested from the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be

(1) Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Jihad, Hadith no. 2214.





upon him) or he (peace and blessings be upon him) himself asked me whether I would like to see the display. I replied in the affirmative. He (peace and blessings be upon him) made me stand behind him, my cheek touching his cheek. He (peace and blessings be upon him) was saying, **“Carry on, O Banu Arfida!”** When I became bored, he (peace and blessings be upon him) asked me, **“Had you enough?”** I said, **“Yes.”** So he (peace and blessings be upon him) asked me to leave. ⁽¹⁾

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) did not belittle the special world of woman, her tales, interests, likes and dislikes, and the way she sometimes gets attached to certain possessions - perhaps a necklace. Lady ‘Aishah narrated:

⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Jihad wa Al-Siyar, Hadith no. 2691.





We set out with the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) on one of his journeys. When we were at Al-Baida' or Dhatul-Jaish, a necklace of mine was broken (and lost).

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) stayed there to search for it, and people stayed with him. They were not at a place of water, nor did they have any water with them. The people went to Abu Bakr As-Siddiq (my father) and said, **“Do you not see what ‘Aishah has done? She made the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and the people stay where there is no water, nor do they have water with them.”**





Abu Bakr came while the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was sleeping with his head reclining on my thigh. He said (to me), “You have detained the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and the people where there is no water, nor do they have water with them.”

Abu Bakr admonished me and said what Allah wished him to say. He started to jab me in my flank with his hand. The only thing that prevented me from stirring (because of pain) was the position of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) on my thigh. When the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) woke up at dawn there was no water; consequently, Allah





revealed the Ayah of Tayammum.⁽¹⁾ Usaid bin Hudair said, “This is not the first of your blessings, O family of Abu Bakr.” Then we made the camel on which I was riding get up and found the necklace under it.⁽¹⁾

At home, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was not the kind of husband who would sit and have everything done for him. His helping hand was there supporting the hands of the women, giving fodder to the animals, milking the sheep, sweeping the house, mending his shoes, patching his garment, buying things from the marketplace, and serving his family.

- Lady ‘Aishah was asked, “What did the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) used to do in his house?” She replied, “He



⁽¹⁾ Dry ablution; it is performed with clean earth in the absence of water or when one is unable to use water because of illness.

⁽²⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Tafsir Al-Qur’an, Hadith no. 4241.



(peace and blessings be upon him) used to be in the service of his family, and when the time for Salah came, he (peace and blessings be upon him) would go out to Salah.”⁽¹⁾

- Lady ‘Aishah was asked about what the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) used to do in his house and she replied, “He (peace and blessings be upon him) was one of the humans; he (peace and blessings be upon him) used to clean his garment, milk his sheep, and serve himself.”⁽²⁾ She also said, “He (peace and blessings be upon him) used to stitch his garment, mend his shoes, and do what men usually do at their homes.”⁽³⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Adhan, Hadith no. 635.

⁽²⁾ Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Ansar, Hadith no. 24998.

⁽³⁾ Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Ansar, Hadith no. 23756.



At home, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was affectionate and spoke the language of affection and mercy that must exist between spouses. Lady ‘Aishah narrated, “**The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) came to me to kiss me, so I said to him, ‘O Messenger of Allah, I am fasting.’ The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said to me, ‘And I am fasting.’ Then he (peace and blessings be upon him) kissed me.**”⁽¹⁾

At home, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was willing to talk and listen to his wives, and in a life burdened with responsibilities,



⁽¹⁾ *Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Ansar, Hadith no. 25117.*



still he (peace and blessings be upon him) dedicated some time to his wives. Ibn ‘Abbas narrated, “I stayed overnight at the house of my aunt Maymunah. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) talked with his wife for an hour, and then he (peace and blessings be upon him) lay down.”⁽¹⁾

Lady ‘Aishah narrated, “The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) used to offer a two-Rak‘ah prayer (at dawn), and then if I was awake, he (peace and blessings be upon him) would talk to me; otherwise, he (peace and blessings be upon him) would lie down.”⁽²⁾

Closeness and familiarity made the Prophet



⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Tafsir Al-Qur’an, Hadith no. 4203.*

⁽²⁾ *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Jumu‘ah, Hadith no. 1092.*



(peace and blessings be upon him) understand his wives. Through a few words he (peace and blessings be upon him) could easily decipher their feelings. In a mild reproach he (peace and blessings be upon him) once said, as Lady ‘Aishah narrated, “I know when you are pleased with me and when you are angry with me.” ‘Aishah asked, “How do you know that?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “When you are pleased with me, you say, ‘No, by the Lord of Muhammad,’ and when you are angry with me, you say, ‘No, by the Lord of Ibrahim (Abraham, peace and blessings be upon him).” ‘Aishah said, “Yes, but by Allah, O Messenger of Allah, I leave nothing but your name.”⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of An-Nikah, Hadith no. 4827.*



He (peace and blessings be upon him) not only listened to the opinions of his wives, but followed their counsel at times of crisis, as happened in the year of Al-Hudaibiyah. Muslims came a long way, driving their sacrificial animals, hopeful to visit the Ka'bah, but they were inhibited from entering Al-Masjid Al-Haram (the Sacred Mosque) and performing 'Umrah (minor pilgrimage) – an aggression that deeply grieved them. After negotiations, the Hudaibiyah treaty was concluded, in which the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) agreed with the infidels of Quraish that he (peace and blessings be upon him) and his Companions would perform 'Umrah, but not until the next year. 'Umar (may





Allah be pleased with him) narrated:

When the writing down of the treaty was concluded, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said to his Companions, “Get up, slaughter (your sacrifices), and then get your head shaved.” By Allah, none of them got up. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) repeated his order three times, and when none of them got up, he (peace and blessings be upon him) went to Umm Salamah and told her about the attitude of the people he (peace and blessings be upon him) encountered. Umm Salamah said, **“O Prophet of Allah, do you want that (i.e., your order to be carried out)? Go out and do not say a word to any of them until you have slaughtered your sacrifice,**





called your barber, and shaved your head.”

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) went out and did not talk to any of them until he (peace and blessings be upon him) had done that. He (peace and blessings be upon him) slaughtered his sacrifice and called his barber, who shaved his head. Seeing that, the Companions got up, slaughtered their sacrifices, and started shaving the heads of one another.⁽¹⁾

At home, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) had unwavering trust and confidence in his wives. He (peace and blessings be upon him) forbade husbands from behaving with distrust towards their wives, spying on them, or looking for



⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Shurut (Conditions), Hadith no. 2529.*



their lapses. Jabir bin ‘Abdullah (may Allah be pleased with him) said, “The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) forbade that a man should come to his family unexpectedly at night, doubting their fidelity and looking for their lapses.”⁽¹⁾

Anas bin Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) said, “The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) would not come (back from a journey) to his wives at night. He would return to them in the morning or at evening.”⁽²⁾

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “When anyone of you is away (from his house) for a long time, he should not return to his wife at night.”⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Imarah (Emirate), Hadith no. 3559.

⁽²⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Imarah, Hadith no. 3555.

⁽³⁾ Jabir bin ‘Abdullah, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of An-Nikah, Hadith no. 4843.





He (peace and blessings be upon him) taught that mutual trust built between spouses through living together entails support of each other during hard times. When Ubai bin Salul spread a vicious story, slandering the Prophet's wife, Lady 'Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her), the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) stood on the pulpit and defended his wife, saying, **“By Allah, I know nothing except good about my family. And they have mentioned (blamed) a man of whom I know nothing but good, and he has never visited my family except with me.”**⁽¹⁾

At home, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was forgiving and patient. He



⁽¹⁾ Lady 'Aishah, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Tafsir Al-Qur'an, Hadith no. 4381.



(peace and blessings be upon him) excused moments of anger in marital life and allowed giving vent to feelings. ‘Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated:

I once shouted at my wife and she retorted upon me. I disliked that she should answer me back. She said, “Why do you take it ill that I retort upon you? By Allah, the wives of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) retort upon him. Some of them desert him for the whole day until night.” What she said scared me. I said to her, “Whoever does so among them has failed.” Then I dressed myself and went to (my daughter) Hafsa and asked her,





“O Hafsah! Do any of you keep the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) angry all day long until night?” She said, “Yes.” I said, “You have failed and you are ruined! Are you secure against Allah getting angry for the anger of His Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) and you be ruined? Do not ask much of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), do not retort upon him for anything, and do not desert him. Demand from me whatever you like.”⁽¹⁾

An-Nu‘man bin Bashir (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated:

Abu Bakr came asking the permission of the

⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of An-Nikah, Hadith no. 4792.





Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) to enter when he heard 'Aishah speaking to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) in a loud voice. He was given permission. He entered and said, **“O daughter of Umm Ruman!”** and he seized her (to slap her), **“Are you raising your voice to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him).”**

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) interposed himself between her and Abu Bakr. When Abu Bakr went away, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) started to soothe her saying, **“Can you not see that I came between the man and you?”** Abu Bakr then came and asked permission to come in and found the





Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) trying to make her laugh. He was given permission and he entered. Abu Bakr said to him, “**O Messenger of Allah, make me share in your peace as you made me share in your fight.**”⁽¹⁾

At home, like any other home there were times of discord, but the husband there was not like any other husband. He (peace and blessings be upon him) was the man whom Almighty Allah praised, saying: **(And indeed, you are of great moral character.)**⁽²⁾

He (peace and blessings be upon him) taught, through his good behavior and blessed guidance, how marital discord should be quietly and nobly solved. Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) says:

⁽¹⁾ *Musnad Ahmad, Book of Kuffans (Kufis), Hadith no. 17668.*

⁽²⁾ *Translated meanings of Al-Qalam 68: 4.*





(If you fear a breach between the two (the man and his wife), appoint an arbitrator from his family and an arbitrator from her family. If they both wish for peace, Allah will cause their reconciliation.)⁽¹⁾

A disagreement happened between the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and Lady 'Aishah, so he (peace and blessings be upon him) said to her, "Whom do you accept (as a conciliator) between me and you? Do you accept 'Umar?" She said, "I will never accept 'Umar. 'Umar is tough."



⁽¹⁾ Translated meanings of An-Nisa' 4: 35.



He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“Do you accept your father between me and you?”** She said, **“Yes.”**

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) sent for Abu Bakr. When he arrived, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“Shall you speak or shall I speak.”** She said, **“You speak and say nothing but the truth.”** Upon saying this, Abu Bakr lifted his hand and slapped her nose. ‘Aishah ran away from him and sought protection behind the Prophet’s back, until the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said to him, **“I adjure you to leave. We did not call you for this.”**



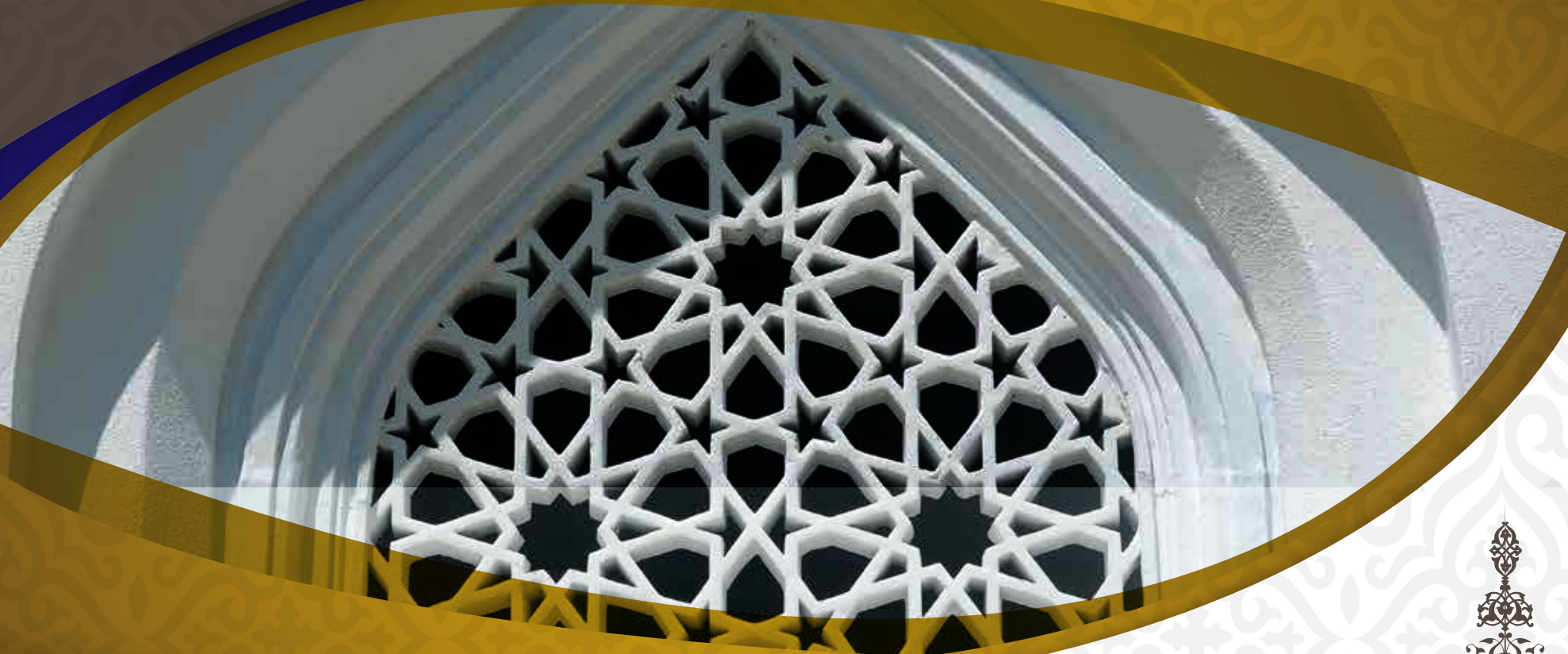


After he left, ‘Aishah rose, so the Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) said to her, **“Come close to me,”** but she refused.

He (peace and blessings be upon him) smiled and said, **“A while ago you were adhering close to my back,”** – alluding to her seeking protection behind his back in fear of her father’s beating of her. When Abu Bakr returned, he found them laughing, so he said, **“Make me share in your peace as you made me share your path.”⁽¹⁾**



(1) Reported by Al-Hafiz Al-Dimashky in *As-Samt Ath-Thameen*.

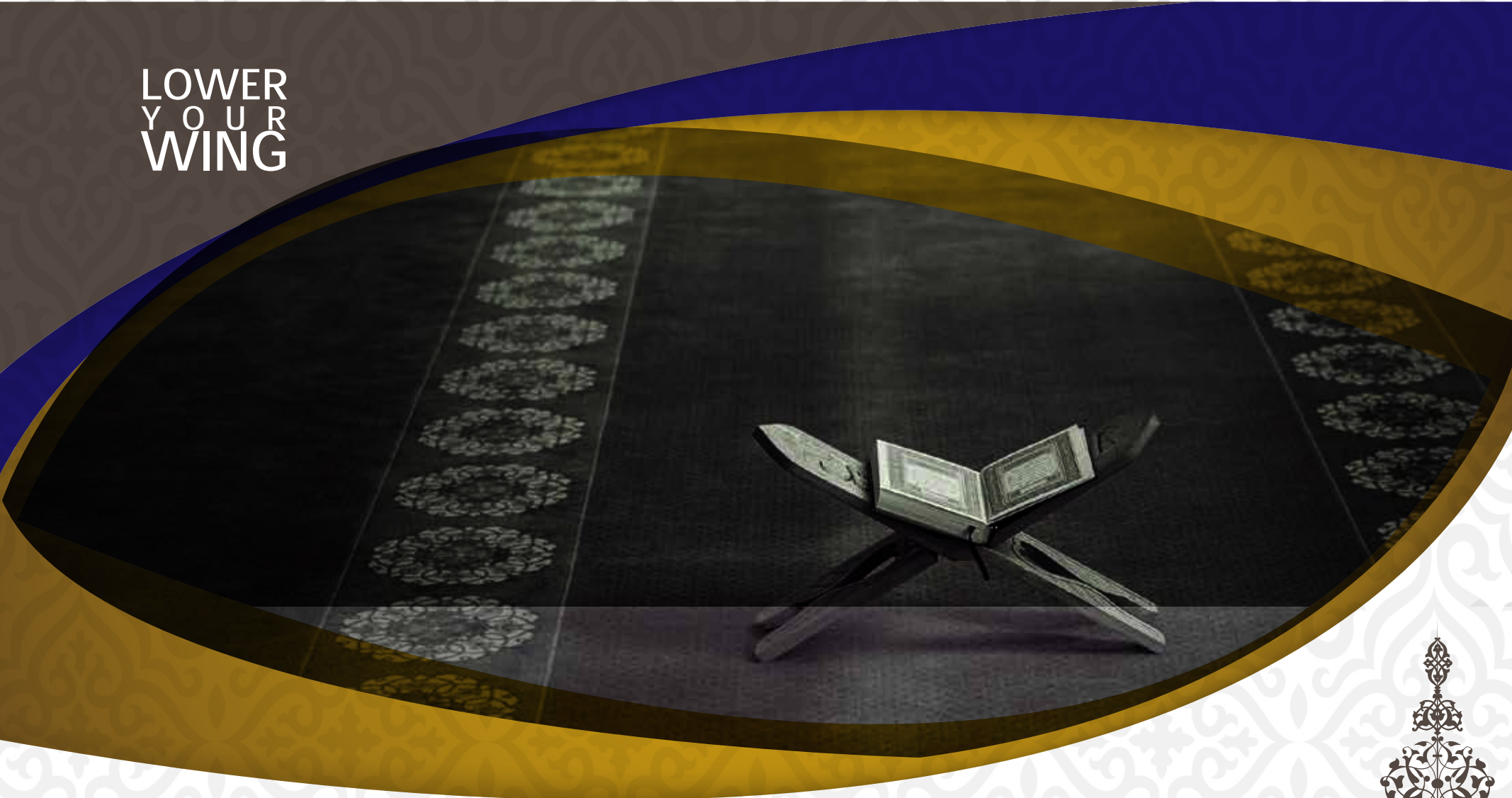


At home, jealousy aroused, which is only natural, especially if the husband was the greatest and noblest of men. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) asked, “**What is wrong with you, ‘Aishah? Do you feel jealous?**” She said, “How can it be that someone like me does not feel jealous over someone like you?”⁽¹⁾

But jealousy never found a wiser healer. Safiyah (may Allah be pleased with her) once learned that Hafsa (may Allah be pleased with her) said (about her), “**The daughter of a Jew,**” which made her cry. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) came to her while she

⁽¹⁾ Lady ‘Aishah, Sahih Muslim, Book of Sifat Al-Qiyamah wa Al-Jannah wa Al-Nar, Hadith no. 5035.



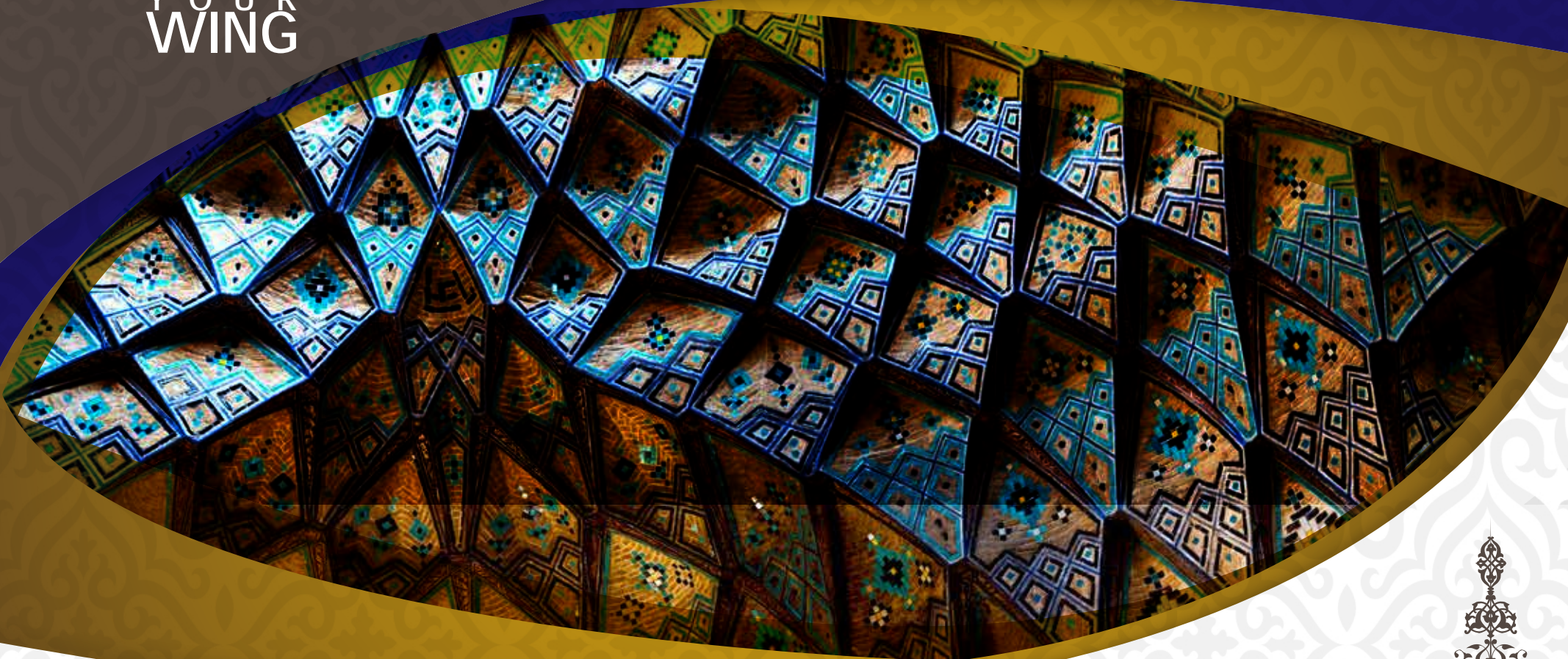


was crying and asked, “What makes you cry?” She said, “Hafsah said to me that I am a daughter of a Jew.”

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Indeed, you are the daughter of a Prophet (Aron, peace and blessings be upon him), and indeed your uncle is a Prophet (Moses, peace and blessings be upon him) and indeed you are the wife of a Prophet (Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him), so what does she have over you to boast about.” Then he (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Fear Allah, O Hafsah.”⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ *Anas bin Malik, Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Manaqib, Hadith no. 3829.*



At home, there were nine wives whom the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) should look after, protect, and provide for, and sometimes they asked him for more. Jabir bin ‘Abdullah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated:

Abu Bakr and ‘Umar sought permission to visit the Messenger of Allah and found him (peace and blessings be upon him) sitting sadly and silently with his wives around him. Abu Bakr said, **“I shall say something to make the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) laugh,”** so he said, **“O Messenger of Allah, I wish you had seen the daughter of Kharijah. She asked me for (more)**





financial support, so I got up and hit her on her neck.” The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) smiled and said, “They are around me as you see, asking me for (more) financial support.” Upon that, Abu Bakr got up to hit ‘Aishah on her neck, and ‘Umar got up to hit Hafsah on her neck, both of them saying, “You are asking the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) for that which he (peace and blessings be upon him) does not have!” They said, “By Allah, we will never ask the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) for anything that he (peace and blessings be upon him) does not have.”





Then he (peace and blessings be upon him) withdrew from them for a month or twenty-nine days, after which the following Ayahs were revealed to him: **(O Prophet! Say to your wives, “If you desire the life of this world and its glitter, then come! I will make a provision for you and set you free in a handsome manner. But if you desire Allah and His Messenger, and the Home of the Hereafter, then verily, Allah has prepared for the doers of good among you an enormous reward.”)**⁽¹⁾

He (peace and blessings be upon him) started with ‘Aishah and said, **“O ‘Aishah, I want to propound to you a matter. I would like**



⁽¹⁾ *Translated meanings of Al-Ahzab 33: 2829-.*



you not to hasten in it until you consult your parents.” She said, “What is it, O Messenger of Allah?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) recited to her the Ayah, to which she replied, “About you, O Messenger of Allah, shall I consult my parents? Nay, I choose Allah, His Messenger, and the Home of the Hereafter; but I ask you not to tell any of your wives what I have said.”

He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Any woman of them who asks me I shall tell her. Allah did not send me to make things hard, or look for (people’s) lapses, but He has sent me as a teacher who makes things easy.”⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of At-Talaq, Hadith no. 2703.



At home, there was the teacher of all mankind (peace and blessings be upon him) and the Mothers of all Believers (may Allah be pleased with them), who faithfully transmitted every breath, thought, word, and deed of the universal Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him).

Umm Salamah said, “When the Adhan (call) of the Maghrib (Sunset) Prayer is announced, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) taught me to say, ‘O Allah, this is Your night coming, Your day going, and the voices of Your summoners (calling for prayer), so forgive me.’”⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of As-Salah, Hadith no. 446.



Umm Salamah said, “The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) never went out of my house without raising his eyes to the sky and saying, ‘O Allah, I seek refuge in You lest I stray or be led astray, or slip or be made to slip, or oppress or be oppressed, or act ignorantly or be treated ignorantly.’”⁽¹⁾

Lady ‘Aishah said, “The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) used to say while bowing and prostrating himself, ‘Glory be to You, O Allah, our Lord, and Yours is the praise. O Allah, forgive me.’”⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 4430.

⁽²⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Adhan, Hadith no. 752.





Lady ‘Aishah said, “I know how the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) used to say Talbiyah⁽¹⁾: ‘Here I am at Your service O Allah, Here I am. Here I am at Your service, You have no partner, Here I am. Yours Alone is all Praise and all Bounty.’”⁽²⁾

Lady ‘Aishah said, “When he (peace and blessings be upon him) rose at night, he (peace and blessings be upon him) would open his Salah (by saying), ‘O Allah, Lord of Jibril (Gabriel), Mika’il (Michael) and Israfil, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, All-Knower of the Unseen and the Seen. You will judge between your slaves in that wherein they used to differ. Guide me, by



⁽¹⁾ Devotional expressions chanted at certain times during Hajj and ‘Umrah.

⁽²⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Hajj, Hadith no. 1449.



Your Leave, to the truth of that wherein they differed. Verily, You guide whom You will to a Straight Path.””(1)

Lady Juwayriah narrated that one day the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) left her room in the morning for the Subh (Dawn) Prayer while she was in her place of worship. He (peace and blessings be upon him) came back in the forenoon, and she was still sitting there. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) asked her, “Have you been in the same state since I left you?” She said, “Yes.” The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “After I left you I said four words three times. If they were to be weighed against what you



(1) *Sahih Muslim, Book of Salah Al-Musafirin wa Qasriha (The Prayer of Travelers and Shortening It), Hadith no. 1289.*



have said since morning, they would outweigh them. Glory be to Allah and His is the Praise as many as His Creations and His Good Pleasure and the weight of His Throne and the ink of His Words.”⁽¹⁾

Umm Habibah said “I heard the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) say, ‘Any Muslim servant who voluntarily offers twelve Rak‘ahs every day, other than the obligatory ones, for the Sake of Allah, Allah will surely build for them a house in Paradise (or a house will be built for them in Paradise).’” Umm Habibah added, “I have kept on offering them ever since.”⁽²⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of Dhikr, Du‘a’, Tawbah, wa Istighfar, Hadith no. 4905.

⁽²⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of Salah Al-Musafirin wa Qasriha, Hadith no. 1199.



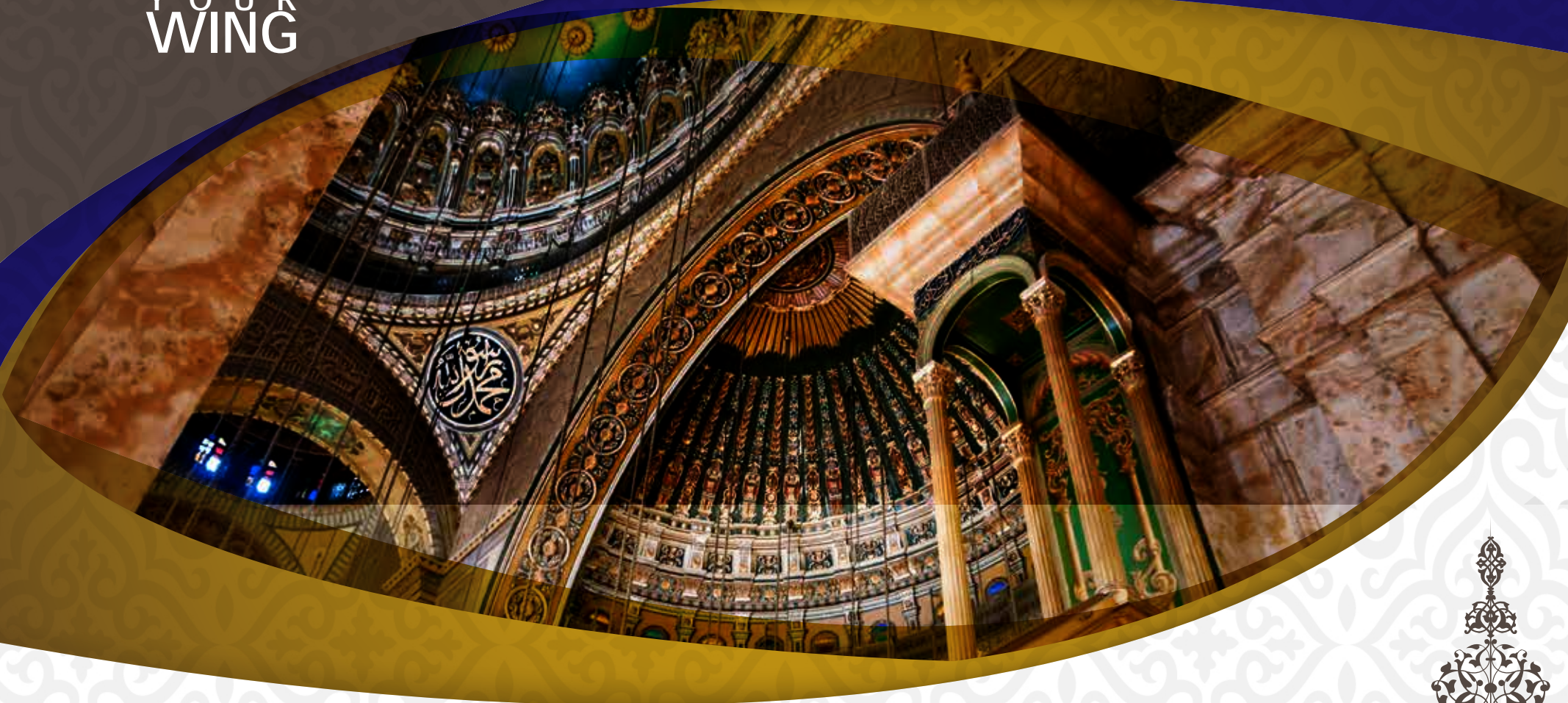
Lady Maymunah said, “When the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) prostrated himself, if a lambkin wanted to pass between his arms, it could pass.”⁽¹⁾

Lady Maymunah said,
“When the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) prostrated himself, he (peace and blessings be upon him) spread his arms (i.e. he (peace and blessings be upon him) separated them), to the extent that the whiteness of his armpits could be seen from behind him. When he (peace and blessings be upon him) sat (during Salah), he (peace and blessings be upon him) rested on his left thigh.”⁽²⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of As-Salah, Hadith no. 765.

⁽²⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of As-Salah (Prayer), Hadith no. 766.



Lady Hafsa said, “When the Muezzin (caller for prayer) fell silent after announcing the Adhan of Subh Prayer and morning dawned, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) would offer two short Rak‘ahs before the call to the commencement of the prayer.”⁽¹⁾

Lady Hafsa said, “The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) used to place his right hand under his right cheek whenever he (peace and blessings be upon him) went to sleep. And he (peace and blessings be upon him) used to observe fasting on Mondays and Thursdays.”⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of Salah Al-Musafirin wa Qasriha, Hadith no. 1184.

⁽²⁾ Sunan An-Nasa’iy, Book of As-Sawm, Hadith no. 2327





Three Blessings

Speaking about the three superb blessings in his worldly life, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“Made beloved to me from your world are women and perfume, and the apple of my eye is made to be in Salah.”**⁽¹⁾

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) first dedicated his love to women, whom he (peace and blessings be upon him) regarded as his home in this world and his companions in the Hereafter. Such was the value and loyalty he (peace and blessings be upon him) attached to women.

⁽¹⁾ Anas bin Malik, *Sunan An-Nas‘ay*, Book of ‘Ashrat Al-Nisa’ (Companionship of Wives), Hadith no. 3878.





Then he (peace and blessings be upon him) gently mentioned pleasant fragrance, which he (peace and blessings be upon him) loved to put on while inviting people to Allah's Path and was the only thing he (peace and blessings be upon him) allowed himself of worldly goods.

As for the apple of his eye, it was the long hours he (peace and blessings be upon him) stood praying to the Lord of existence.





The Bond of Love and Mercy

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) used to feed his wives and give them drink with his noble hands, saying to Sa'd bin Abu Waqqas (may Allah be pleased with him) while paying him a visit in his house during his illness, **“Any expense you pay, seeking by it the Face (Pleasure) of Allah, you will be rewarded for it, even for the morsel you put in your wife’s mouth.”**⁽¹⁾

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) thus taught his followers to make romantic and



⁽¹⁾ Sa'd bin Abu Waqqas, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Maghazi, Hadith no. 4057.



kind gestures towards their wives. True, it is no more than a morsel, but its secret lies in the feelings of love that follow it. Just a morsel by which a husband makes his wife feel protected and cared for, and therefore is considered a charitable deed.

And to keep mutual love and mercy alive in marriage, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) guides the husband and wife to the golden way to attain it, which is by worshipping Allah together. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“May Allah have mercy on a man who gets up at night and prays, and awakens his wife and she prays. If she refuses, he sprinkles some water on her face. May Allah have mercy on a woman**





who gets up at night and prays, and awakens her husband. If he refuses, she sprinkles some water on his face.”⁽¹⁾

Even if it is a short Salah, for offering it together, the reward is generously great. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Whoever gets up at night and awakens his wife, and they offer together a two-Rak‘ah prayer, will be written among the men and the women who remember Allah much.”⁽²⁾

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) also taught the husband and wife that if they praise and glorify Allah together, it will

⁽¹⁾ Abu Hurairah, Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of As-Salah, Hadith no. 1238.

⁽²⁾ Abu Sa‘id Al-Khudri and Abu Hurairah, Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of As-Salah, Hadith no. 1239.





better and more helpful for them than having a servant. 'Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated:

Fatimah complained about what she suffered on her hand (i.e., blisters) because of the stone hand-mill. She came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) asking for a servant, but she did not find him (at home), so she informed 'Aishah of her need. When he (peace and blessings be upon him) came, 'Aishah informed him about it. He (peace and blessings be upon him) called upon us, but we had already gone to our beds. I was going to get up, but he (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **'Stay in your place,' and he (peace and blessings be upon him) sat**

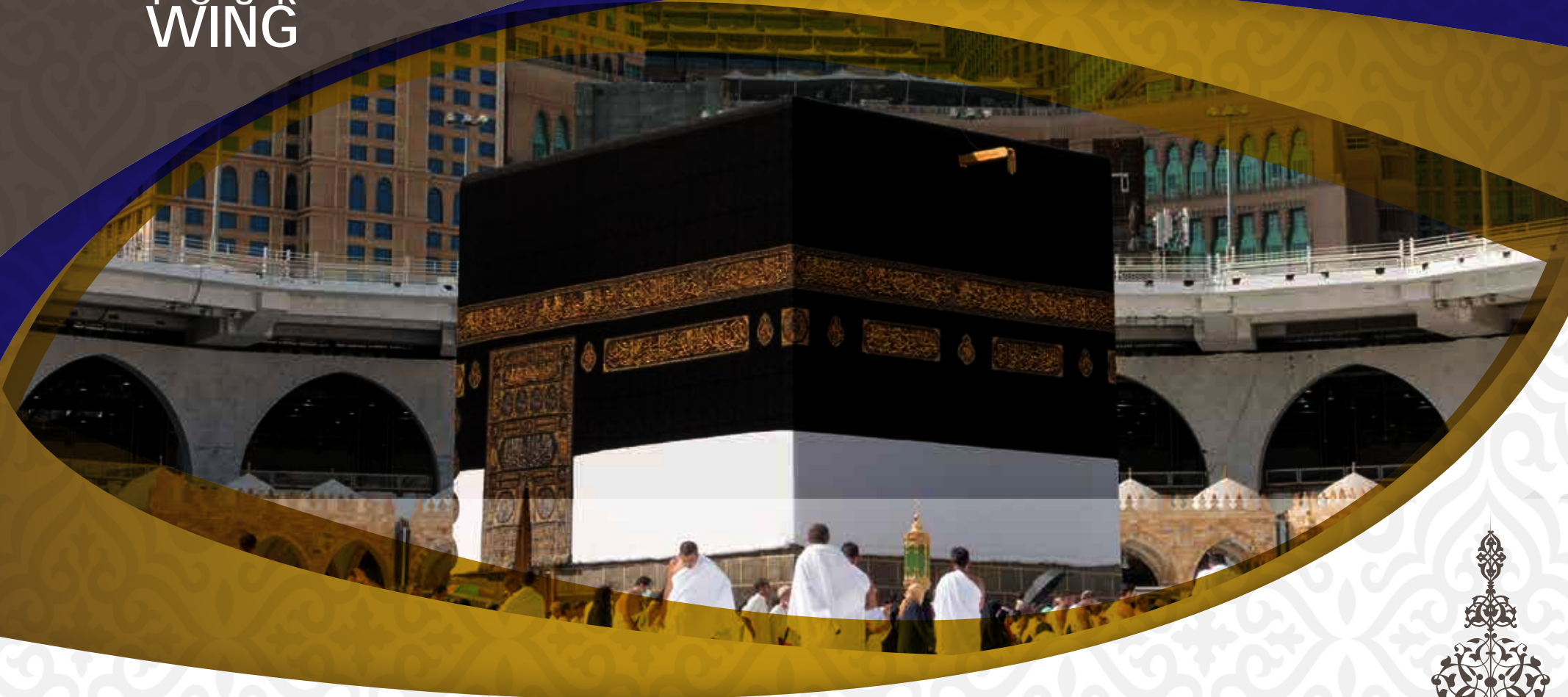




between us (me and Fatimah) until I felt the coolness of his feet on my chest. He (peace and blessings be upon him) then said, ‘Shall I guide you to what is better for you than a servant? When you both go to your bed and lay down, you both magnify Allah (by saying: Allahu Akbar – Allah is the Greatest) thirty-three times, you both glorify Allah (by saying: Subhan Allah – Glory be to Allah) thirty-three times and you both praise Allah (by saying: Al-Hamdu lillah – All praise and thanks to Allah) thirty-three times. This is better for you than a servant.’”(1)



(1) Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Ad-Da‘wat, Hadith no. 5843.



Monthly Pain

During menses women are less patient, more sensitive, cry more easily, and may feel irritable, depressed, or anxious at times. Such mood swings only made the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) more caring and considerate towards his wives during that monthly time.

Lady 'Aishah narrated how when she drank from a cup, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) would search for her lip prints over the cup and drink to show her that there was nothing wrong with her during such a period.





- Lady 'Aishah said, “I would drink while I was menstruating, then hand it (the vessel) over to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), who would put his mouth where mine had been and drink. And I would eat the flesh from the rib while I was menstruating and then hand it over to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), and he (peace and blessings be upon him) would put his mouth where mine had been.”⁽¹⁾

- Suraih asked, “Does the wife eat with her husband while she is menstruating?”

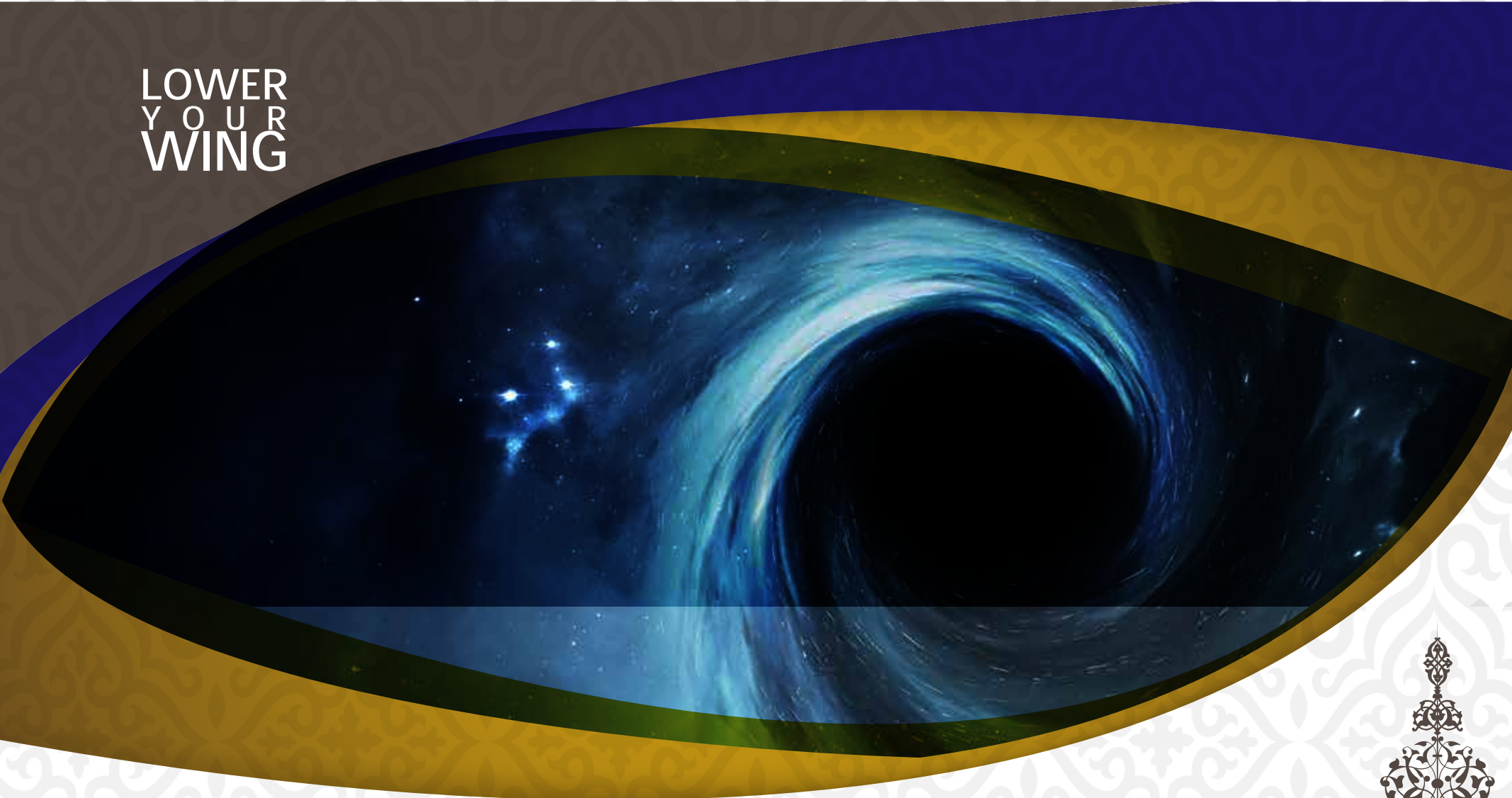


⁽¹⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Haid, Hadith no. 453.



”Lady ‘Aishah (may Allah be pleased her) answered, “Yes, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) used to invite me (to eat with him), and I used to eat with him while in menses. He (peace and blessings be upon him) would take the rib and swear that I should be the first to eat, so I would eat the flesh from the rib then put it down. Then he (peace and blessings be upon him) would take it and eat the flesh from the rib, placing his mouth were mine had been on the rib. Then he (peace and blessings be upon him) would ask for a drink (milk mixed with water) and swear





before drinking from it that I should be the first to drink. So I would take it, drink from it and then put it down. Then he (peace and blessings be upon him) would take it and drink from it, placing his mouth where mine had been on the cup.”⁽¹⁾

Before Islam, menstruating women were treated as untouchables, their impurity contagious. Anyone or anything they touched became unclean and any contact with them was considered defiling. Due to their assumed contaminating nature, menstruating women were sometimes “banished” in order to avoid any possibility of contact with them.⁽²⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sunan An-Nasa'iy, Book of At-Taharah, Hadith no. 277.

⁽²⁾ Excerpted with modification from IslamiCity.com: Unclean Impure Women (Part 5) by Sherif Abdel Azim.



The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) cleared women of that and explained that a woman's impurity during menstruation is not in the sense that everything related to her body is impure, for the menstrual cycle is not in her hands. Lady 'Aishah narrated that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said to her, **“Give me the mat from the Masjid (mosque).”** She said, **“I am menstruating.”** He (peace and blessings be upon him) remarked, **“Your menstruation is not in your hands.”**⁽¹⁾

She is neither “untouchable” nor “cursed.” She practices her normal life with only one restriction – a married couple is not allowed to have sexual intercourse during the period of menstruation; it is

⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Haid, Hadith no 450.*





harmful. Any other physical contact between them is permissible.⁽¹⁾

Anas bin Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Jews, when a woman had her menses, would not eat or stay with her in the same house. The Companions of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) asked him about this, thus Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) revealed: **(They ask you concerning menstruation. Say, 'It is harmful, so keep away from (intercourse with) women during menses. And do not have intercourse with them until they are purified. And when they have purified themselves, then go unto them**



⁽¹⁾ *IslamiCity.com: Unclean Impure Women (Part 5) by Sherif Abdel Azim.*



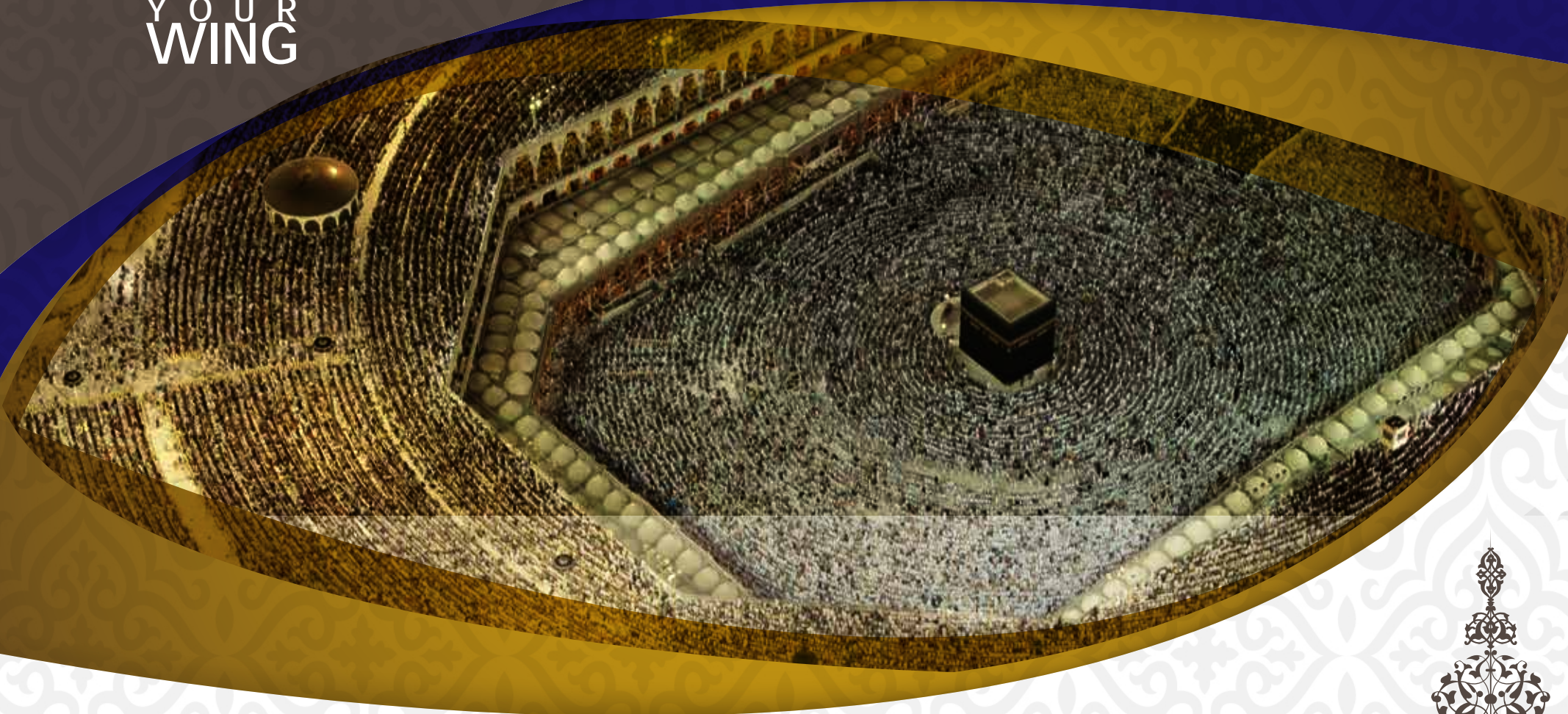
from where Allah has ordained for you. Truly, Allah loves those who turn unto Him in repentance and loves those who purify themselves.’⁽¹⁾ The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Do everything, except have marital sexual intercourse.”⁽²⁾

The recurrent biological set of symptoms that occur to women during menstrual and postpartum bleeding exempts them from observing some religious duties out of Allah’s Mercy towards them – such as Salah, as it involves movements of the body that do not fit their health condition during these times, and fasting as well. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) took care to

⁽¹⁾ *Translated meanings of Al-Baqarah 2: 222.*

⁽²⁾ *Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Haid, Hadith no. 455.*





compensate his wives during that exemption period by performing the acts of worship close to them.

He (peace and blessings be upon him) recited the Noble Quran while resting his head on the lap of one of his wives while she was menstruating, or he (peace and blessings be upon him) prayed close to them, his clothes touching them whenever he (peace and blessings be upon him) prostrated, or he (peace and blessings be upon him) asked his wife to wash his head and comb his hair while practicing ***I'tikaf***.

- Lady 'Aishah narrated, **“The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) used to**





lean on my lap while I was menstruating and recite the Qur'an.”⁽¹⁾

- Lady Maymunah narrated, “The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) used to offer Salah while I was sitting beside him, having menses, and sometimes his clothes touched me when he (peace and blessings be upon him) prostrated.”⁽²⁾

- Lady ‘Aishah narrated, “I used to wash the head of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) while I was menstruating and he (peace and blessings be upon him) was practicing I’tikaf.”⁽³⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Haid, Hadith no. 288.

⁽²⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of As-Salah, Hadith no. 366.

⁽³⁾ Sunan Ad-Darmy, Book of At-Taharah, Hadith no. 1051.



The sympathy paid by the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was further manifested in his prohibition of divorcing a wife during menstruation, taking into consideration the menstrual cycle effects on the mood and behavior of women.

‘Abdullah bin ‘Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) divorced his wife during her menses. ‘Umar informed the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), who became very angry at that. He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“He must take her back and keep her until she becomes pure, then menstruates, then becomes pure. Only then, if he wants to divorce her he may divorce her, while she is pure and before touching her. That is the**





‘Iddah (woman's prescribed waiting period after divorce or widowhood) as commanded by Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He).”⁽¹⁾

Do Not Break the Vessels of Glass!

Anjashah (may Allah be pleased with him), the camel driver, had a very melodious voice. On a journey, he was chanting for the camels to make them go fast, but there were women riding on these camels, so the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) cautioned him, saying, “(Drive) slowly, O Anjashah! Do not break the vessels of glass!”⁽²⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Tafsir Al-Quran, Hadith no. 4528.

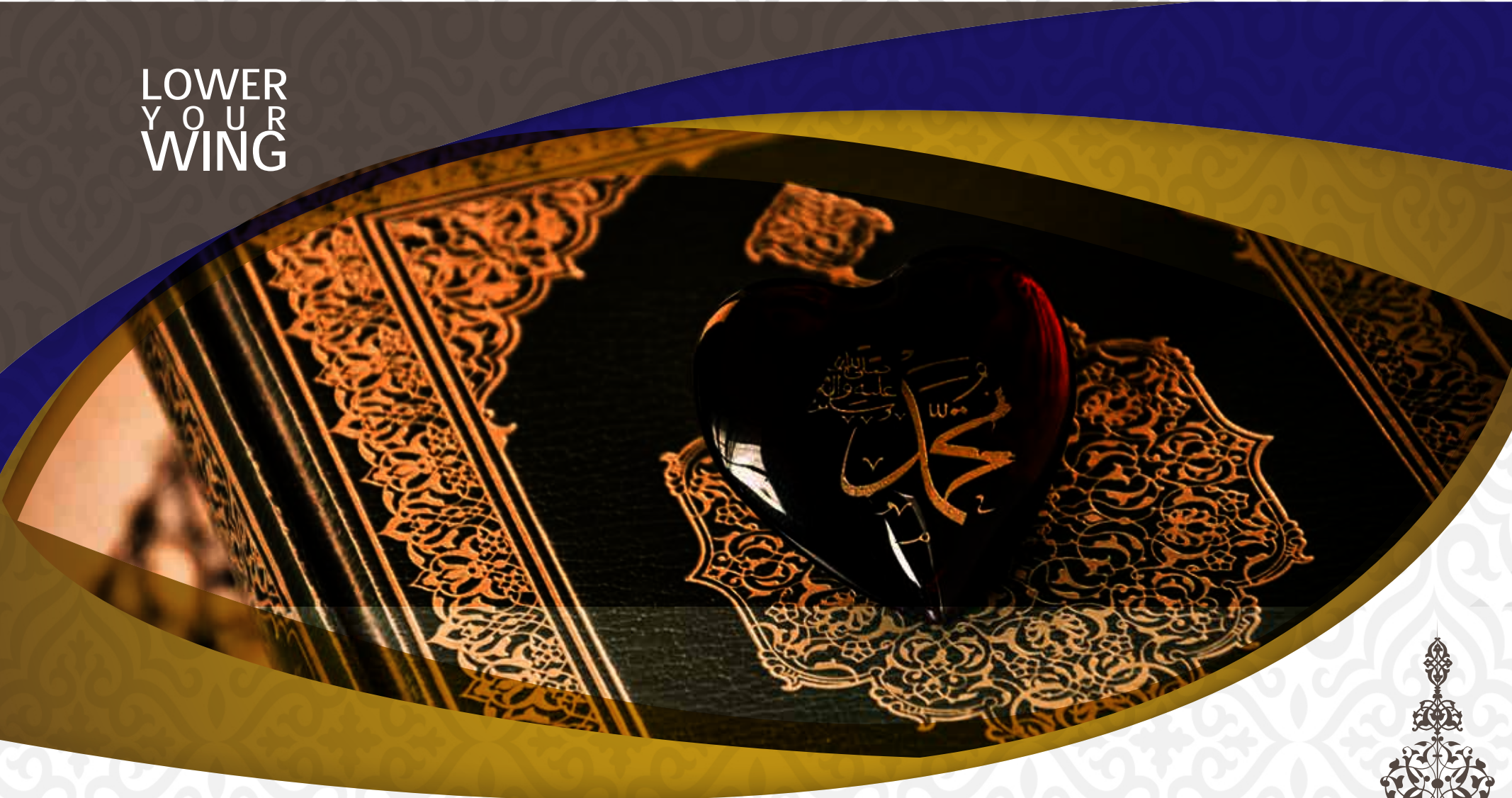
⁽²⁾ Anas bin Malik, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 5743.



The gentle simile summarizes all that can be said about the treatment of women and their delicate nature. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) tells men that women are as tender and susceptible to breakage as glass vessels. So be soft, gentle, and mild to them; otherwise, you will break them.

Their delicate and fragile nature and the special care that should be given in treating them is further magnified in another Hadith, in which the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) likens the nature and special protective task of women to delicate ribs, saying to men, **“I call upon you to be kind to women. They are created from a rib, and the most bent part of the rib is its**





uppermost part. If you try to turn it straight, you will break it. And if you leave it alone, it will remain bent as it is. Therefore, I call upon you to be kind to women.”⁽¹⁾

Ribs are thin, quite fragile, and easily broken, but at the same time those delicate ribs offer protection to the delicate internal organs, and to the king of all organs, the heart. And so are women delicate and passionate, but protect their children and show love and affection to their husbands.

The nature of ribs is curvedness to enclose the heart and lungs. If they were straight they would not be able to protect the heart and lungs. Thus, the teacher of mankind (peace and blessings be



⁽¹⁾ Abu Hurairah, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of An-Nikah, Hadith no. 4787.



upon him) warns that trying to change the special nature with which Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) has created women is as injurious and absurd as trying to turn a rib straight. It will no longer perform its protective function – and the same for women.

And just as a broken rib could be dangerous, as it could puncture the heart or lungs, a broken woman could damage the familial fabric that bonds them. Therefore, understand and accept her nature and treat her kindly.





Rebirth

The arrival of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) brought about a renaissance, a social-awakening for women, after decades of oppression, abuse, and neglect. Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) says: **(By mercy from Allah, (O Muhammad), you were lenient with them. And if you had been rude (in speech) and harsh in heart, they would have disbanded from about you.)⁽¹⁾**

By mercy from Allah people gathered around the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) whom Allah purified from any rudeness in speech or



⁽¹⁾ Translated meanings of Al-'Imran 3: 159.



harshness in heart and made friendly, full of kindness and mercifulness towards all believers, especially women who, by nature, are repulsed by hardness.

Sa'd bin Abu Waqqas (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated:

'Umar bin Al-Khattab asked the permission of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) to see him while some women from Quraish were with him, talking to him and asking him for more (financial support) while raising their voices. When 'Umar asked permission to enter, they all hurried to screen themselves. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) admitted him while





he (peace and blessings be upon him) was smiling. ‘Umar said, “May Allah always keep you smiling, O Messenger of Allah!” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “I wondered at these women who were with me. As soon as they heard your voice, they hastened to the veil.” ‘Umar said, “You, O Messenger of Allah, are worthier to be feared by them!” Then ‘Umar said, “O enemies to yourselves! You fear me and do not fear the Messenger of Allah?” They said, “Yes, you are rude and tough compared to the Messenger of Allah.”⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Bid' Al-Khalq (Beginning of Creation), Hadith no. 3051.



Allah commanded His Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him), saying: **(And lower your wing to those of the believers who follow you)**, so he (peace and blessings be upon him) walked with the widow and the poor and fulfilled their needs.

Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that a woman came to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, **“O Messenger of Allah, I have some need from you.”** He (peace and blessings be upon him) said to her, **“O mother of so-and-so, sit in any side of the street as you like, so that I would sit with you (to know your need and meet it).”**





She did accordingly, and the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) sat with her until she had her need met ⁽¹⁾. **[The version reported by Muslim added that the woman was unsound in her mind.]**

Allah commanded His Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him), saying: **(O Prophet, when the believing women come to you pledging to you that they will not associate anything with Allah, nor will they steal, nor will they commit unlawful sexual intercourse, nor will they kill their children, nor will they bring forth a slander they have invented between their arms and legs, nor will they disobey you in what is**



⁽¹⁾ Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 4182.



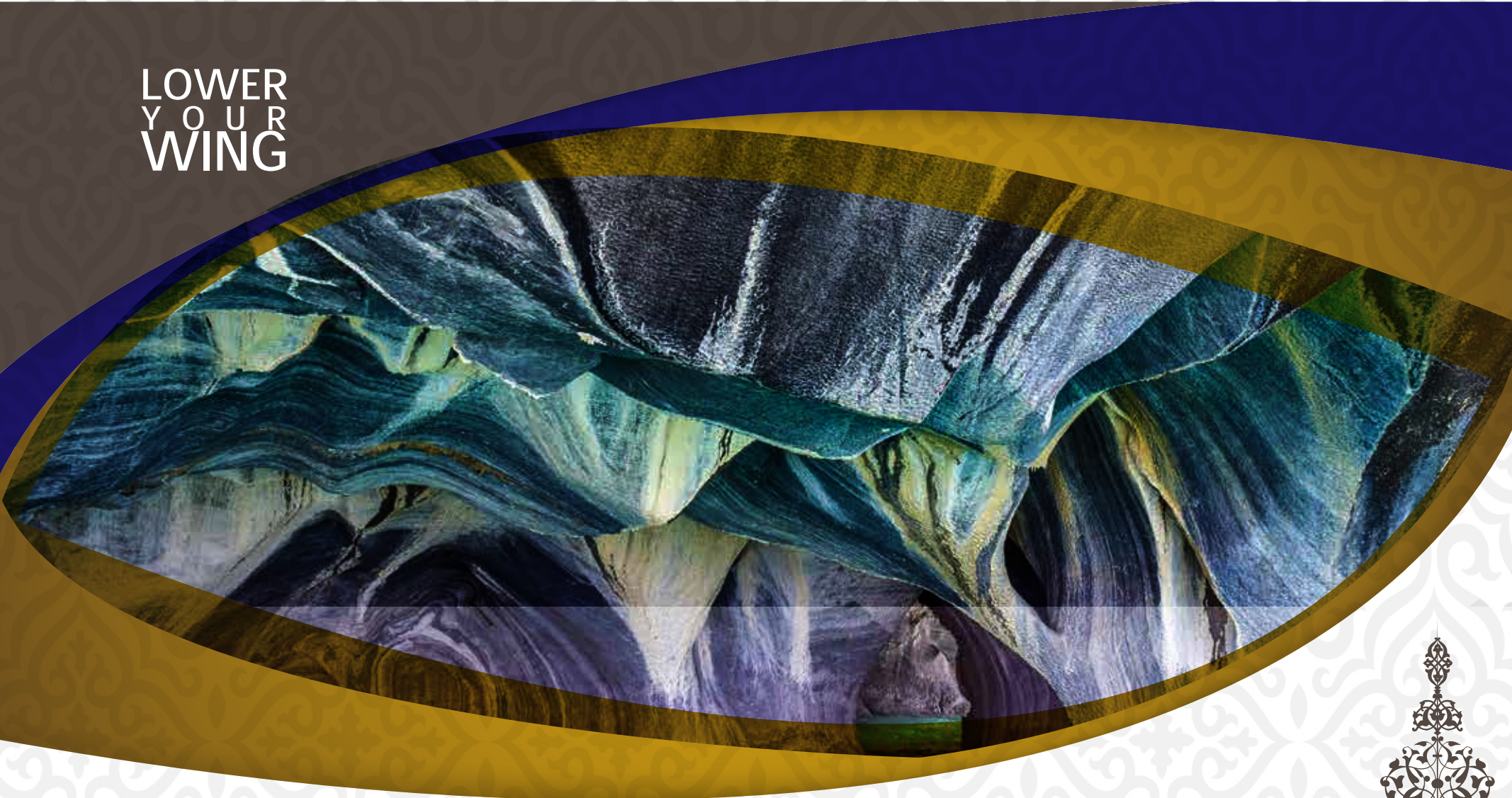
right – then accept their pledge and ask forgiveness for them of Allah. Indeed, Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.)⁽¹⁾

The Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) complied and took the pledge of allegiance from women the same as from men. He (peace and blessings be upon him) supplicated and begged forgiveness for them the same as for men. And he (peace and blessings be upon him) dedicated a time to teach them what Allah had taught him. Abu Sa'id (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated:

A woman came to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and said,

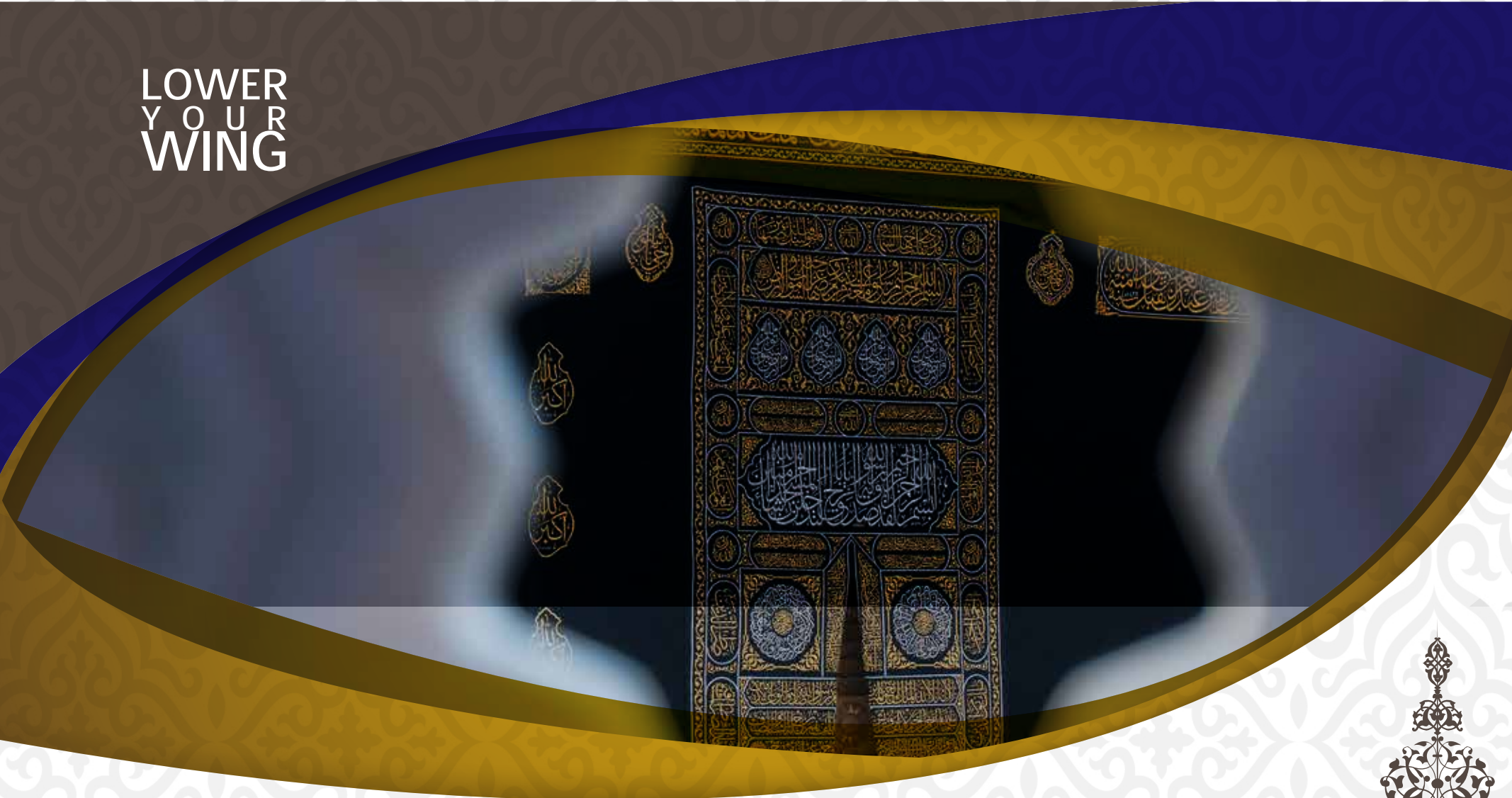


⁽¹⁾ Translated meanings of Al-Mumtahinah 60: 12.



“O Messenger of Allah, men have taken over your Hadith (i.e., your knowledge assembly). Devote to us from yourself a day on which we may come to you, so that you may teach us what Allah has taught you.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Gather on such-and-such a day at such-and-such a place.” They gathered and the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) came to them and taught them of what Allah had taught him. He (peace and blessings be upon him) then said, “There is not a woman among you who sends before her (suffers the death of) three of her





children, but they will certainly be a shield for her against Hellfire.” A woman among them asked, “O Messenger of Allah, or two?” She repeated it twice. He (peace and blessings be upon him) replied, ‘And two, and two, and two.’”⁽¹⁾

His doors were kept wide open for women to ask about whatever concerned them. Their questions and his answers reveal something new in the history of women. Something they did not have before; for the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) allowed women to claim of his time, attention, and care as much as men, if not more.

- Hind bint ‘Utbah said, “O Messenger of



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-I'tisham Bil-Kitab wa As-Sunnah, Hadith no. 6766.



Allah, Abu Sufyan is a miserly man. He does not give me what would suffice me and my children, unless I take from him without his knowledge?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Take what suffices you and your children according to what is commonly considered as sufficient (maintenance).”⁽¹⁾

- Asma' bint Abu Bakr narrated that a woman came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, “O Messenger of Allah, a daughter of mine is a bride, but she got measles and her hair has fallen out heavily. Shall I attach false hair to



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of An-Nafaqat (Maintenance), Hadith no. 4945.



her hair?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Allah has cursed the woman who attaches false hair and the woman who gets false hair attached to her own.”⁽¹⁾

- ‘Abdullah bin ‘Amr bin Al-‘As narrated that a woman said, “O Messenger of Allah, this son of mine, my womb for him was a vessel, my breasts for him a water skin, and my lap for him a haven, yet his father has divorced me and wants to take him away from me.” The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said to her, “You are more deserving of him as long as you do not remarry.”⁽²⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Libas wa Al-Zinah (Clothes And Ornament), Hadith no. 3961.

⁽²⁾ Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of At-Talaq, Hadith no. 1938.



- Khansa' bint Khidam Al-Ansariyah narrated that her father gave her in marriage when she was a matron, which she was against; so she came (and complained) to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), and he (peace and blessings be upon him) annulled her marriage.⁽¹⁾

- 'Ata bin Abu Rabah narrated that Ibn 'Abbas said to him, **“Shall I show you a woman of the people of Paradise?”** He said, **“Yes.”** Ibn 'Abbas said, **“This black lady came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, ‘I get attacks of**



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Ikrah (Coercion), Hadith no. 6432.



epilepsy and my body becomes uncovered; please supplicate Allah for me.’ The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said (to her), ‘If you wish, be patient and you will have Paradise; and if you wish, I will supplicate Allah to heal you.’ She said, ‘I will remain patient,’ and added, ‘but I become uncovered, supplicate Allah for me that I may not become uncovered.’ So he (peace and blessings be upon him) supplicated for her.”⁽¹⁾

- Ibn ‘Abbas narrated that a woman came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Marda (Patients), Hadith no. 5220.

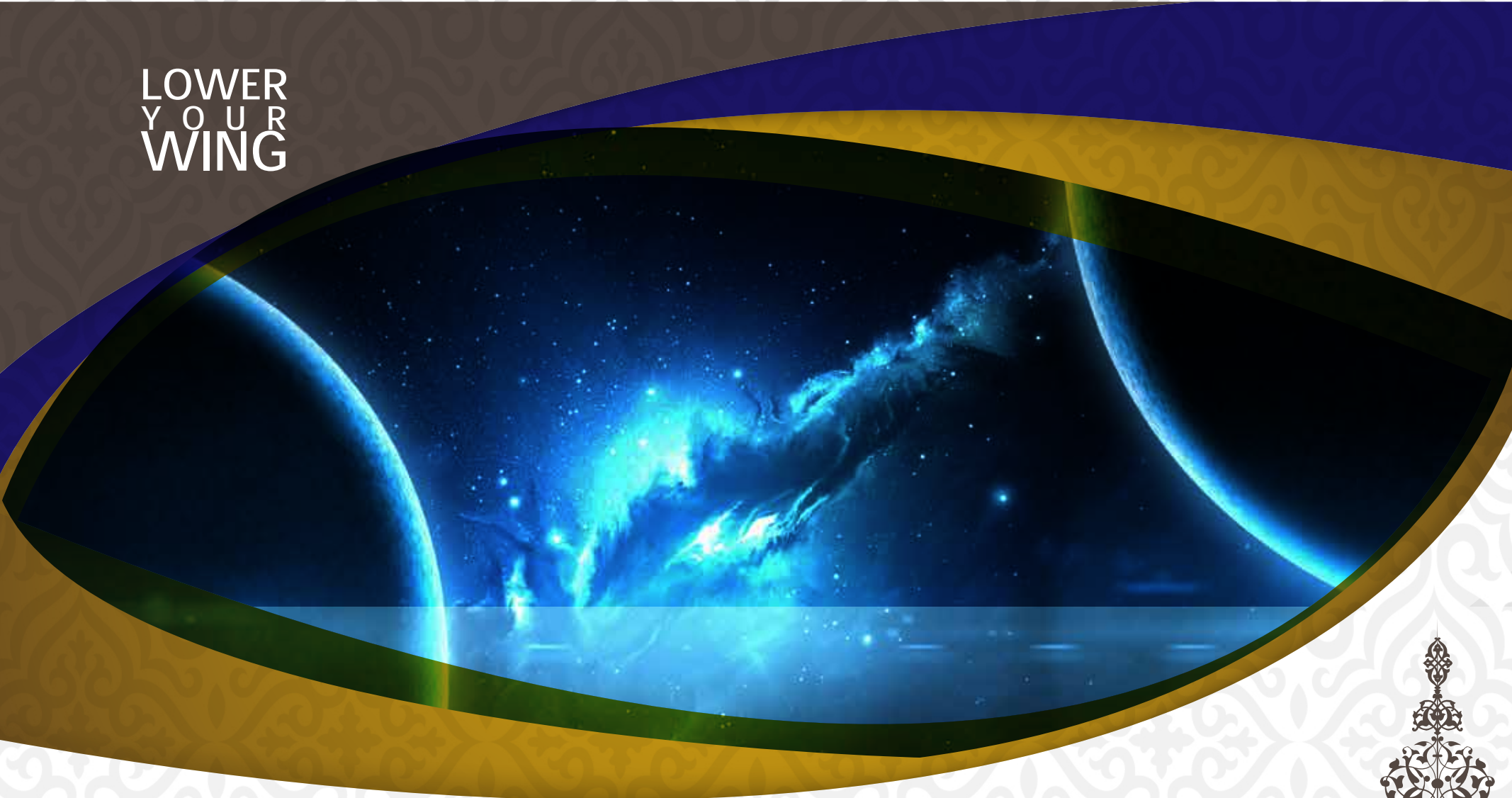


him) and said, “My mother had vowed to perform Hajj, but she died before performing it. Should I perform Hajj on her behalf?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Yes. Perform Hajj on her behalf. Tell me, if your mother had a debt, would you repay it? ” She said, “Yes.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Pay Allah what is owed to Him. Allah is more deserving of repayment.”⁽¹⁾

- Umm Sulaim came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, “Teach me words to say them in my prayer.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said,



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-I'tisham Bil-Kitab wa As-Sunnah, Hadith no. 6771.



“Magnify Allah ten times, glorify Him ten times, and praise Him ten times, then ask (of Him) whatever you want. He (Allah) shall say, ‘Yes. Yes.’”⁽¹⁾

- Asma’ narrated that a woman came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, “One of us may get a menstrual blood stain on her dress. What should she do with it?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Let her scrape it (i.e., the soiled area), then rub it with water, then pour water over it, and then pray with it.”⁽²⁾



⁽¹⁾ Anas bin Malik, Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of As-Salah, Hadith no. 443.
Sahih Muslim, Book of At-Taharah, Hadith no. 438.



Women in Jihad

After wiping away injustice, giving women education, care, and kindness, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) still had more to offer – social position. He (peace and blessings be upon him) allowed her to stand by the side of man in the battlefield and share in Jihad.

Umayyah bin Abu As-Salt reported that a woman from the tribe of Ghifar came along with a group of women from Ghifar to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) when he (peace and blessings be upon him) was heading for Khaibar. They said, **“O Messenger of Allah,**





we wish to accompany you to this destination of yours so that we may dress the wounded and help the Muslims as much as we can.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“With Allah’s Blessing.”** So they set out with him.⁽¹⁾

Ar-Rubayi’ bint Mu’auwidh (may Allah be pleased with her) narrated, **“We were in the company of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), giving water to the wounded, treating them, and bringing the killed to Al-Madinah (from the battlefield).”**⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Ansar, Hadith no. 25885.

⁽²⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Jihad wa Al-Siyar, Hadith no. 2669.



Umm ‘Atiyah, the Ansari woman (may Allah be pleased with her), narrated, **“I participated with the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) in seven battles. I would take their place in their lodgings (when they went to Jihad), cook their food, treat the wounded, and nurse the sick.”**

Not only did women dress wounds and keep vigil over the sick, but they also bravely strived with their souls in defense of their Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). In the Battle of Badr, when there remained with the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) only a handful of his Companions, less than ten,

(1) *Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Jihad wa Al-Siyar, Hadith no. 3380.*





Umm ‘Umarah Nasibah Bint Ka‘b Al-Ansariyah (may Allah be pleased with her) was one of them, fighting heroically, receiving heavy blows to shield the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), who said on that day, **“I never turned to the right or to the left without seeing her fighting in front of me.”**

Umm ‘Umarah suffered twelve wounds on that day, either a stab with a spear or a strike with a sword. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) admiringly said to her, **“Who can endure what you are enduring, O Umm ‘Umarah?”** He (peace and blessings be upon him) supplicated for her and for her family, saying to her son, **“May Allah bless you, members of her house! The rank of your mother is**





better than the rank of such-and-such (man). May Allah have mercy on you, members of her house. And the rank of your foster-father is better than the rank of such-and-such (man). May Allah have mercy on you, members of her house.”

Umm ‘Umarah said, “Ask Allah to make us your companions in Paradise.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “O Allah, make them my companions in Paradise.” *Umm ‘Umarah* said, “I do not care what afflicts me in this world after this.”⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ *Ibn Sa’d, At-Tabakat Al-Kubra, vol. 8.*



Thus woman was placed side by side with man and each was assigned roles finely attuned to the nature of each and to the well-knit fabric of a stable Muslim society, where each performed the role they were created for and were treated on equal terms with regard to reward and punishment. **(For men there is reward for what they have earned, and for women there is reward for what they have earned.)⁽¹⁾**

And to both, Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) gives His Promise: **(Never will I allow the work of any of you to be lost, whether male or female. One of you is as the other.)⁽²⁾**



(1) *Translated meanings of An-Nisa' 4:32.*

(2) *Translated meanings of Al-'Imran 3: 195.*

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