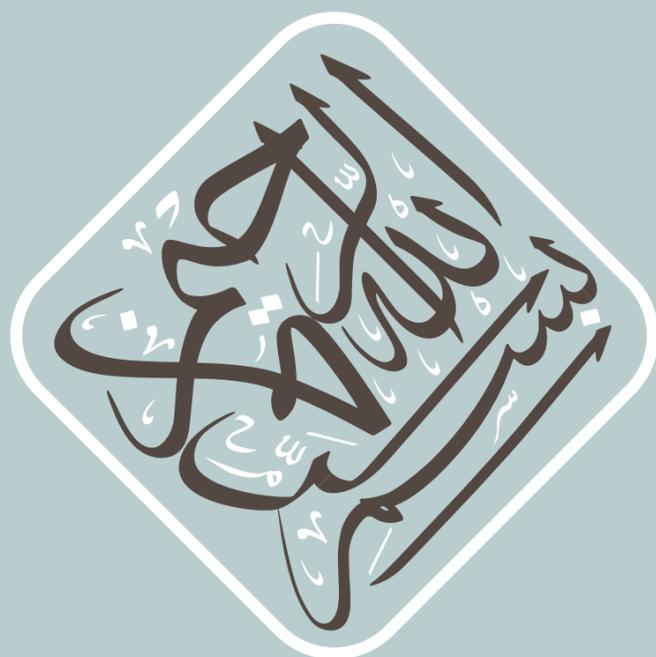


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In the Name of Allah,
The Compassionate, The Merciful



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صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
هَرَمِ كِنَانِ عَمْرٍو



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



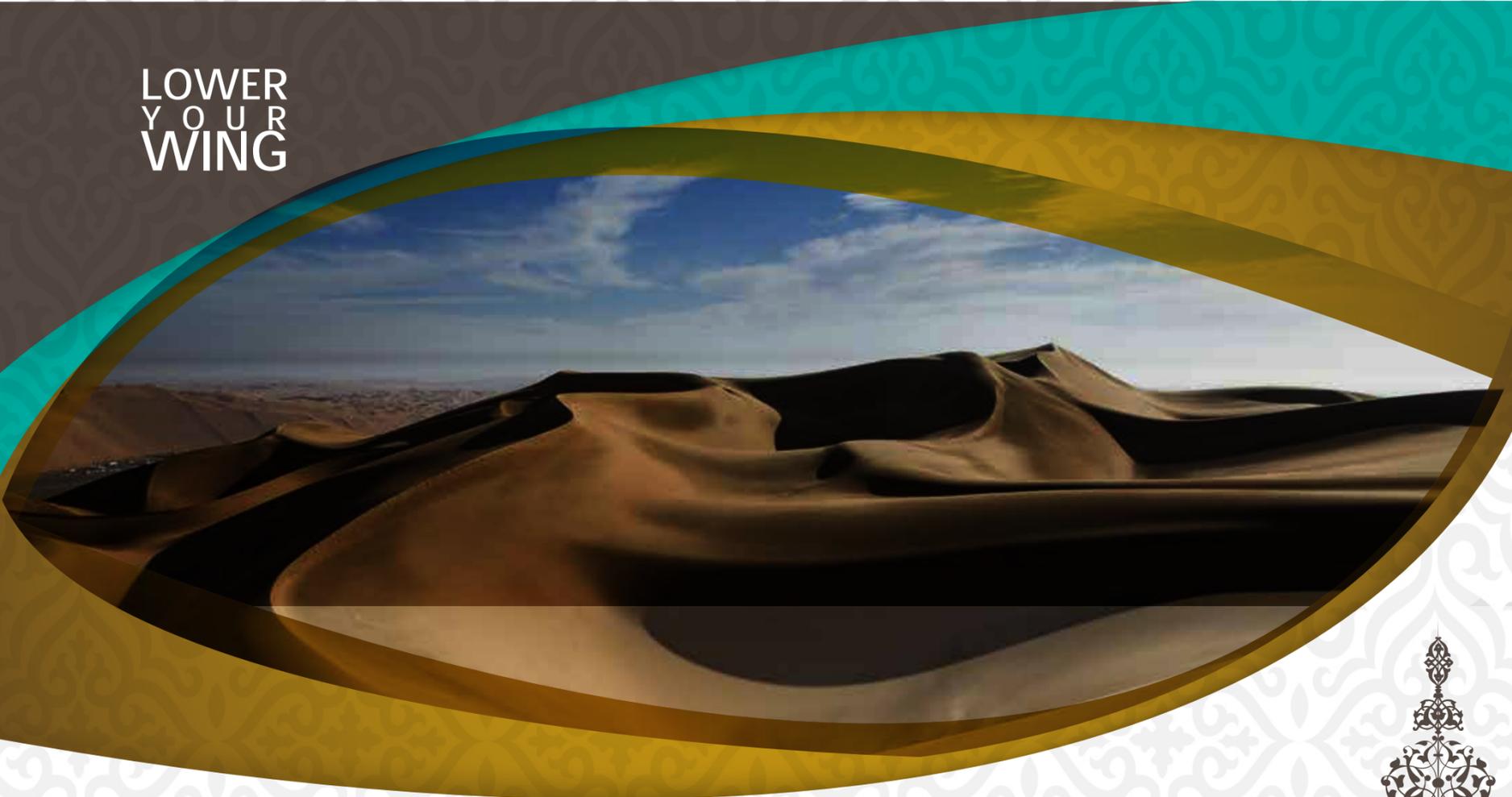
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The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), in his own lexicon of humanity, defines the servant, his job, and his rights, saying:

Your brothers are your servants. Allah has made them under your hands (authority). Anyone who has his brother under his hand should feed him from what he eats and clothe him from what he wears, and do not overburden them with work. If you do overburden them with tasks they cannot do alone, help them. ⁽¹⁾

According to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), being a servant means being a helper,



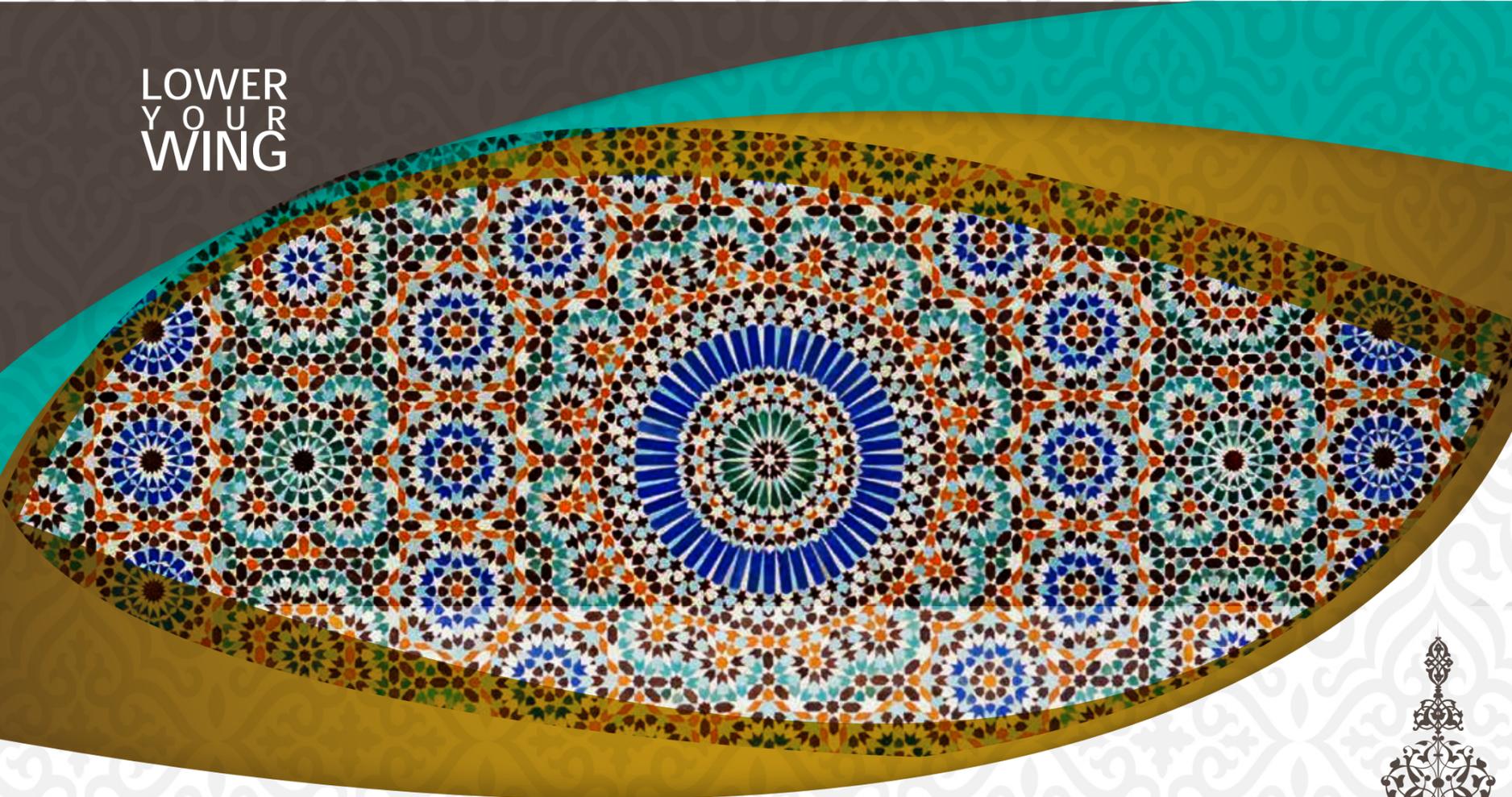
⁽¹⁾ Abu Dhar, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Iman, Hadith no. 29.



not someone inferior; a brother, if not in faith, at least in humanity, who should not be overtaxed but, rather, treated as an equal. “...feed him from what he (the master) eats and clothe him from what he wears...”

The rendering of services – such as cooking, washing, and cleaning – should not cause the servant to be looked down upon, his company avoided, his clothes old and inferior, or his food other than that which he cooks for the rest of the household. This was a social ailment which the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) eradicated by a command to invite, and sit and eat with, the servant as one, saying to the masters:





If the servant of any of you prepares for him his food and brings it to him, having suffered its heat (cooked it) and its smoke (smelled it), you should make him sit with you and eat. But if the food is (to be served) for many and is little, you should put a mouthful or two of it in his hand.⁽¹⁾

Forgiveness and compassion should be the hallmark of the servant-master relationship, especially in times of anger. Allah praises those (...when they are angry, they forgive)⁽²⁾ and those (...who repress anger, and who pardon people. Verily, Allah loves the good-doers.)⁽³⁾



⁽¹⁾ Abu Hurairah, Sahih Muslim, Book of Iman, Hadith no. 3142.

⁽²⁾ Translated meanings of Ash-Shura 42: 37.

⁽³⁾ Translated meanings of Al-'Imran 3: 134.

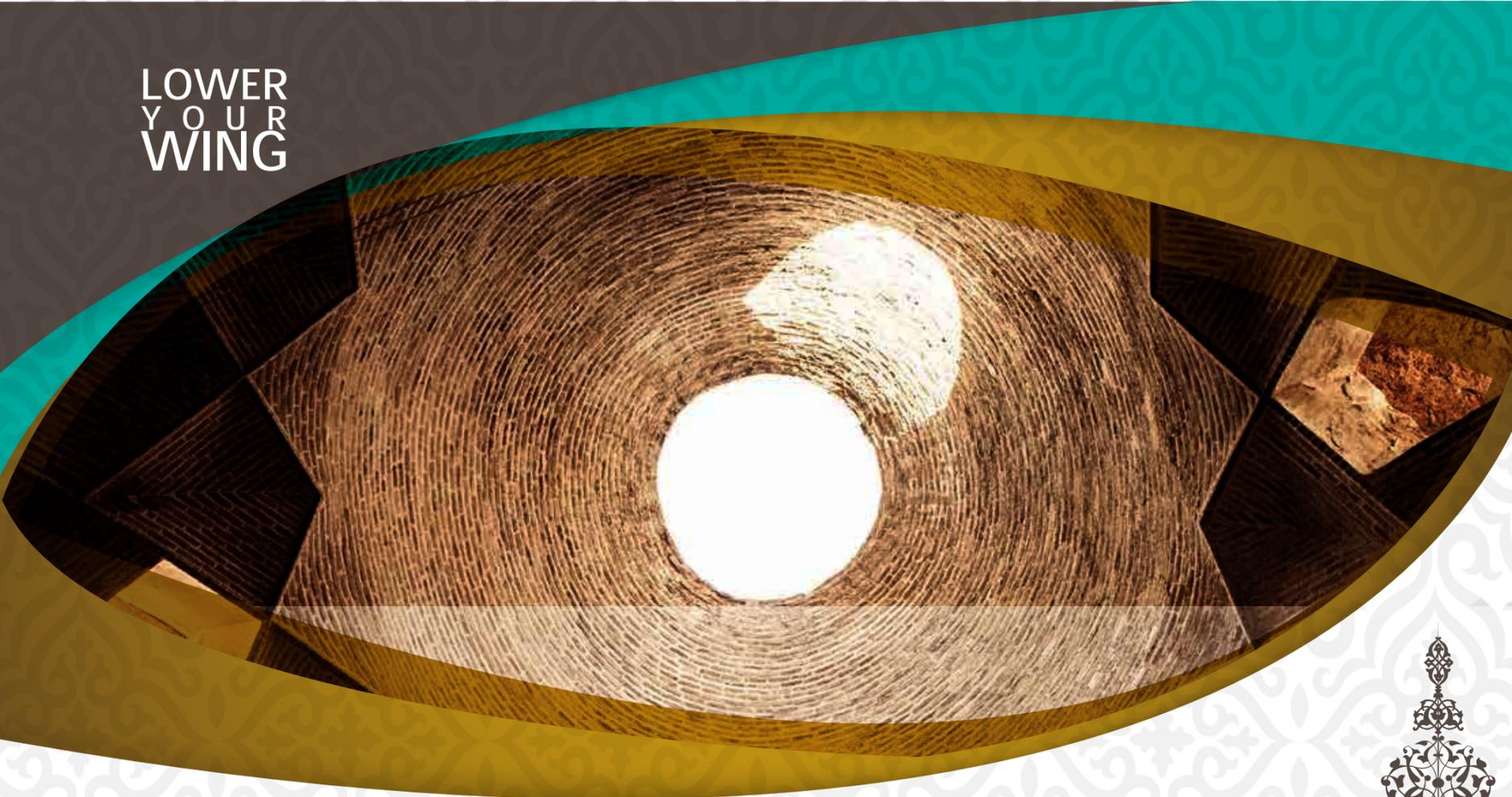


There are no limits beyond which forgiveness cannot be expected of the master, no matter how often the servant makes mistakes. ‘Abdullah bin ‘Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that a man came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and asked, **“O Messenger of Allah, how often must we forgive the servant?”**

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) kept silent. The man repeated his question, but he (peace and blessings be upon him) still kept silent. The third time he asked, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) replied, **“Every day forgive him seventy times.”**⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 4496.



Unbound forgiveness as the Prophet's answer implied was what he (peace and blessings be upon him) practiced himself; for he (peace and blessings be upon him) never punished or hit a servant in his life, even with a toothpick.

- **Lady 'Aishah** testified, “The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) never hit a servant or a woman; in fact, he (peace and blessings be upon him) did not strike anything with his hand except when striving in Allah's Cause.”⁽¹⁾

- **Umm Salamah** (may Allah be pleased with her) narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), while in her house



⁽¹⁾ Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Ansar, Hadith no. 24533.



with a Siwak (teeth-cleansing twig) in his hand, called his – or possibly her – maid until anger was seen on his face. Umm Salamah searched behind a screen in the house and found the maid playing with a lambkin. She said, “Do I see you playing with this lambkin while the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) is calling you?” She said, “No, by the One Who has sent you with the truth, I did not hear you.” The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “If it were not for the fear of retaliation (on the Day of Resurrection), I would have pained you with this Siwak.”⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ Al-Haythami, *Majma' Al-Zawaid wa Manba' Al-Fawaid*, Hadith no. 18409.



The Servant's Rights

A worker's rough hand is a hand that Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) and His Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) love, a hand which the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) once kissed and said, **“Whoever enters into evening exhausted from the work of their hands has entered into evening forgiven.”**⁽¹⁾

Besides their sins being forgiven, their effort must be paid for, which the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) demanded for workers as



⁽¹⁾ Ibn 'Abbas, Al-Muttaqi Al-Hindi, Kanz Al-'UmmalSunan, Hadith no. 9214.



soon as the job is done, without procrastination, when he (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“Give the worker their wage before their sweat dries.”**⁽¹⁾

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) quoted, **“Allah says, ‘There are three whose Opponent I shall be on the Day of Resurrection: A man who gives by Me (vows in My Name), then betrays; a man who sells a free person and devours (takes) his price; and a man who hires a worker and gets his full right from him but does not give him his wage.’”**⁽²⁾



(1) ‘Abdullah bin ‘Umar bin Al-Khattab, Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of Ahkam (Judgments), Hadith no. 2434.

(2) Divine Hadith, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Buyu’ (Transactions), Hadith no. 2075.



No less important than the financial rights are the ethical and emotional rights through which the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) prevented the servant from feeling like an outsider or inferior inside the family. He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“He is never arrogant, he whose servant eats with him, rides the donkey in the marketplace, and holds the sheep to milk it.”**⁽¹⁾ And, **“Whatever man spends on himself, his wife, his children, and his servant is counted as charity for him.”**⁽²⁾

And, **“Do not supplicate against yourselves, your children, your servants, or your**



(1) Abu Hurairah, *Al-Muttaqi Al-Hindi, Kanz Al-'Ummal*, Hadith no. 5728.

(2) *Al-Miqdam bin Ma'di karib: Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of At-Tijarat (Trade)*, Hadith no. 2129.



property lest it coincides with an hour from Allah (Blessed and Exalted is He) of attaining a (begged) favor and you are answered.”⁽¹⁾

Such kind approaches consequently engender a sense of loyalty and responsibility in servants, whose duty in return is to act as guardians and protectors over their masters’ property. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “The servant is a guardian over the property of his master and is accountable to his flock.”⁽²⁾



(1) Jabir bin ‘Abdullah, Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Salah, Hadith no. 1309.

(2) ‘Abdullah bin ‘Umar bin Al-Khattab, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Jumu‘ah, Hadith no. 844.



The Prophet's Servant

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) must be the only master who said to his servant, **“Ask of me, and I will give you.”**⁽¹⁾

Rabi'ah bin Ka'b Al-Aslami (may Allah be pleased with him), a servant of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), narrated, **“I used to bring to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) his ablution water and other needs. He (peace and blessings be upon him) once said to me, ‘Ask of me.’ I said, ‘Your**



⁽¹⁾ *Rabi'ah bin Ka'b: Musnad Ahmad, Book of Madinans, Hadith no. 15983.*



companionship in Paradise.’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) asked, ‘Anything else?’ I said, ‘That is it.’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘Then help me help you with yourself by performing a lot of prostration.’⁽¹⁾

A great deal is revealed about the Prophet’s (peace and blessings be upon him) character through the testimony of his servant of ten years, Anas bin Malik who was never once blamed by him for anything.

- **Anas bin Malik** (may Allah be pleased with him) said, “I served the Prophet (peace and



⁽¹⁾ Sunan An-Nasa’iy, Book of At-Tatbiq (Application), Hadith no. 1126.



blessings be upon him) for ten years, during which he (peace and blessings be upon him) never said to me ‘Uff’ (a minor harsh word denoting impatience). He (peace and blessings be upon him) never said to me about something I did, ‘Why did you do this?’ nor about something I did not do, ‘Why did you not do this?’”(1)

- “He (peace and blessings be upon him) never said to me about anything which I did, ‘Why have you done this like this?’ or anything which I did not do, ‘Why have you not done this like this?’”(2)



(1) Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Birr Waslah, Hadith no. 1938.

(2) Anas bin Malik, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Wasiya (Wills and Testaments), Hadith no. 2561.



- “He (peace and blessings be upon him) never said to me about anything which I did, ‘You did wrong,’ or ‘What a bad thing you did.’”⁽¹⁾

- “He (peace and blessings be upon him) never found fault with anything I did.”⁽²⁾

The noble master (peace and blessings be upon him) phrased his wishes as polite requests, rather than direct commands. Anas said, “The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said to me at the time before daybreak, ‘O Anas, I want to fast, so feed me something.’ So I took him some dates and a vessel containing water.”⁽³⁾



(1) Anas bin Malik, Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Mukthrin, Hadith no. 13191.

(2) Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Fada'il, Hadith no. 4271.

(3) Sunan An-Nasa'iy, Book of Sawm, Hadith no. 2138.



Even when the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was not promptly answered, he (peace and blessings be upon him) was gentle in his reprimand. Anas narrated, “**The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was the best mannered of all people. One day he (peace and blessings be upon him) sent me on an errand, and even though I said (to myself), ‘By Allah, I will not go,’ I did in fact intend to go where the Prophet of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) had commanded me. When I went out, I passed by some boys playing in the marketplace. Suddenly, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him)**





caught me from behind by the nape of my neck. When I looked at him, he (peace and blessings be upon him) was smiling and said, ‘O Unais (a nickname for Anas), did you go where I commanded you to go?’ I said, ‘Yes, I am going, O Messenger of Allah.’”(1)

Besides kindness and cordiality was respect and trust, for the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) confided secrets to his servant Anas, who rejoiced in his master’s confidence. Anas bin Malik narrated, “The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) confided a secret to me which I did not disclose to anybody.



(1) *Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Fada’il, Hadith no. 4272.*



Even Um Sulaim (i.e. my mother) asked me about that secret, but I did not tell her.”⁽¹⁾

The master (peace and blessings be upon him) also mingled with his servant’s family, visited their house, shared their food, played with their little boy, offered Salah in their simple house, and supplicated Allah’s Blessings on him and his family. Anas bin Malik said, “The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) used to mix with us to the extent that he (peace and blessings be upon him) used to say to a younger brother of mine, ‘O Abu ‘Umair, what did the Nughair (your little nightingale) do?’”⁽²⁾



(1) Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Ista’dhan, Hadith no. 5815.

(2) Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 5664.



The way he (peace and blessings be upon him) related to them positioned him as a father rather than a master and his servant. Anas bin Malik narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) addressed him with **“O my son”**⁽¹⁾ and educated him as one of his children, **“O my son, when you come in to your family, greet them with Salam (saying: As-Salamu ‘Alaikum – peace be on you). It will be a blessing on you and your household.”**⁽²⁾

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) also jested with his son. Anas narrated that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said to him, **“O you with two ears.”**⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾ Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 2757.

⁽²⁾ Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Ista’dhan wa Al-Adab (Asking Permission and Good Manners), Hadith no. 2622.

⁽³⁾ Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 4349.

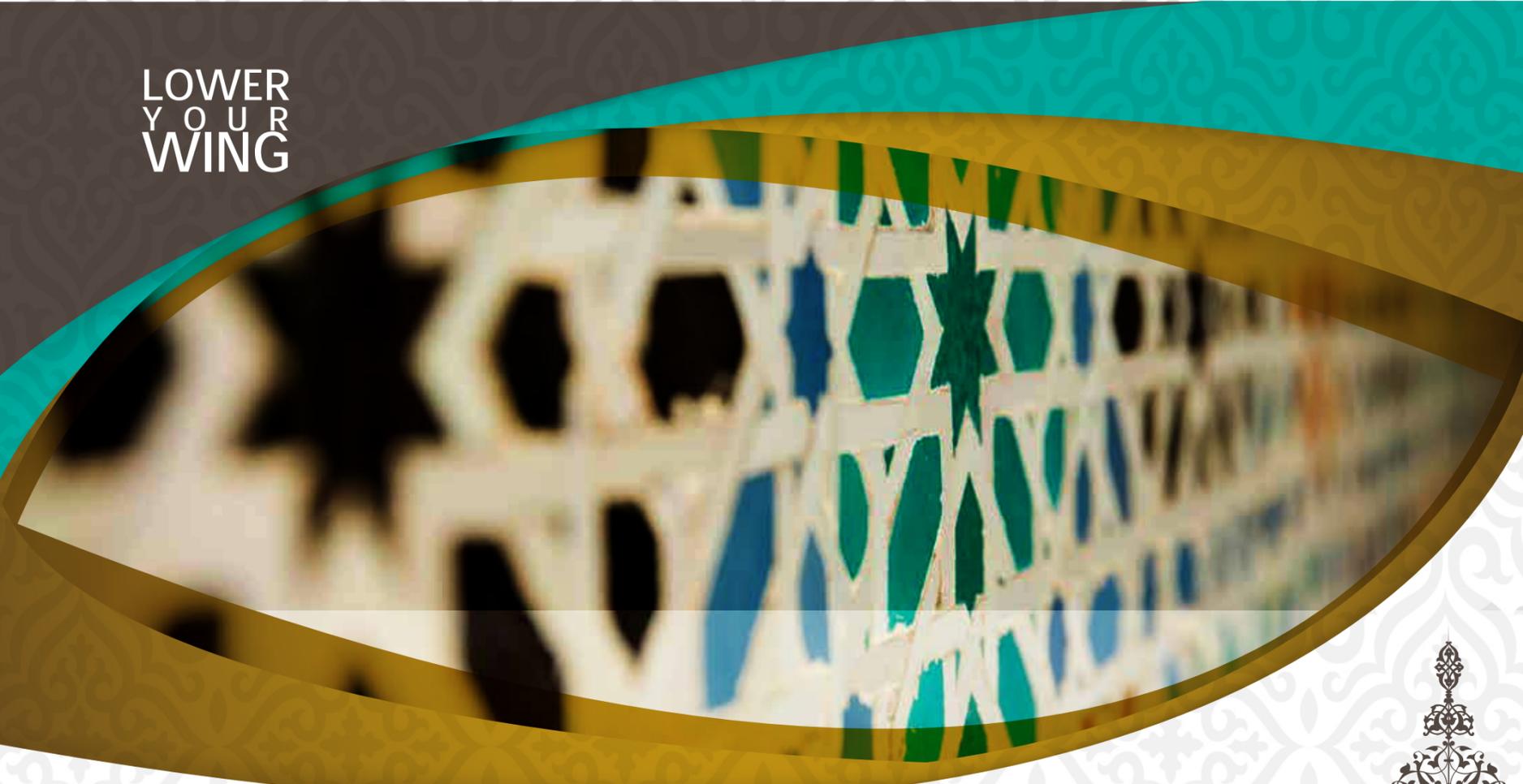




The nearer Anas was to his master (peace and blessings be upon him), the more impressed he was by his character, and with every day his love and respect for him grew, making everything about him admirable and endearing. Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) said.

- “Of all people, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was the best mannered. I never touched woolen silk, or silk, or anything whatsoever softer than the palm of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him). I have never smelt musk or any perfume pleasanter than the sweat of the Messenger





of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him).”⁽¹⁾

- “The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) had a bright, white complexion, and his sweat was like pearls.”⁽²⁾

- “On the day (Monday) the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) entered Al-Madinah, every part of it shined, and on the day (Monday) the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) died every part of it darkened.”⁽³⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Birr Waslah, Hadith no. 1938.

⁽²⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Fada'il, Hadith no. 4299.

⁽³⁾ Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Manaqib, Hadith no. 3551.



Modesty

This superbly kind treatment of servants was the fruit of the great modesty and simplicity with which the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was endowed, which he (peace and blessings be upon him) spontaneously showed along his path and came to teach to the world through words and deeds; for pride and majesty belong to Allah, the King, alone. **“Pride is My Upper Garment and Grandeur My Lower One. Anyone who contests with Me in either of them I shall cast into Hellfire.”** ⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Al-Libas, Hadith no. 3567.



Modesty through words:

- The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Do not extol me as the Christians extolled the son of Maryam (Mary); I am only His (Allah’s) slave. Therefore, say: the slave of Allah and His Messenger.”⁽¹⁾

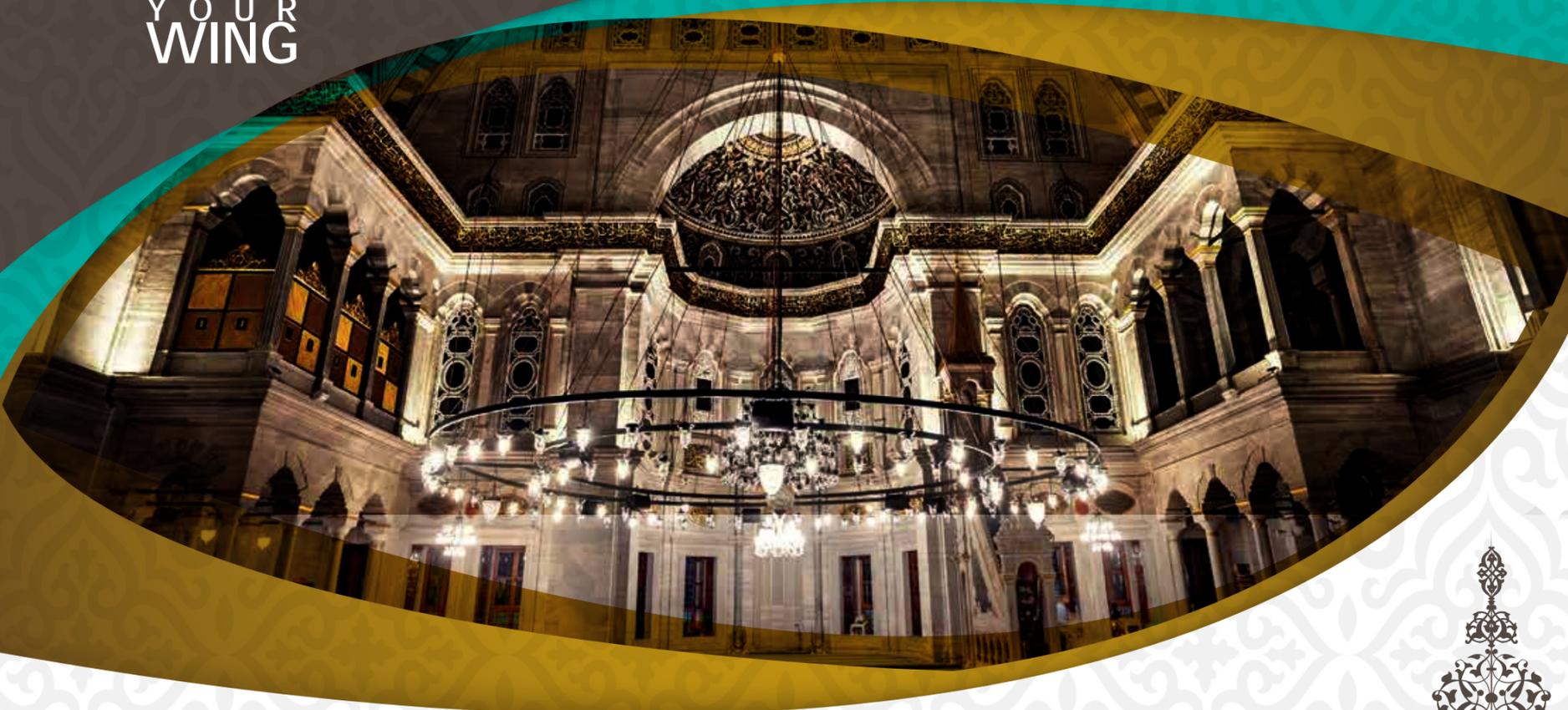
- “If I were invited to a meal of a sheep’s foot, I would accept; and if I were given a sheep’s foot as a gift, I would accept it.”⁽²⁾

- “Allah has revealed to me that you must humble yourself to each other, so



⁽¹⁾ ‘Umar bin Al-Khattab, *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Ahadith Al-Anbiya’* (Narratives of the Prophets), Hadith no. 3189.

⁽²⁾ *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of An-Nikah, Hadith no. 4780.*



that no one wrongs or boasts over another.”⁽¹⁾

- “A person only increases in honor by forgiving (others); and anyone who humbles himself to Allah, Allah will surely elevate him.”⁽²⁾

- “A person should not make another person get up from his seat and then sit there himself; rather, make room and accommodate (each other).”⁽³⁾

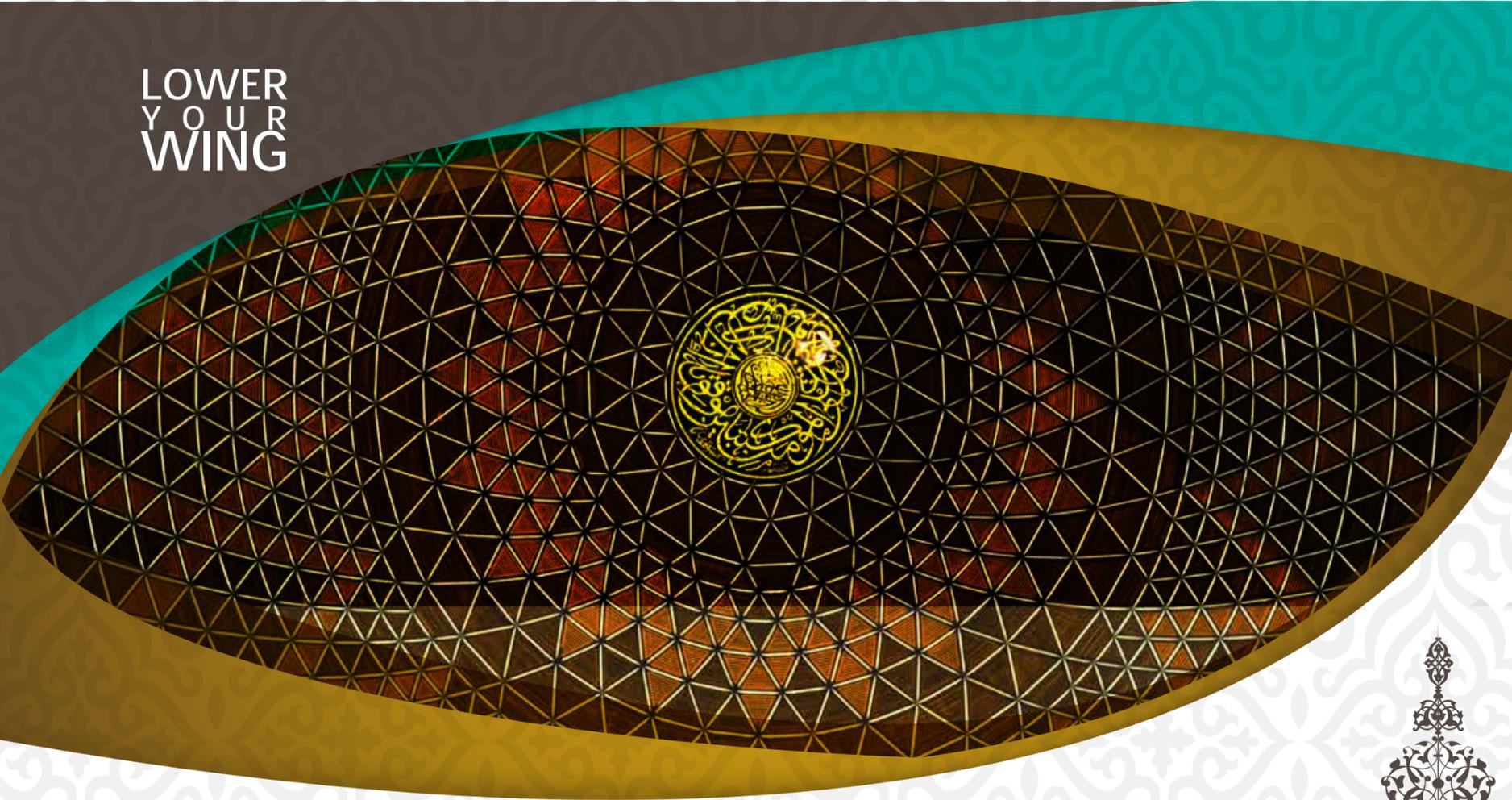
- “No one who has the weight of a mustard seed of faith in his heart shall enter Hellfire, and no one who has the



⁽¹⁾ ‘Aiyad bin Himar, Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 4250.

⁽²⁾ Abu Hurairah, Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Birr Waslah Waladab, Hadith no. 4689.

⁽³⁾ ‘Abdullah bin ‘Umar bin Al-Khattab, Sahih Muslim, Book of As-Salam (Greeting), Hadith no. 4044.



weight of a mustard seed of pride in his heart shall enter Paradise.”⁽¹⁾

Modesty through deeds:

- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was on a journey when he (peace and blessings be upon him) directed his Companions to prepare a sheep. One of them said, “O Messenger of Allah, I will slaughter it.” Another said, “O Messenger of Allah, I will skin it.” Another said, “O Messenger of Allah, I will cook it.” The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “And I will gather the wood.” They said, “O Messenger of



⁽¹⁾ ‘Abdullah bin Mas‘ud, Sahih Muslim, Book of Iman, Hadith no. 132.



Allah, we will spare you work.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “I know you can spare me (work), but I hate to be distinguished among you. Allah, the Most Exalted, hates to see His servant distinguished among his companions.”⁽¹⁾

- Abu Mas‘ud (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated, “A man who came to talk to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) started trembling, so he (peace and blessings be upon him) (soothingly) said to him, ‘Calm yourself. I am not a king. I am only the son of a woman who used to eat jerked meat.’”⁽²⁾



(1) *Al-Muhib At-Tabari, Subl A-Huda wa Ar-Rashad fi Sirah Khairul-‘Abad,*
 (2) *Al-Salhi Al-Shami, vol. 7.*
 (3) *Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of Al-At‘imah, Hadith no. 3303.*



- ‘Abdullah bin Busr (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated, “A sheep was presented as a gift to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). When he (peace and blessings be upon him) knelt down to eat, a Bedouin said to him, ‘What is this way of sitting?’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) replied, ‘Allah has made me a noble slave and did not make me arrogant or obstinate.’”⁽¹⁾

- Anas bin Malik narrated, “None among the people was more beloved to them than the Messenger of Allah (peace and



⁽¹⁾ Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of Al-At'imah, Hadith no. 3254.



blessings be upon him), yet upon seeing him, none of them stood up for him. They knew how much he (peace and blessings be upon him) hated that.”⁽¹⁾

- Anas bin Malik narrated, “If a man met the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and shook hands with him, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) never withdrew his hand first; he (peace and blessings be upon him) waited for the man to withdraw his hand. He (peace and blessings be upon him) never turned his face away from his first; he (peace and blessings



⁽¹⁾ *Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Mukthrin, Hadith no. 11922.*



be upon him) waited until the man turned away his face. He (peace and blessings be upon him) never stretched his legs before anyone sitting with him.”⁽¹⁾

- Anas bin Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated, “The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) used to visit the sick, follow funeral processions, accept invitations from slaves, and ride donkeys.”⁽²⁾

- ‘Abdullah bin ‘Amr bin Al-‘As (may Allah be pleased with him) said, “The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him)



⁽¹⁾ Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Sifat Al-Qiyamah wa Al-Raqa’iq wa Al-Wara’, Hadith no. 2414

⁽²⁾ Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of Az-Zuhd, Hadith no. 4168.



was never seen reclining while eating, nor walking with two men at his heels.”⁽¹⁾

- Abu Buraidah (may Allah be pleased with him) said, “While the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was walking, a man with a donkey came to him and said, ‘O Messenger of Allah! Ride,’ and the man moved back. He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘You have more right to the front (place) of your mount, unless you grant it to me.’ The man said, ‘I grant it to you.’”⁽²⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Al-At'imah, Hadith no. 3278.

⁽²⁾ Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 2697.

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