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COLLECTIONS OF FORTY ḤADĪTHS

Al-Arbaʿīn

The Virtues of Shām and its People

الأربعون في فضائل الشام وأهلها

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TURATH PUBLISHING

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1. THE VIRTUES OF SHĀM

DIVINE PROTECTION THROUGH
THE ANGELS OF MERCY

Ḥadīth 1

عن زيد بن ثابت الأنصاري رضي الله عنه قال سمعت رسول
الله صلى الله عليه وسلم يقول: يا طوبى للشام، يا طوبى للشام،
يا طوبى للشام، قالوا: يا رسول الله وبم ذلك؟ قال: تلك ملائكة
الله باسطو أجنحتها على الشام (أخرجه الترمذى والحاكم
وأحمد وابن حبان والطبرانى)

Zayd ibn Thābit al-Anṣārī (May Allah be pleased with him) said, I heard the Messenger ﷺ say: “Glad tidings for Shām, glad tidings for Shām, glad tidings for Shām!” They said: “O Messenger of Allah,

what is the reason for this?” He replied: “The angels of Allah have spread their wings upon Shām.”

Comments: The spreading of wings upon Shām means that the region and its people are blessed and protected from disbelief² as well as calamity and harm³.

BLESSED LAND

Hadīth 2

عن عبد الله بن عمر رضي الله عنهما أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: اللهم بارك لنا في شامنا وبارك لنا في يمننا، قالوا: وفي نجدنا، قال اللهم بارك لنا في شامنا وبارك لنا في يمننا، قالوا وفي نجدنا قال: هناك الزلازل والفتن وبها—أو قال—منها يخرج قرن الشيطان (رواه الترمذی)

‘Abdullāh ibn ‘Umar (May Allah be pleased with them) reports that the Prophet ﷺ said, “O Allah! Bestow blessings on our Shām, and bestow blessings on our Yemen.” The people said: “And also on our Najd.” He said: “O Allah! Bestow blessings on our Shām, and bestow blessings on our Yemen.”

2 Alī al-Qarī, *Mirqaatul Mafateeh* (6273)

3 Al-Munawī, *Faydhul Qadeer* (4: 361)

The people said: “And also on our Najd.” He said, “Earthquakes and afflictions will occur there,” or he said, “From there the horn of Satan will come out.”

Comments: Najd is not the name of a place but rather refers to the highland region beyond Hījāz towards Iraq.⁴ Al-Khaṭṭābī said, “The Najd is in the direction of the east, and for the one who is in Madinah then his Najd would be the desert of Iraq and its regions for this is to the east of the people of Madinah. The basic meaning of Najd is that which is raised or elevated from the earth in contrast to al-Gawr for that is what is lower than it. Tihāmah (the coastal plain along the south-western and southern shores of the Arabian Peninsula) is entirely al-Gawr and Makkah is in Tihāmah.”⁵

In the time of the Prophet ﷺ, the people of the region were disbelievers and later trials and tribulations arose from here. These resulted in the splitting of the Muslim ranks and the emergence of innovations.

Hadīth 3

عن أبي ذر رضى الله عنه قال أتاني رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم وأنا في مسجد المدينة فضربني برجله وقال ألا أراك نائماً فيه، فقلت يا رسول الله غلبتني عيني، قال كيف تصنع إذا

4 Ibn al-Athīr, *al-Nihāyah* (5/18).

5 *Fath al-Barī* (13/58).