

my *Howdaj* (on a camel) and dismounted while still in it. We carried on our journey, and when Allāh's Messenger ﷺ had finished his *Ghazwa* and returned and we approached Al-Madīna, Allāh's Messenger ﷺ ordered to proceed at night. When the army was ordered to resume the homeward journey, I got up and walked on till I left the army (camp) behind to answer the call of nature. After finishing, I went towards my *Howdaj*, but behold! A necklace of mine made of *Jaz'*; *Azfar* (a kind of black bead) was broken and I looked for it and my search for it detained me. The group of people who used to carry me on the camel, came and carried my *Howdaj* on to the back of my camel on which I was riding, thinking that I was therein. At that time women were light in weight and thin and lean for they used to eat little (food), so those people did not feel the difference in the heaviness of the *Howdaj* lifting it up, and I was still a young lady.⁽¹⁾ They drove away the camel and proceeded. Then I found my necklace after the army had gone. I came to their camp but found nobody therein so I went to the place where I used to stay, thinking that they would discover my absence and come back in my search. While I was sitting at my place, I felt sleepy and slept. *Şafwān bin Al-Mu'aṭṭal As-Sulamī Adh-Dhakhwānī* was behind the army. He had started in the last part of the night and reached my stationing place in the morning. When he saw the figure of a sleeping person, he came to me and recognized me on seeing me for he used to see me before veiling. I got up because of his saying: '*Innā lillāhi wa innā ilaihi rāji'un*',⁽²⁾ which he uttered on recognizing me. I covered my face with my

قَالَ لَهَا أَهْلُ الْإِفْكِ مَا قَالُوا، فَبَرَأَهَا اللَّهُ مِمَّا قَالُوا، وَكُلُّ حَدِيثِي طَائِفَةٌ مِّنَ الْحَدِيثِ. وَبَعْضُ حَدِيثِهِمْ يُصَدِّقُ بَعْضًا، وَإِنْ كَانَ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْعَى لَهُ مِنْ بَعْضٍ. الَّذِي حَدَّثَنِي عُرْوَةُ، عَنْ عَائِشَةَ: أَنَّ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا رَوَى النَّبِيُّ ﷺ قَالَتْ: كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ إِذَا أَرَادَ أَنْ يَخْرُجَ أَقْرَعَ بَيْنَ أَرْوَاجِهِ فَأَيُّتَهُنَّ خَرَجَ سَهْمُهَا خَرَجَ بِهَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ مَعَهُ. قَالَتْ عَائِشَةُ: فَأَقْرَعَ بَيْنَنَا فِي عَزْوَةٍ غَزَاهَا فَخَرَجَ سَهْمِي، فَخَرَجْتُ مَعَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ ﷺ بَعْدَمَا نَزَلَ الْحِجَابُ فَأَنَا أَحْمَلُ فِي هَوْدَجِي وَأَنْزَلَ فِيهِ. فَبَسَرْنَا حَتَّى إِذَا فَرَعَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ مِنْ عَزْوَتِهِ تَلَّكَ وَقَفَلْ وَدَتُونَا مِنَ الْمَدِينَةِ قَافِلِينَ، أَدَانَ لَيْلَةً بِالرَّحِيلِ فَمُتُّ حِينَ آدَنُوا بِالرَّحِيلِ فَمَشَيْتُ حَتَّى جَاوَزْتُ الْجَيْشَ فَلَمَّا فَضَيْتُ شَأْنِي أَقْبَلْتُ إِلَى رَحْلِي فَإِذَا عَقْدٌ لِي مِنْ جَزَعِ أَظْفَارٍ قَدْ انْقَطَعَ فَالْتَمَسْتُ عَقْدِي وَحَبَسَنِي ابْتِغَاؤُهُ. وَأَقْبَلَ الرَّهْطُ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا يَرِحَلُونَ لِي فَاحْتَمَلُوا هَوْدَجِي فَرَحَلُوهُ عَلَى بَعِيرِي الَّذِي كُنْتُ رَكْبَتْ وَهُمْ يَحْسُبُونَ أَنِّي فِيهِ، وَكَانَ النَّسَاءُ إِذْ ذَاكَ خَفَافًا لَمْ يُنْقَلِهِنَّ اللَّحْمُ إِمَّا

(1) (H. 4750) Less than fifteen years old.

(2) (H. 4750) That means: Truly to Allāh we belong and truly to Him we shall return. (V.2:156)

garment, and by Allāh, he did not say to me a single word except, 'Innā lillāh wa innā ilaihi rāji'un,' till he made his she-camel kneel down whereupon he put his leg on the front legs of the camel and I mounted it. Then Şafwān set out walking, leading the she-camel that was carrying me by the rope till we reached the army who had halted to take rest at midday. Then whoever was meant for destruction, fell into destruction, (some people accused me falsely) and the leader of the false accusers was 'Abdullāh bin Ubayy bin Salūl. After this we arrived at Al-Madīna and I became ill for one month while the people were spreading the forged statements of the people who brought forth the slander and I was not aware of anything thereof. But what aroused my doubt while I was sick, was that I was no longer receiving from Allāh's Messenger ﷺ the same kindness as I used to receive when I fell sick. Allāh's Messenger ﷺ would enter upon me, say a greeting and add, "How is that (lady)?" and then depart. That aroused my suspicion but I was not aware of the propagated evil till I recovered from my ailment. I went out with Umm Miṣṭaḥ to answer the call of nature towards Al-Manāṣī', the place where we used to relieve ourselves, and we used not to go out for this purpose except from night to night, and that was before we had lavatories close to our houses. And this habit of ours was similar to the habit of the old Arabs (living in the deserts or in the tents) concerning the evacuation of the bowels, for we considered it troublesome and harmful to take lavatories in the houses. So, I went out with Umm Miṣṭaḥ who was the daughter of Abī Ruḥm bin 'Abd Manāf, and her mother was the daughter of Şakhr bin 'Āmir who was the aunt of Abī Bakr Aṣ-Ṣiddīq, and her son was Miṣṭaḥ bin Uṭṭaḥa. When we had finished,

يَأْكُلْنَ الْعُلُقَةَ مِنَ الطَّعَامِ فَلَمْ يَسْتَكْرِ
الْقَوْمُ خِفَّةَ الْهُودَجِ حِينَ رَفَعُوهُ،
وَكُنْتُ جَارِيَةً حَدِيثَةَ السِّنِّ، فَبَعَثُوا
الْجَمَلَ وَسَارُوا، فَوَجَدْتُ عِقْدِي
بَعْدَمَا اسْتَمَرَّ الْجَيْشُ فَجَنْتُ مَنَارِلَهُمْ
وَلَيْسَ بِهَا دَاعٍ وَلَا مُجِيبٌ فَأَمَمْتُ
مَنْزِلِي الَّذِي كُنْتُ بِهِ وَطَلَنْتُ أَنَّهُمْ
سَيَقْفُدُونِي فَيَرْجِعُونَ إِلَيَّ. فَبَيْنَا أَنَا
جَالِسَةٌ فِي مَنْزِلِي غَلَبَتْنِي عَيْنِي فَبَسْتُ.
وَكَانَ صَفْوَانُ بْنُ الْمُعَطَّلِ السُّلَمِيِّ ثُمَّ
الذُّكْوَانِيُّ مِنْ وَرَاءِ الْجَيْشِ فَادْلَجَ
فَأَصْبَحَ عِنْدَ مَنْزِلِي فَرَأَى سَوَادَ إِنْسَانٍ
نَائِمٍ، فَأَتَانِي فَعَرَفَنِي حِينَ رَأَيْتِي،
وَكَانَ يَرَانِي قَبْلَ الْحِجَابِ،
فَاسْتَيْقَظْتُ بِاسْتِرْجَاعِهِ حِينَ عَرَفَنِي
فَحَمَرْتُ وَجْهِي بِجِلْبَابِي، وَاللَّهِ مَا
كَلَمْتَنِي كَلِمَةً وَلَا سَمِعْتُ مِنْهُ كَلِمَةً
غَيْرَ اسْتِرْجَاعِهِ، حَتَّى أَنَاخَ رَأِحَتُهُ
فَوَطِئْتُ عَلَى يَدَيْهَا فَرَكِبْتُهَا، فَانْطَلَقَ
يَقُودُ بِي الرَّاحِلَةَ حَتَّى أَتَيْنَا الْجَيْشَ
بَعْدَمَا نَزَلُوا مُوْغَرِينَ فِي نَحْرِ
الظَّهَيْرَةِ، فَهَلَكَ مَنْ هَلَكَ. وَكَانَ
الَّذِي تَوَلَّى الْإِفْكَ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ أَبِي
ابْنِ سُلُولٍ، فَقَدِمْنَا الْمَدِينَةَ فَاسْتَكَيْتُ
حِينَ قَدِمْتُ شَهْرًا وَالنَّاسُ يُفِيضُونَ
فِي قَوْلِ أَصْحَابِ الْإِفْكِ وَلَا أَشْعُرُ
بِشَيْءٍ مِنْ ذَلِكَ وَهُوَ يُرِيبُنِي فِي وَجْعِي
أَنِّي لَا أَعْرِفُ مِنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ ﷺ

Umm Miṣṭah and I came back towards my house. Umm Miṣṭah stumbled over her robe whereupon she said, "Let Miṣṭah be ruined!" I said to her, "You are saying a bad word. Why are you abusing a man who took part in (the battle of) Badr?" She said, "O *Hantāh* (you there)! Didn't you hear what he has said?" I said, "And what did he say?" Then she told me the rumours of the false accusers which added to my ailment. When I returned home, Allāh's Messenger ﷺ came to me, and after greeting, he said, "How is that (lady)?" I said, "Will you allow me to go to my parents?" At that time I intended to be sure of the news through them. Allāh's Messenger ﷺ allowed me and I went to my parents and asked my mother, "O my mother! What are the people talking about?" My mother said, "O my daughter! Don't worry much about this matter. By Allāh, there is no charming lady who is loved by her husband who has other wives, but that those wives would find fault with her or forge false news about her." I said, "*Subhān Allāh!* Are the people really talking of this matter?" That night I kept on weeping and could not sleep till morning. My tears never stopped, nor did I sleep, and morning broke while I was still weeping. Allāh's Messenger ﷺ called 'Alī bin Abī Ṭālib and Usāma bin Zaid (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا) when he saw the Divine Revelation delayed, in order to consult them as to the idea of divorcing his wife. Usāma bin Zaid told Allāh's Messenger ﷺ of what he knew of the good reputation of his wives and added, "O Allāh's Messenger! Keep your wife, for, By Allah, we do not know anything about her but good." 'Alī bin Abī Ṭālib said, "O Allāh's Messenger! Allāh does not impose restrictions on you; and there are many of women other than she, yet you may ask the women-servant who will tell you the

اللُّطْفَ الَّذِي كُنْتُ أَرَى مِنْهُ حِينَ أَشْتَكِي، إِنَّمَا يَدْخُلُ عَلَيَّ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ فَيَسْأَلُنِي ثُمَّ يَقُولُ: «كَيْفَ تَيْكُمُ؟» ثُمَّ يَنْصَرِفُ فَذَاكَ الَّذِي يَرِينِي وَلَا أَشْعُرُ بِالشَّرِّ حَتَّى خَرَجْتُ بَعْدَمَا نَفَعْتُ فَخَرَجْتُ مَعِي أُمُّ مِسْطَحَ قَبْلَ الْمَنَاصِعِ وَهُوَ مُتَبَرِّزُنَا وَكُنَّا لَا نَخْرُجُ إِلَّا لَيْلًا إِلَى لَيْلٍ وَذَلِكَ قَبْلَ أَنْ تَتَّخِذَ الْكُفْ قَرِيبًا مِنْ بِيوتِنَا، وَأَمْرُنَا أَمْرُ الْعَرَبِ الْأَوَّلِ فِي التَّبَرُّزِ قِبَلَ الْغَائِطِ، فَكُنَّا نَتَأَذَى بِالْكَفِّ أَنْ تَتَّخِذَهَا عِنْدَ بِيوتِنَا، فَاِنطَلَقْتُ أَنَا وَأُمُّ مِسْطَحَ، وَهِيَ ابْنَةُ أَبِي رُهِمِ بْنِ عَبْدِ مَنَافٍ، وَأُمُّهَا بِنْتُ صَخْرِ بْنِ عَامِرٍ خَالَهَ أَبِي بَكْرٍ الصِّدِّيقِ، وَابْنُهَا مِسْطَحُ بْنُ أَثَاةَ فَأَقْبَلْتُ أَنَا وَأُمُّ مِسْطَحَ، قَبْلَ بَيْتِي وَقَدْ فَرَعْنَا مِنْ شَأْنِنَا فَعَثَرْتُ أُمُّ مِسْطَحَ فِي مِرْطُهَا فَقَالَتْ: تَعَسَّ مِسْطَحُ، فَقُلْتُ لَهَا: بِئْسَ مَا قُلْتِ، أَتَسْبِيَنَّ رَجُلًا شَهِدَ بَدْرًا؟ قَالَتْ: أَيُّ هَتَاةٍ، أَوْ لَمْ تَسْمَعِي مَا قَالَ؟ قَالَتْ: قُلْتُ: وَمَا قَالَ؟ قَالَتْ فَأَخْبَرْتَنِي بِقَوْلِ أَهْلِ الْإِفْكِ فَازْدَدْتُ مَرَضًا عَلَى مَرَضِي، قَالَتْ فَلَمَّا رَجَعْتُ إِلَى بَيْتِي وَدَخَلْتُ عَلَيَّ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ - تَعْنِي سَلَمٌ - ثُمَّ قَالَ: «كَيْفَ تَيْكُمُ؟» فَقُلْتُ: أَنَاذُنُ لِي أَنْ آتِيَّ أَبَوَيَّ؟ قَالَتْ: وَأَنَا حِينِيذُ أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَسْتَيْقِنَ الْخَبَرَ مِنْ قِبَلِهِمَا،

truth.” ‘Aishah added: So Allāh’s Messenger ﷺ called for Barira and said, “O Barira! Did you ever see anything which might have aroused your suspicion (as regards ‘Aishah)?” Barira said, “By Allāh Who has sent you with the Truth, I have never seen anything faulty except that she is a girl of immature age who sometimes sleeps and leaves the dough of her family unprotected so that the domestic goats come and eat it.” So Allāh’s Messenger ﷺ got up (and addressed) the people and asked for somebody who would support him in punishing ‘Abdullāh bin Ubayy bin Salūl. Allāh’s Messenger ﷺ, while on the pulpit, said, “O Muslims! Who will support me to punish that man (‘Abdullāh bin Ubayy bin Salūl) who has hurt me by slandering the reputation of my family? By Allāh, I know nothing except good about my family, and they have accused a person about whom I know nothing except good, and he never entered my house except in my company.” Sa’d bin Mu’ādh Al-Anṣārī got up and said, “O Allāh’s Messenger! By Allāh, I will relieve you from him. If he be from the tribe of (Banī) Al-Aus, then I will chop his head off; and if that man is from our brethern, the Khazraj, then order us and we will fulfil your order.” On that, Sa’d bin ‘Ubāda, chief of the Khazraj, and before this incident, he had been a pious man, got up, motivated by his zeal for his tribe. He said to Sa’d (bin Mu’ādh), “By Allāh the Eternal, you have told a lie! You cannot kill him and you will never be able to kill him!” On that, Usaid bin Ḥudair, the cousin of Sa’d (bin Mu’ādh) got up and said to Sa’d bin ‘Ubāda, “You are a liar! By Allāh the Eternal, we will surely kill him; and you are a hypocrite, defending the hypocrites!” On this, two tribes of Al-Aus and Al-Khazraj got excited till they were on the point of fighting with

قَالَتْ: فَأَذِنَ لِي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ فَجِئْتُ أَبِي فَقُلْتُ لَأُمِّي: يَا أُمَّتَاهُ، مَا يَتَحَدَّثُ النَّاسُ؟ قَالَتْ: يَا بِنْتِي هَوْنِي عَلَيْكَ، فَوَاللَّهِ لَقَلَّمَا كَانَتْ امْرَأَةً فَطَوَّ وَضِيئَةً عِنْدَ رَجُلٍ يُحِبُّهَا وَلَهَا صَرَائِرُ إِلَّا أَكْثَرَ عَلَيْهَا. قَالَتْ: فَقُلْتُ: سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ، أَوْلَقَدْ تَحَدَّثَ النَّاسُ بِهَذَا؟ قَالَتْ: فَبَكَيْتُ تِلْكَ اللَّيْلَةَ حَتَّى أَضْبَحْتُ لَا يَرِقُ لِي دَمْعٌ وَلَا أَكْتَحِلُ بِنَوْمٍ حَتَّى أَضْبَحْتُ أَبُوكِي. فَدَعَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ عَلِيَّ بْنَ أَبِي طَالِبٍ وَأَسَامَةَ بْنَ زَيْدٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا حِينَ اسْتَلَبْتَ الْوَحْيِي يَسْتَأِيرُهُمَا فِي فِرَاقِ أَهْلِهِ. قَالَتْ: فَأَمَّا أُسَامَةُ بْنُ زَيْدٍ فَأَشَارَ عَلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ ﷺ بِالَّذِي يَعْلَمُ مِنْ بَرَاءَةِ أَهْلِهِ، وَبِالَّذِي يَعْلَمُ لَهُمْ فِي نَفْسِهِ مِنَ الْوُدِّ، فَقَالَ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، أَهْلَكَ وَمَا نَعْلَمُ إِلَّا خَيْرًا. وَأَمَّا عَلِيُّ بْنُ أَبِي طَالِبٍ فَقَالَ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، لَمْ يُضَيِّقِ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ وَالنِّسَاءَ سِوَاهَا كَثِيرٌ، وَإِنْ تَسْأَلِ الْجَارِيَةَ تَصَدَّقَكَ. قَالَتْ: فَدَعَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ بَرِيرَةَ: فَقَالَ: «أَيُّ بَرِيرَةَ هَلْ رَأَيْتِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ يَرِيْبُكَ؟» قَالَتْ بَرِيرَةُ: لَا وَالَّذِي بَعَثَكَ بِالْحَقِّ، إِنْ رَأَيْتِ عَلَيْهَا أَمْرًا أَعْغِضُهُ عَلَيْهَا سِوَى أَنَّهَُا جَارِيَةٌ حَدِيثَةُ السِّنِّ تَنَامُ عَنْ عَجَبِينَ أَهْلَهَا فَتَأْتِي الدَّاجِنُ

each other while Allāh's Messenger ﷺ was standing on the pulpit. Allāh's Messenger ﷺ continued quietening them till they became silent whereupon he became silent, too. On that day I kept on weeping so much that neither did my tears stop, nor could I sleep. In the morning my parents were with me, and I had wept for two nights and a day without sleeping and with incessant tears till they thought that my liver would burst with weeping. While they were with me and I was weeping, an *Anṣārī* woman asked permission to see me. I admitted her and she sat and started weeping with me. While I was in that state, Allāh's Messenger ﷺ came to us, greeted, and sat down. He had never sat with me since the day they forged the accusation. No Divine Revelation regarding my case came to him for a month. Allāh's Messenger ﷺ recited the *Tashah-hud*⁽¹⁾ after he had sat down, and then said, "Then after, O 'Āishah! I have been informed such and such about you, if you are innocent, Allāh will reveal your innocence, and if you have committed a sin, then repent to Allāh and ask Him to forgive you, for when a person confesses his sin and asks Allāh for forgiveness, Allāh accepts his repentance." When Allāh's Messenger ﷺ had finished his speech, my tears ceased completely and there remained not even a single drop of it. Then I requested my father, "Reply to Allāh's Messenger ﷺ on my behalf." He said, "By Allāh, I do not know what to say to Allāh's Messenger ﷺ." Then I said to my mother, "Reply to Allāh's Messenger ﷺ." She said, "I do not know what to say to Allāh's Messenger ﷺ." I was a young girl and did not have much knowledge of the Qur'an, I said, "By Allāh, I know that you heard this

فَتَأْكُلُهُ. فَقَامَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ فَاسْتَعَدَّ يَوْمَئِذٍ مِنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ أَبِي بِنِ سَلُولٍ. قَالَتْ: فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ وَهُوَ عَلَى الْمِنْبَرِ: «يَا مَعْشَرَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ، مَنْ يَغْذِرُنِي مِنْ رَجُلٍ قَدْ بَلَغَنِي أَذَاهُ فِي أَهْلِ بَيْتِي؟ فَوَاللَّهِ مَا عَلِمْتُ عَلَى أَهْلِي إِلَّا خَيْرًا، وَلَقَدْ ذَكَرُوا رَجُلًا مَا عَلِمْتُ عَلَيْهِ إِلَّا خَيْرًا، وَمَا كَانَ يَدْخُلُ عَلَى أَهْلِي إِلَّا مَعِي». فَقَامَ سَعْدُ بْنُ مُعَاذٍ الْأَنْصَارِيُّ فَقَالَ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَنَا أَعْدِيكَ مِنْهُ، إِنْ كَانَ مِنَ الْأَوْسِ صَرَبْنَا عُنُقَهُ، وَإِنْ كَانَ مِنْ إِيحْوَانِنَا مِنَ الْخَزْرَجِ أَمَرْنَا فَفَعَلْنَا أَمْرَكَ. قَالَتْ: فَقَامَ سَعْدُ بْنُ عَبَادَةَ وَهُوَ سَيِّدُ الْخَزْرَجِ، وَكَانَ قَبْلَ ذَلِكَ رَجُلًا صَالِحًا وَلَكِنْ اخْتَمَلْتَهُ الْحِيَمَةَ فَقَالَ لِسَعْدٍ: كَذَبْتَ، لَعَمْرُ اللَّهِ لَا تَقْتُلُهُ وَلَا تَقْدِرُ عَلَى قَتْلِهِ. فَقَامَ أُسَيْدُ بْنُ حُضَيْرٍ وَهُوَ ابْنُ عَمِّ سَعْدٍ فَقَالَ لِسَعْدِ بْنِ عَبَادَةَ: كَذَبْتَ لَعَمْرُ اللَّهِ لَقَتَلْتَهُ فَإِنَّكَ مُنَافِقٌ تُجَادِلُ عَنِ الْمُنَافِقِينَ. فَتَنَاقَرَا الْحَيَّانِ الْأَوْسُ وَالْخَزْرَجُ حَتَّى هَمُّوا أَنْ يَقْتَتِلُوا وَرَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ قَائِمٌ عَلَى الْمِنْبَرِ. فَلَمْ يَزَلْ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ يُخَفِّضُهُمْ حَتَّى سَكَنُوا وَسَكَتَ. قَالَتْ: فَمَكَثْتُ يَوْمِي ذَلِكَ لَا يَرِقًا لِي دَمْعٌ وَلَا

(1) (H. 4750) i.e., *Lā ilāha illallāh wa anna Muhammad-ar-Rasul Allāh*—(none has the right to be worshipped but Allāh) and that Muḥammad is Allāh's Messenger.

story (of the *Ifk*) so much so that it has been planted in your minds and you have taken it as a truth. Now, if I tell you I am innocent — and Allāh knows that I am innocent — you will not believe me ; and if I confessed to you falsely that I am guilty, and Allāh knows that I am innocent, you would believe me. By Allāh, I cannot find of you and I an example except that of Yūsuf's (Joseph)'s father [i.e., Ya'qūb (Jacob) عليه السلام]: "So (for me) patience is most fitting. And it is Allāh (Alone) Whose help can be sought against that (lie) which you describe." (V.12:18) Then I turned to the other side and lay on my bed, and I knew that I was innocent and that Allāh would reveal my innocence. But, by Allāh, I never thought that Allāh would send down Divine Revelation about my affair, that would be recited (forever), as I considered myself too inferior to be talked of by Allāh with something that was to be recited ; but I hoped that Allāh's Messenger ﷺ might have a vision in which Allāh would prove my innocence. By Allāh, Allāh's Messenger ﷺ had not left his seat and nobody had left the house when the Divine Revelation came to Allāh's Messenger ﷺ. So, there overtook him the same state which used to overtake him (when he used to receive Divine Revelation). He was sweating so much so that the drops of sweat were dropping like pearls, though it was a (cold) wintry day. And when that state of Allāh's Messenger ﷺ was over he was smiling and the first word he said was: "عَزَّ وَجَلَّ Allāh has declared your innocence." My mother said to me, "Get up and go to him." I said, "By Allāh, I will not go to him and I will not thank anybody but Allāh عَزَّ وَجَلَّ." So Allāh عَزَّ وَجَلَّ revealed:

"Verily! Those who brought forth the slander (against 'Āishah رضي الله عنها) are a

أَكْتَحِلُ بَنَوْمٍ. قَالَتْ: فَأَصْبَحَ أَبَوَايَ عِنْدِي وَقَدْ بَكَيْتُ لَيْلَتَيْنِ وَيَوْمًا، لَا أَكْتَحِلُ بَنَوْمٍ وَلَا يَزُقًا لِي دَمْعٌ، يَظُنَّانِ أَنَّ الْبُكَاءَ فَالِقُ كَبِدِي. قَالَتْ: فَبَيْنَمَا هُمَا جَالِسَانِ عِنْدِي وَأَنَا أَبْكِي فَاسْتَأْذَنْتُ عَلَيَّ امْرَأَةً مِنَ الْأَنْصَارِ، فَأَذَنْتُ لَهَا. فَجَلَسْتُ تَبْكِي مَعِي، قَالَتْ: فَبَيْنَا نَحْنُ عَلَى ذَلِكَ دَخَلَ عَلَيْنَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ فَسَلَّمَ ثُمَّ جَلَسَ. قَالَتْ: وَلَمْ يَجْلِسْ عِنْدِي مُنْذُ قِيلَ مَا قِيلَ قَبْلَهَا. وَقَدْ لَبِثَ شَهْرًا لَا يُوحَى إِلَيْهِ فِي شَأْنِي، قَالَتْ: فَتَشَهَّدَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ حِينَ جَلَسَ، ثُمَّ قَالَ: «أَمَّا بَعْدُ، يَا عَائِشَةُ فَإِنَّهُ قَدْ بَلَغَنِي عَنْكَ كَذَا وَكَذَا، فَإِنْ كُنْتِ بَرِيئَةً فَسَيَبْرَأُكَ اللَّهُ، وَإِنْ كُنْتِ أَلَمَمْتِ بِذَنْبٍ فَاسْتَغْفِرِي اللَّهَ وَتُوبِي إِلَيْهِ. فَإِنَّ الْعَبْدَ إِذَا اعْتَرَفَ بِذَنْبِهِ ثُمَّ تَابَ إِلَى اللَّهِ تَابَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ». قَالَتْ: فَلَمَّا قَضَى رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ مَقَالَتهُ فَلَصَّ دَمْعِي حَتَّى مَا أُحْسُ مِنْهُ قَطْرَةً، فَقُلْتُ لِأَبِي: أَجِبْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ فِيمَا قَالَ. قَالَ: وَاللَّهِ مَا أُذْرِي مَا أَقُولُ لِرَسُولِ اللَّهِ ﷺ، فَقُلْتُ لِأُمِّي: أَجِيبِي رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ، قَالَتْ: مَا أُذْرِي مَا أَقُولُ لِرَسُولِ اللَّهِ ﷺ، قَالَتْ: قُلْتُ وَأَنَا جَارِيَةٌ حَدِيثُهُ السِّنُّ لَا أَفْرَأُ كَثِيرًا مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ: إِنِّي وَاللَّهِ لَقَدْ عَلِمْتُ لَقَدْ سَمِعْتُمْ هَذَا

group among you. Consider it not a bad...” (V.24:11-20)

When Allāh revealed this declaration of my innocence, Abū Bakr Aṣ-Ṣiddīq, who used to provide for Miṣṭah bin Uthathā because of his kinship and poverty, said, “By Allāh, I will never provide for Miṣṭah anything after what he has said about ‘Āishah”. So Allāh revealed:

“And let not those among you who are blessed with graces and wealth swear not to give (any sort of help) to their kinsmen, *Al-Masākīn* (poor), and those who left their homes for Allāh’s Cause. Let them pardon and forgive. Do you not love that Allāh should forgive you? And Allāh is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful.” (V.24:22)

Abū Bakr said, “Yes, by Allāh, I like that Allāh should forgive me” and resumed giving Miṣṭah the aid he used to give him before, by saying, “By Allāh, I will never withhold it from him at all.” ‘Āishah further said: Allāh’s Messenger ﷺ also asked Zainab bint Jaḥsh about me saying, “O Zainab! What do you know and what did you see?” She replied, “O Allāh’s Messenger! I refrain to claim hearing or seeing what I have not heard or seen. I know nothing except goodness about ‘Āishah.” ‘Āishah رضي الله عنهما added (of all the wives of Allāh’s Messenger (ﷺ), Zainab was competing with me (in her beauty and the Prophet’s love), yet Allāh protected her (from being malicious) for she had piety. But her sister, Ḥamna, kept on fighting on her behalf, so she was destroyed as were those who invented and spread the slander.

الْحَدِيثَ حَتَّى اسْتَقَرَّ فِي أَنْفُسِكُمْ
وَصَدَقْتُمْ بِهِ، فَلَيْنَ قُلْتُ لَكُمْ: إِنِّي
بَرِيئَةٌ، وَاللَّهِ يَعْلَمُ أَنِّي بَرِيئَةٌ، لَا
تُصَدِّقُونَنِي بِذَلِكَ. وَلَيْنَ اعْتَرَفْتُ لَكُمْ
بِأَمْرٍ وَاللَّهِ يَعْلَمُ أَنِّي مِنْهُ بَرِيئَةٌ
لَتُصَدِّقَنِي، وَاللَّهِ مَا أُجِدُّ لَكُمْ مَثَلًا إِلَّا
قَوْلَ أَبِي يُوسُفَ قَالَ: ﴿فَصَبْرٌ جَمِيلٌ
وَاللَّهِ أَلْمَسْتَعَانُ عَلَى مَا تَصِفُونَ﴾ قَالَتْ:
نُمَّ تَحَوَّلْتُ فَاضْطَجَعْتُ عَلَى فِرَاشِي.
قَالَتْ: وَأَنَا حِينْتِذِ أَعْلَمُ أَنِّي بَرِيئَةٌ،
وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ مُبْرِّئِي بِبِرَائَتِي. وَلَكِنَّ وَاللَّهِ
مَا كُنْتُ أَظُنُّ أَنَّ اللَّهَ مُنْزِلٌ فِي شَأْنِي
وَحَيًّا يُنْتَلَى، وَلِشَأْنِي فِي نَفْسِي كَانَ
أَحْقَرَ مِنْ أَنْ يَتَكَلَّمَ اللَّهُ فِيَّ بِأَمْرٍ
يُنْتَلَى، وَلَكِنَّ كُنْتُ أَرْجُو أَنْ يَرَى
رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ فِي النَّوْمِ رُؤْيَا مُبْرِّئِي
اللَّهُ بِهَا. قَالَتْ: فَوَاللَّهِ مَا رَأَمَ رَسُولُ
اللَّهِ ﷺ وَلَا خَرَجَ أَحَدٌ مِنْ أَهْلِ
الْبَيْتِ حَتَّى أَنْزَلَ عَلَيْهِ فَأَخَذَهُ مَا كَانَ
يَأْخُذُهُ مِنَ الْبُرْحَاءِ، حَتَّى إِنَّهُ لَيَتَحَدَّرُ
مِنْهُ مِثْلَ الْجُمَانِ مِنَ الْعَرَقِ، وَهُوَ فِي
يَوْمِ شَابٍ، مِنْ ثِقَلِ الْقَوْلِ الَّذِي يُنْزَلُ
عَلَيْهِ. قَالَتْ: فَلَمَّا سُرِّيَ عَنِ رَسُولِ
اللَّهِ ﷺ سُرِّيَ عَنْهُ وَهُوَ يَضْحَكُ،
فَكَانَ أَوَّلَ كَلِمَةٍ تَكَلَّمَ بِهَا: «يَا
عَائِشَةُ، أَمَا اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ فَقَدْ بَرَأَكَ». فَقَالَتْ
أُمِّي: قُومِي إِلَيْهِ، قَالَتْ:
فَقُلْتُ: وَاللَّهِ لَا أَقُومُ إِلَيْهِ وَلَا أَحْمَدُ

إِلَّا اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ. وَأَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ ﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ جَاءُوا بِالْإِفْكِ عُصْبَةٌ مِنْكُمْ لَا نَحْسَبُوهُ﴾ الْعَشْرَ الْآيَاتِ كُلَّهَا، فَلَمَّا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ فِي بَرَاءَتِي قَالَ أَبُو بَكْرٍ الصَّدِيقُ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ وَكَانَ يُنْفِقُ عَلَى مِسْطَحِ بْنِ أُنَافَةَ لِقَرَابَتِهِ مِنْهُ وَفَقَرَهُ: وَاللَّهِ لَا أَنْفِقُ عَلَى مِسْطَحِ شَيْئًا أَبَدًا بَعْدَ الَّذِي قَالَ لِعَائِشَةَ مَا قَالَ. فَأَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ ﴿وَلَا يَأْتِلُ أَوْلُوا الْفَضْلِ مِنْكُمْ وَالسَّعَةِ أَنْ يُؤْتُوا أُولِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَالْمُهَاجِرِينَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلْيَعْفُوا وَلْيَصْفَحُوا أَلَا تُحِبُّونَ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ﴾ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿٣٦﴾ قَالَ أَبُو بَكْرٍ: بَلَىٰ وَاللَّهِ إِنِّي أُحِبُّ أَنْ يُغْفَرَ اللَّهُ لِي، فَرَجَعَ إِلَى مِسْطَحِ النَّفَقَةَ الَّتِي كَانَ يُنْفِقُ عَلَيْهِ. وَقَالَ: وَاللَّهِ لَا أَنْزِعُهَا مِنْهُ أَبَدًا. قَالَتْ عَائِشَةُ: وَكَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ يَسْأَلُ زَيْنَبَ ابْنَةَ جَحْشٍ عَنْ أَمْرِي، فَقَالَتْ: «يَا زَيْنَبُ مَاذَا عَلِمْتَ أَوْ رَأَيْتِ؟» فَقَالَتْ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، أَحْمِي سَمْعِي وَبَصْرِي، مَا عَلِمْتُ إِلَّا خَيْرًا. قَالَتْ: وَهِيَ الَّتِي كَانَتْ تُسَائِمُنِي مِنْ أَزْوَاجِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ ﷺ فَعَصَمَهَا اللَّهُ بِالْوَرَعِ. وَطَفِقَتْ أَخْتُهَا حَمْنَةُ تُحَارِبُ لَهَا فَهَلَكَتْ فِيمَنْ هَلَكَ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ الْإِفْكِ. [راجع: ٢٥٩٣]

(7) CHAPTER. The Statement of Allāh تعالى: "Had it not been for the Grace of Allāh and His Mercy unto you in this world and in the

(٧) بَابُ قَوْلِهِ: ﴿وَلَا فَضْلَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَتُهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ لَمَسَّكُمْ فِي

Hereafter, a great torment would have touched you for that whereof you had spoken.” (V.24:14)

4751. Narrated Umm Rūmān, ‘Āishah’s mother: When ‘Āishah was accused, she fell down unconscious.

(8) CHAPTER. “When you were propagating it with your tongues, and uttering with your mouths that whereof you had no knowledge...” (V.24:15)

4752. Narrated Ibn Abī Mulaika: I heard ‘Āishah reciting:

“When you were inventing a lie with your tongues...” (V.24:15)⁽¹⁾

CHAPTER. “And why did you not, when you heard it, say: It is not right for us to speak of this...” (V.24:16)

4753. Narrated Ibn Abī Mulaika: Ibn ‘Abbās asked permission to visit ‘Āishah before her death, and at that time she was in a state of agony. She then said, “I am afraid that he will praise me too much.” And then it was said to her, “He is the cousin of Allāh’s Messenger ﷺ and one of the prominent Muslims.” Then she said, “Allow him to enter.” (When he entered) he said, “How are you?” She replied, “I am

مَا أَفْضَتْهُ فِيهِ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿١٤﴾ [١٤]
وقال مجاهد: ﴿تَلْقَوْنَهُ﴾: يَرَوِيهِ
بَعْضُكُمْ عَنْ بَعْضٍ. ﴿تُؤَيِّضُونَ﴾:
تَقُولُونَ.

٤٧٥١ - حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ كَثِيرٍ:
حَدَّثَنَا سُلَيْمَانُ، عَنْ حُصَيْنٍ، عَنْ أَبِي
وَائِلٍ، عَنْ مَسْرُوقٍ، عَنْ أُمِّ رُومَانَ أُمِّ
عَائِشَةَ، أَنَّهَا قَالَتْ: لَمَّا رُمِيَتْ عَائِشَةُ
خَرَّتْ مَغْشِيَةً عَلَيْهَا. [راجع: ٣٣٨٨]

(٨) بَابُ ﴿إِذْ تَلْقَوْنَهُ بِأَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَتَقُولُونَ
بِأَفْوَاهِكُمْ مَا لَيْسَ لَكُمْ بِهِ عِلْمٌ﴾ الْآيَةَ
[١٥]

٤٧٥٢ - حَدَّثَنَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ بْنُ
مُوسَى: حَدَّثَنَا هِشَامٌ: أَنَّ ابْنَ جُرَيْجٍ
أَخْبَرَهُمْ: قَالَ ابْنُ أَبِي مُلَيْكَةَ:
سَمِعْتُ عَائِشَةَ تَقْرَأُ ﴿إِذْ تَلْقَوْنَهُ
بِأَلْسِنَتِكُمْ﴾. [راجع: ٤١٤٤]

بَابُ ﴿وَلَوْلَا إِذْ سَمِعْتُمُوهُ قُلْتُمْ مَا يَكُونُ
لَنَا أَنْ نَتَكَلَّمَ بِهَذَا﴾ الْآيَةَ [١٦]

٤٧٥٣ - حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ الْمُثَنَّى:
حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى، عَنْ عُمَرَ بْنِ سَعِيدِ بْنِ
أَبِي حُسَيْنٍ قَالَ: حَدَّثَنِي بْنُ أَبِي مُلَيْكَةَ
قَالَ: اسْتَأْذَنَ ابْنُ عَبَّاسٍ قَبْلَ مَوْتِهَا
عَلَى عَائِشَةَ وَهِيَ مَغْلُوبَةٌ قَالَتْ: أَخْشَى
أَنْ يُثَنِّيَ عَلَيَّ، فَقِيلَ: ابْنُ عَمِّ رَسُولِ
اللَّهِ ﷺ وَمِنْ وَجْهِهِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ، قَالَتْ:

(1) (H. 4752) The difference in the translation of this Verse comes from the way one word is read, i.e. ‘Talqaunahū’ (you were propagating it) or, ‘Taliqaunahū’ (you invented a lie). The popular recitation is ‘Talqaunahū’ while ‘Āishah recited it: ‘Taliqaunahū’.

alright if I fear (Allāh).” Ibn Abbās said, “If Allāh will, you are alright, as you are the wife of Allāh’s Messenger ﷺ; and he did not marry any virgin except you, and proof of your innocence was revealed from the heaven.” Later on Ibn Az-Zubair entered after him and ‘Āishah said to him, “Ibn ‘Abbās came to me and praised me greatly, but I wish that I was a thing forgotten and out of sight.”

أَتَدْرُونَ لَهُ، فَقَالَ: كَيْفَ تَجِدِينِي؟
قَالَتْ: بِخَيْرٍ إِنْ اتَّقَيْتُ، قَالَ: فَأَنْتِ
بِخَيْرٍ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى، زَوْجَةُ رَسُولِ
اللَّهِ ﷺ وَلَمْ يَنْكِحْ بَكْرًا غَيْرَكَ، وَنَزَلَ
عُدْرُكَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ. وَدَخَلَ ابْنُ الزُّبَيْرِ
خِلَافَهُ فَقَالَتْ: دَخَلَ ابْنُ عَبَّاسٍ فَأَنْتِي
عَلَيَّ وَدِدْتُ أَنِّي كُنْتُ نِسِيًّا مَنْسِيًّا.
[راجع: ٣٧٧]

4754. Narrated Al-Qāsim: Ibn ‘Abbās asked ‘Āishah’s permission to enter. Al-Qāsim then narrated the whole *Hadīth* (as the above) but did not mention: “a thing forgotten and out of sight.”

٤٧٥٤ - حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ
الْمُنْتَنِي: حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الْوَهَّابِ بْنُ عَبْدِ
الْمَجِيدِ: حَدَّثَنَا ابْنُ عَوْنٍ، عَنِ
الْقَاسِمِ: أَنَّ ابْنَ عَبَّاسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ
اسْتَأْذَنَ عَلَيَّ عَائِشَةَ نَحْوَهُ، وَلَمْ
يَذْكُرْ: نِسِيًّا مَنْسِيًّا. [راجع: ٣٧٧]

(9) CHAPTER. The Statement of Allāh تعالى: “And warns you not to repeat the like of it, forever.” (V.24:17)

(٩) بَابُ قَوْلِهِ: ﴿يَعْظَمُكُمْ اللَّهُ أَنْ
تَعُودُوا لِمِثْلِهِ أَبَدًا﴾ [الآية ١٧]

4755. Narrated Masrūq: ‘Āishah رضي الله عنها said that Ḥassān bin Thābit came and asked permission to visit her. I said, “How do you permit such a person?” She said, “Hasn’t he received a severe torment (penalty)?” (Sufyān, the subnarrator, said: She meant the loss of his sight.) Thereupon Ḥassān said the following poetic verse:

٤٧٥٥ - حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ
يُوسُفَ: حَدَّثَنَا سُفْيَانُ، عَنِ
الْأَعْمَشِ، عَنْ أَبِي الضُّحَى، عَنْ
مَسْرُوقٍ، عَنْ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا
قَالَتْ: جَاءَ حَسَّانُ بْنُ ثَابِتٍ يَسْتَأْذِنُ
عَلَيْهَا، قُلْتُ: أَتَأْذِينَ لِهَذَا؟ قَالَتْ:
أَوْ لَيْسَ قَدْ أَصَابَهُ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ؟ قَالَ
سُفْيَانُ: تَعْنِي ذَهَابَ بَصَرِهِ، فَقَالَ:

“A chaste pious woman who arouses no suspicion. She never talks about chaste heedless women behind their backs.”

On that she said, “But you are not so.”

حَصَّانٌ رَزَّانٌ مَا تُزَنُّ بَرِيَّةٌ

وَتُصْبِحُ عَرْنَى مِنْ لُحُومِ الْعَوَافِلِ

قَالَتْ: لَكِنْ أَنْتَ. [راجع: ٤١٤٦]

(10) CHAPTER. The Statement of Allāh تعالى:

(١٠) بَابُ: ﴿وَيُنِّبُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ الْآيَاتِ﴾