

[*Bismi'llāhi 'r-Raḥmāni 'r-Raḥīm*]

The following text has been related by al-Ḥāfiẓ Abū 'Īsā Muḥammad ibn 'Īsā ibn Sawra at-Tirmidhī:

**Ch. 1: What has come to us concerning
the physical constitution [*khalq*]
of Allāh's Messenger
(Allāh bless him and give him peace)**

i. We have been told by Abū Rijā' Qutaiba ibn Sa'id, on the authority of Mālik ibn Anas, that Rabī'a ibn Abī 'Abd ar-Raḥmān said that he heard Anas ibn Mālik say:

“Allāh's Messenger (Allāh bless him and give him peace) was neither very tall of stature, nor short. His skin was neither pale white, nor tawny, and his hair was neither crisply curled, nor lank. Allāh (Exalted is He) sent him [to serve as His Messenger] at the end of forty years of life, so he stayed in Mecca for ten years and in Medina for ten years, and Allāh took him unto Himself at the end of sixty years, with fewer than twenty white hairs on his head and his beard.”

< al-Bukhārī (3548), Muslim (2347) and at-Tirmidhī (3623) >

ii. We have been told by Ḥumaid ibn Mas'ada al-Baṣrī: “We have been told by 'Abd al-Wahhāb ath-Thaqafī, on the authority of Ḥumaid, that Anas ibn Mālik said:

“Allāh's Messenger (Allāh bless him and give him peace) was of medium height, neither tall nor short. He was of handsome physique, and his hair was neither crisply curled nor smooth, brown of color. When he walked, he used to stride confidently.”

< al-Bukhārī (3547), Muslim (2330), an-Nasā'ī in *al-Kubrā* (9311), and at-Tirmidhī (1754) >

iii. We have been told by Muḥammad ibn Bashār, *i.e.* al-'Abdī: “We have been told by Muḥammad ibn Ja'far: ‘According to Shu'ba, Ibn Ishāq said: “I heard al-Barā' ibn 'Āzib say:

“Allāh's Messenger (Allāh bless him and give him peace) was neither curly nor lank-haired, of medium height, broad-shouldered, with luxuriant hair reaching the lobes of his ears, wearing a red suit of clothes. I have never seen anything more beautiful than him!””

< al-Bukhārī (3551), Muslim (2337), Abū Dāwud (4072), at-Tirmidhī (2811) and an-Nasā'ī (5232) >

iv. We have been told by Maḥmūd ibn Ghailān: “Wakī' told us: ‘Sufyān told us, on the authority of Abū Ishāq, that al-Barā' ibn 'Āzib said:

“I have never seen anyone endowed with a lock of hair flowing below the ears, wearing a red suit of clothes, more handsome than Allāh's Messenger (Allāh bless him and give him peace). He had some hair touching his shoulders. Broad-shouldered, he was neither short nor tall.””

< al-Bukhārī (3551), Muslim (92/2337), Abū Dāwud (4072), at-Tirmidhī (1724) and an-Nasā'ī (5233) >

v. We have been told by Muḥammad ibn Ismā'il: “Abū Nu'aim told us: ‘We have been told by al-Mas'ūdī, on the authority of 'Uthmān ibn Muslim ibn Hurmuz, on the authority of Nāfi' ibn Jubair ibn Mu''im, that 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib said:

“The Prophet (Allāh bless him and give him peace) was neither tall nor short, endowed with sturdy hands and feet, stout head and limbs, and lengthy hair on the chest. When he walked, he inclined forward, as if he were descending a downward slope. I have never seen the like of him, neither before him nor after him.””

< at-Tirmidhī (3637), Ibn Ḥibbān (6311) and al-Ḥākim (2/605-6) >

vi. We have been told by Sufyān ibn Wakīʿ: “My father told us likewise on the authority of al-Masʿūdī, with this chain of transmission.”

vii. We have been told by Aḥmad ibn ʿAbda aḍ-Ḍabbī al-Baṣrī, and by ʿAlī ibn Ḥujr and Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥusain (*i.e.* Ibn Abī Ḥalīma), and the meaning is one and the same: “We have been told by ʿIsā ibn Yūnus, on the authority of ʿUmar ibn ʿAbdiʿllāh, the Mawlā of Ghufra: ‘I have been told by Ibrāhīm ibn Muḥammad, one of the offspring of ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib (may Allāh be well pleased with him): “When ʿAlī described Allāh’s Messenger (Allāh bless him and give him peace), he said:

‘Allāh’s Messenger (Allāh bless him and give him peace) was neither assertively tall, nor reticently short, and he was an average-sized member of the population. His hair was neither crisply curled nor lank; it was loosely curled. He was neither plump nor chubby-cheeked, and in his face there was a rounded quality. He was white with a reddish tinge, dark black-eyed, with long eyelashes. He had splendid kneecaps, elbow joints and shoulder blades, free from hair. He had a strip of hair from the top of the chest to the navel. The palms of his hands and the soles of his feet were thickset. When he walked, he moved as if he were descending a declivity, and when he looked around, he looked around altogether. Between his shoulders was the Seal of Prophethood, for he is the Seal of the Prophets. He was the best of the people in generosity, the most truthful of the people in speech, the gentlest of them in temperament, and the noblest of them in social intercourse. If someone saw him unexpectedly, he was awestruck by him, and if someone associated with him knowingly, he loved him. His describer says: “I have never seen the like of him (Allāh bless him and give him peace), neither before him nor after him.”””

< at-Tirmidhī (3638) and al-Baihaqī in *ash-Shuʿab* (2/149-50) & *ad-Dalāʿil* (1/269-70) >

viii. We have been told by Sufyān ibn Wakīʿ: “We have been told by Jumaiʿ ibn ʿUmair ibn ʿAbd ar-Raḥmān al-ʿIjlī (as dictated to us from his book): ‘I have been informed by a man from the Banū Tamīm tribe, one of the offspring of Abū Hāla, the husband of Khadija, called by the surname Abū ʿAbdiʿllāh, on the authority of a son of Abū Hāla, that al-Ḥasan ibn ʿAlī said (may Allāh be well pleased with him and his father): “My maternal aunt Hind asked the son of Abū Hāla, who was a describer of the finery of Allāh’s Messenger (Allāh bless him and give him peace), requesting him to describe for me something of it that would be of interest to me, so he said:

‘Allāh’s Messenger (Allāh bless him and give him peace) was an honored dignitary, whose face shone with the radiance of the moon on the night of the full moon. He was taller than medium-sized, and shorter than the slender giant. His head was grand and impressive, with loosely curled hair. If his forelock became divided, he would part it, otherwise his hair would not cross over his earlobes, then he would let it grow plentiful and long. He was bright of color, broad of forehead, endowed with arched eyebrows, perfect without being conjoined, with a vein between them that anger would cause to pulsate. The bridge of his nose was curved. He had a light that would rise over him, and someone who did not reflect on him would consider him haughty. He was thickly bearded, endowed with smooth cheeks, a wide mouth, cleft teeth, and a delicate strip of hair from the top of the chest to the navel. It was as if his neck were

the neck of a statue shaped in pure silver. He was well proportioned in physique, firmly cohesive, with the stomach and the breast in even balance. He was wide-chested, broad-shouldered, endowed with stout limbs and very shiny bare skin. He was linked between the top of the chest and the navel by a strip of hair like a line of writing, while his breasts and stomach were bare apart from that. He had hair on his arms and shoulders and the upper parts of his chest. His forearms were long. He had a sensitive touch of the hand. The palms of his hands and the soles of his feet were thickset. His extremities were well formed [*sā'il* (or he may have said *shā'il*)]. The hollows of his soles were extremely hollow. His feet were so smooth that water bounced off them. When he went away from a place, he would go away striding decisively. He would tread inclining forward and walk comfortably. His gait was brisk. When he walked, it was as if he were descending a declivity, and when he looked around, he looked around altogether. He lowered his eyesight, and his looking at the earth was longer than his looking at the sky. The majority of his looking was observation. He would urge his Companions to proceed ahead of him, and he would surprise anyone he encountered with the salutation of peace.”””

< al-Baihaqī in *ad-Dalā'il* (1/214) & *ash-Shu'ab* (1430) 2/154-57, and at-Ṭabarānī in *al-Kabīr* (414) 22/155-59 >

ix. We have been told by Abū Mūsā Muḥammad ibn al-Muthannā: “Muḥammad ibn Ja'far told us: ‘Shu'ba told us that Simāk ibn Ḥarb said: “I heard Jābir ibn Samra say:

‘Allāh’s Messenger (Allāh bless him and give him peace) was *ḍalī' al-fam, ashkal al-ain, manhūs al-'aqīb*.’”

Shu'ba said: “I asked Simāk: ‘What is *ḍalī' al-fam*?’ He replied: ‘[It means] endowed with a grand and impressive mouth.’ I asked: ‘What is *ashkal al-ain*?’ He replied: ‘[It means] long in the slit of the eye.’ I asked: ‘What is *manhūs al-'aqīb*?’ He said: ‘[It means] endowed with a lean heel.’”

< Muslim (2339), at-Tirmidhī (3647) and Aḥmad (5) 88, 97 & 103 >

x. We have been told by Hanād ibn as-Sarī: “Abthar ibn al-Qāsim told us, on the authority of Ash'ab (*i.e.* Ibn Suwār), on the authority of Abū Ishāq, that Jābir ibn Samra said:

‘I saw Allāh’s Messenger (Allāh bless him and give him peace) in a cloudless night, and he was wearing a red suit of clothes, so I started looking at him as well as at the moon, for he is indeed more beautiful, in my opinion, than the moon!’”

< at-Tirmidhī (2811) and al-Baihaqī in *ad-Dalā'il* (1/196) & *ash-Shu'ab* (2/151) >

xi. We have been told by Sufyān ibn Wakī': “Ḥumaid ibn 'Abd ar-Raḥmān ar-Ru'āsī told us, on the authority of Zuhair, that Abū Ishāq said: ‘A man asked al-Barā' ibn 'Āzib:

“Was the face of Allāh’s Messenger (Allāh bless him and give him peace) like the sword?” He said: “No, it was rather like the moon!”””

< al-Bukhārī (3552) and at-Tirmidhī (3636) >

xii. We have been told by Abū Dāwud al-Muṣaḥifī (*i.e.* Sulaimān ibn Salm): “We have been told by an-Naḍr ibn Shumail, on the authority of Ṣāliḥ ibn Abi 'l-Akhḍar, on the authority of Ibn Shihāb, on the authority of Abū Salama, that Abū Huraira said (may Allāh be well pleased with him):

‘Allāh’s Messenger (Allāh bless him and give him peace) was white, as if he were fashioned from silver, with loosely curled hair.’”

< al-Baghawī in *ash-Shamā'il* (165) 1/147 >

xiii. We have been told by Qutaiba ibn Sa'īd: "Al-Laith ibn Sa'd informed me, on the authority of Abu'z-Zubair, on the authority of Jābir ibn 'Abdī'llāh, that Allāh's Messenger said (Allāh bless him and give him peace):

"The Prophets were presented to me, and there was Moses (peace be upon him), a specimen of the men of distinction, as if he were among the men of pure lineage and manly virtue [*shanū'a*]. I also saw Jesus the son of Mary (peace be upon him), and the nearest I have seen in resemblance to him is 'Urwa ibn Mas'ūd. I also saw Abraham (peace be upon him), and the nearest I have seen in resemblance to him is your Companion (*meaning himself*). I also saw Gabriel (peace be upon him), and the nearest I have seen in resemblance to him is Dihya."

< Muslim (167), at-Tirmidhī (3649) and Aḥmad (3/334) >

xiv. We have been told by Sufyān ibn Wakī' and by Muḥammad ibn Bashār (the meaning is one and the same): "Yazīd ibn Hārūn informed us that Sa'īd al-Jarīrī said: 'I heard Abu'ṭ-Ṭufail say:

"I saw the Prophet (Allāh bless him and give him peace), and there is no one left on the face of the earth who has seen him, apart from me." I said: "Describe him for me!" He said: "He was white, handsome, of medium size.""

< Muslim (2340) and Abū Dāwud (4863) >

xv. We have been told by 'Abdu'llāh ibn 'Abd ar-Raḥmān: "Ibrāhīm ibn al-Mundhir al-Ḥizāmī informed us: "Abd al-'Azīz ibn [Abī] Thābit az-Zuhrī informed me: "Ismā'il ibn Ibrāhīm, the son of the brother of Mūsā ibn 'Uqba, told me, on the authority of Mūsā ibn 'Uqba, on the authority of Kuraib, that Ibn 'Abbās said:

"Allāh's Messenger (Allāh bless him and give him peace) had a gap between the medial pair of teeth. When he spoke, it seemed as if light were emerging from between his middle teeth.""

< al-Baihaqī in *ad-Dalā'il* (1/215) and aṭ-Ṭabarānī in *al-Awsaṭ* & *al-Kabīr* (11/416) >

Ch. 2: What has come to us concerning the Seal of Prophethood [*Khātām an-Nubuwwa*]

xvi. We have been told by Abū Rijā' Qutaiba ibn Sa'īd: "Ḥātim ibn Ismā'il told us, on the authority of al-Ja'd ibn 'Abd ar-Raḥmān, that as-Sā'ib ibn Yazīd said:

"My maternal aunt took me to the Prophet (Allāh bless him and give him peace), and she said: "O Messenger of Allāh, my sister's son is in pain!" He therefore stroked my head (Allāh bless him and give him peace) and supplicated blessing for my sake. He performed the minor ritual ablution, so I drank from his ablution and stood behind his back, so I observed the Seal between his shoulders, and lo and behold, it was like the button of the bridal canopy!"

< al-Bukhārī (3541), Muslim (2345) and at-Tirmidhī (3643) >

xvii. We have been told by Sa'īd ibn Ya'qūb aṭ-Ṭāliqānī: "Ayyūb ibn Jābir told us, on the authority of Simāk ibn Ḥarb, that Jābir ibn Samra said:

"I saw the Seal between the shoulders of Allāh's Messenger (Allāh bless him and give him peace) as a red swelling like the egg of the dove."