

said a man to the prophet, Of what use will deeds of any kind be? He said, When God creates His slave for Paradise his actions will be deserving of it until he die, when he will enter therein; and when God creates one for the fire his actions will be like those of the people of hell till he die, when he will enter therein.”

“Adam and Moses were once disputing before their Lord, and Moses said, ‘Thou art Adam whom God created with His hand and breathed into thee of His spirit and angels worshipped thee and He made thee dwell in Paradise and then thou didst make men to fall down by thy sin to the earth.’ Adam replied, ‘Thou art Moses whom God distinguished by sending with thee His message and His book and He gave thee the tables on which all things are recorded. Now tell me how many years before I was created did God write the *Torat* (the Pentateuch)?’ Moses replied, ‘Forty years.’ Said Adam, ‘And did you find written there, Adam transgressed against his Lord?’ ‘Yes,’ said Moses. Said Adam, ‘Then, why do you blame me for doing something which God decreed before He created me by forty years?’ ”

Another tradition relates that Mohammed one day took up two handfuls of earth and scattered them. So he said God “empties His hand of His slaves, a portion for Paradise and a portion for the blaze” (Mishkat, p. 21, bottom. Delhi edition). Another