



## O mother of Hārithah, there are many ranks in the gardens of Paradise, and your son has attained Al-Firdaus

Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that Umm Ar-Rubay' bint al-Barā', who was the mother of Hārithah ibn Surāqah, came to the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and said: "O Messenger of Allah, will you not tell me about Hārithah (he was killed in the battle of Badr)? If he is in Paradise, I shall show endurance, but if he has met another fate, I will bitterly weep for him." He replied, "O mother of Hārithah, there are many ranks in the gardens of Paradise, and your son has attained Al-Firdaus."

[Authentic hadith] [Narrated by Bukhari]

Meaning of the Hadīth: Hārithah ibn Surāqah (may Allah be pleased with him) was martyred during the battle of Badr by an arrow that no one knew where it came from. So, his mother went to the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and asked him about her son's fate. She was worried that he would not be considered a martyr, because he was killed by a random shot and did not participate in the battle. Another Hadīth reads: "He was killed during the battle of Badr and was hit by an unknown arrow." No one knows the shooter or where it comes from. Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) reported in another Hadīth narrated by Ahmad and An-Nasā'i that when Hārithah went to a high place to patrol and be on the lookout for enemies to inform others about their position, he was shot dead by an arrow. For this reason, his mother (may Allah be pleased with her) said that if her son is in Paradise, she will be forbearing and patient about missing him and seek reward from Allah. Moreover, she will be happy that he was killed in the cause of Allah and has won martyrdom. If he has met another fate, she will bitterly weep for losing him and the loss of his life in vain. The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) told her that there are many gardens of Paradise. In Al-Bukhāri's narration, the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Do you think that it is only one garden? Verily, there are so many gardens, and he is in the highest Firdaus." This is a unique place, which is the best and highest rank, in Paradise. This is why the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "If you ask Allah for something, ask for the Firdaus; it is the best and highest place in Paradise, and above it is the Throne of the Beneficent, and from it originate the rivers of Paradise." Being the best place implies that it is the most spacious as well.

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