

grass). The ninth one said, My husband is a tall generous man wearing a long strap for carrying his sword,⁴⁰ his ashes are abundant⁴¹ and his house is near to the people who would easily consult him.⁴² The tenth one said, My husband is Malik, and what is Malik? Malik is greater than whatever I say about him. (He is beyond and above all praises, which can come to my mind). Most of his camels are kept at home (ready to be slaughtered for the guests) and only a few are taken to the pastures. When the camels hear the sound of the lute (or the tambourine) they realize that they are going to be slaughtered for the guests. The eleventh one said, My husband is Abu Zar', and what is Abu Zar' (i.e., what should I say about him)? He has given many ornaments and my ears are heavily loaded with them and my arms have become fat (i.e., I have become fat). And he has pleased me, and I have become so happy that I feel proud of my self. He found me with my family who were mere owners of sheep and living in property, and brought me to a respected family having horses and camels and threshing and purifying grain.⁴³ Whatever I say, he does not rebuke or insult me. When I sleep, I sleep till late in the morning, and when I drink water (or milk), I drink my fill. The mother of Abu Zar', and what may one say in praise of the mother of Abu Zar'? Her saddlebags were always full of provision and her house was spacious.⁴⁴ As for

⁴⁰ He is noble and brave

⁴¹ He is so generous that he always makes fires for his guests to entertain them, and hence, the abundant ashes he has at home.

⁴² He lives near to the people so that he is always at hand to solve their problems and help them in hardships and give them good advice.

⁴³ They were rich farmers. Her husband took her out of property into prosperity.

⁴⁴ She was well-off and generous.

the son of Abu Zar', what may one say of the son of Abu Zar'? His bed is as narrow as an unsheathed sword and an arm of a kid (of four months) satisfies his hunger.⁴⁵ As for the daughter of Abu Zar', she is obedient to her father and to her mother. She has a fat well-built body and that arouses the jealousy of her husband's other wife. As for the maid slave of Abu Zar', what may one say of the maid of Abu Zar'? She does not uncover our secrets but keep them, and does not waste our provision and does not leave the rubbish scattered everywhere in our house.⁴⁶ The eleventh lady added, One day it is so happened that Abu Zar' went out at the time when the milk was being milked from the animals, and he saw a woman who had two sons like two leopards playing with her two breasts. (On seeing her) he divorced me and married her. Therefore I married a noble man who used to ride a fast tireless horse and keep a spear in his hand. He gave many things, and also a pair of every kind of livestock and said, Eat (of this), O Um Zar', and give provision to your relatives. She added, Yet, all those things which my second husband gave me could not fill the smallest utensil of Abu Zar' s. ` Aisha (may Allah be pleased with he) then said: Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said to me, I am to you as Abu Zar' was to his wife Um Zar' .

[Reported by Al- Bukhari]

⁴⁵ He was a slender man who ate little.

⁴⁶ She was trustworthy, careful and clear