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An Invocation for Difficulty in Childbirth

'Abd al-Wahhab b. Mahdi narrated from Muhammad b. 'Isa from Ibn Himmam from Muhammad b. Sa'id from Abu Hamza from Abu Ja'far, peace be upon him, who said: "If a woman experiences difficulty during childbirth, write these verses for her in a vessel cleaned with musk and saffron. Then wash it out with spring water (*ma' al-bi'r*) and have the woman drink from it and sprinkle her belly and genitals (*al-farj*). She will give birth at once. Write:

It shall be as if, on the day they see it, they have but tarried for an evening, or its forenoon (79:46). It shall be as if, on the day they see that they are promised, they had not tarried but for an hour of a single day. A Message to be delivered! And shall any be destroyed but the people of the ungodly? (46:35). In their stories is surely a lesson to men possessed of minds; it is not a tale forged, hut a confirmation of what is before it, and a distinguishing of everything, and a guidance, and a mercy to a people who believe (12:111)

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