

Abdullah Ibn Mas`ud's Trustworthiness

Abdullah ibn Mas`ud (radhiAllahu anhu) was still a boy when Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) became a Messenger. In this early period of his life, he used to be a shepherd for the goats and sheep of rich nobles of Quraysh, like Uqbah ibn Abi Mu`ayt. He would wander the outskirts of Makkah with these goats and sheep and spend most of his days away from the city.

He was known as "Ibn Umme Abd" and his name was Abdullah and his father's name was Mas`ud.

This young boy had heard the news about a new prophet but due to his young age and being away from the city life most of the time, he didn't really pay much attention to this. He would leave Makkah with his flock early in the morning and would not return except late in the evening.

One day, this brilliant young boy, Abdullah ibn Mas`ud, saw two middle-aged men who looked very dignified and honorable coming his way from the distance. They looked very tired, hungry and thirsty and their lips were dried up due to severe thirst.

When the two men came close they said salaam and requested, **"O young boy, milk one of these goats for us and allow us to quench our thirst."**

So the young boy answered, **"I cannot do this because these goats do not belong to me. They are someone else's property and I am supposed to be looking after them..."**

So the two men did not become angry with this reply, rather they were very pleased to see such trustworthiness and honesty from such a young boy.

When he said this, one of the men asked Abdullah to show him a goat which has never given milk before. So when he showed him such a goat, the man went to that goat and started to pass his hand over the udder of that goat and began taking the name of Allah on it. As he was doing this, the udders started to swell up and get bigger and bigger. To his amazement, Abdullah saw the empty udders which never had milk in them; begin to fill up with milk!

Abdullah says, **“The man took a hollow stone from the earth and filled it up with milk. Then he and his companion quenched their thirst with this milk and gave me some also, and I could not believe my eyes!”**

Then after this, the man looked to the udder and said, **“shrink...”** So I saw that the udder miraculously shrunk back to its original size.

I then said to this blessed man, **“Teach me these words which you said to the goat....”**

So the man said, **“Consider yourself a young student...”**

That blessed man was Muhammad (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and his companion was none other than Abu Bakr Siddeeq (radhiAllahu anhu). That day, they had fled from Makkah from the persecutions of the Makkans.

From that day on, Abdullah ibn Mas`ud (radhiAllahu anhu) never left the side of Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and accepted Islam. He left his goat herding to devote himself to the service of the Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam).

Lesson #1: We learn the importance of trustworthy and honesty. Abdullah ibn Mas'ud (radhiAllahu anhu) was looking after someone else's property and could not give that away without the owner's permission.

Lesson #2: We learn from this story that anyone who reads name of Allah on something, then Allah Ta'ala puts *barakah* in that thing and causes it to increase.

Lesson#3: We learn from this story that a person is never too young to accept Islam. Abdullah ibn Mas'ud (radhiAllahu anhu) accepted Islam when he was still a young boy, under the age of 15.

Lesson#4: We learn that we should have zeal and interest to learn knowledge of Deen. Abdullah ibn Mas'ud (radhiAllahu anhu) had so much zeal and interest that he never left the side of the Prophet, and stayed with him like a shadow.

Lesson #5: We learn of the hardships, suffering, and persecution that the Messenger and his Sahabah went through in the early days of Islam.