

### **Abu Hurairah (radhiAllahu anhu) and the Thief!**

Abu Hurairah (radhiAllahu anhu) relates his interesting story with the thief saying,

“Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) put me in charge of looking after the dates that were given in Ramadhan in charity for the poor.

All of the sudden, an old man appeared and he started to take from the pile of dates without asking permission. So I grabbed him and said, ‘I will turn you in to Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)!’

So the man cried and said, ‘I am a poor man! And my family is hungry! And we are in dire need!’

So I felt sorry for the poor man and let him go. In the morning, Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said to me, ‘O Abu Hurairah! What happened to your captive last night?’

So I replied, ‘O Rasulullah (salallahu alaihi wa sallam) he complained of his poverty and his needy family, so I felt sorry for him and let him go.’

The Messenger (salallahu alaihi wa sallam) said, ‘He lied to you and he will be coming back.’

So I knew that he will definitely be coming back because the Messenger (salallahu alaihi wa sallam) said so. So I was waiting for him when all of the sudden he appeared, just like the Messenger said he would! And he began to take from the pile of dates without permission, so I grabbed him again and told him that I will take him to Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam). So the old man cried and said, ‘Please leave me! I am a very poor man and my children are

hungry. I promise, I will not return this time.' So I felt sorry for him and let him go.

In the morning, the Messenger (salallahu alaihi wa sallam) said to me, "O Abu Hurairah! What happened to your captive last night?"

So I replied, 'O Rasulallah (salallahu alaihi wa sallam) he complained of his poverty and his needy family, so I felt sorry for him and let him go.'

The Messenger (salallahu alaihi wa sallam) said, 'He lied to you and he will be coming back.'

So I waited for him when he suddenly appeared again! And he began to take from the pile of dates, so I stopped him and said, 'This time I am definitely going to take you to Rasulallah and this is the last time you will be doing this! Every time you say you will not return and you keep returning!'

So the old man said, 'Leave me and I will teach you some special words by which Allah Ta`ala will benefit you greatly!'

So I said, 'Do tell me what those special words are!'

So the old man said, 'before you go to sleep, read *ayatul KURSI* (verse #255 of surah baqarah). If you do this, then Allah Ta`ala will appoint an angel over you as a protector and no shaytan or devil can even come close to you till the morning.'

So I let him go, and in the morning the Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said to me, 'O Abu Hurairah! What did your captive do last night?' So I said, 'O Rasulallah, he told me that if I let him go, then he will teach me some special words through which Allah Ta`ala will benefit me.'

So the Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said, 'Indeed he has told you the truth but he is a great liar! Do you know who you were talking to these past three days?'

So I said, 'no...'

So the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said, 'That was SHAYTAN!' "

(Narrated by Bukhari; #2311, #3275, #5010)

**Lesson #1:** We learn that when someone entrusts a job or work to you, then you should look after that work and take care of that responsibility.

**Lesson #2:** We learn from this story that anyone who reads *ayatul-KURSI* before going to sleep, Allah Ta`ala appoints an angel over him who protects him from shayateen and all harm till the morning.

**Lesson#3:** We learn that shayateen can take human form and speak to humans also.

**Lesson #4:** We learn from this statement of Abu Hurairah (radhiAllahu anhu): *So I knew that he will definitely be coming back because the Messenger (salallahu alaihi wa sallam) said so...* that we should have complete faith and conviction in what Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) tells us.

**Lesson #5:** We learn from this story to have mercy and compassion on needy and helpless people.

**Lesson #6:** We learn the great quality of forgiveness and accepting the excuses and apologies of people.