

`Uqbah ibn Abi Mu`it

The Worst of the Two Evil Neighbors

Annoyance and Harassment

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said, "I have been so persecuted in Allah's way that no other prophet has been persecuted like that."

The patient and forbearing Messenger was surrounded by people who hated him and wanted to hurt him. Usually neighbors are people who are there for you when you need them and they are always ready to lend a helping hand. But not the neighbors of the Prophet. The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) was surrounded by people who wanted to bother him, annoy him and harass him.

Neighbors of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)

Ibn Is'haq (ra) mentions all of the people who were the Prophet's neighbors and would cause a lot of annoyance to the Prophet, they were: Abu Lahab, Hakam ibn al-Aas ibn al-Umayya, `Uqbah ibn Abi Mu`it, Adi ibn Hamra al-Thaqafi, and Ibn al-Asdaa al-Hudhali.

All of these people lived in the vicinity of the Prophet's house and would always harass the Prophet. They were constantly planning ways to harm the Prophet and make life hard for him.

`Uqbah ibn Abi Mu`it along with Abu Lahab, was one of the main culprits who used to harass the Prophet. Abu Lahab used to throw the intestines of the camel and garbage on the doorstep of the Prophet.

As for `Uqbah, he had a large basket in which he would put feces and other horrible things inside and leave it at the doorstep of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). He was the worst of all the neighbors in his ill-treatment.

The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) would then remove the filth from the doorstep and throw it out in the dumps saying, "What type of neighborly treatment is this?"

The Worst of all Treatment

Once the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) left his home for prayer, and `Uqbah followed him out as he left. As he was praying near the Ka`bah, `Uqbah sneaked from behind the Prophet and waited for him to go into sajdah. When the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) went into sajdah, `Uqbah came up from behind and put his scarf around the Prophet's neck and started to choke him severely. Abu Bakr (radhiallahu anhu) saw this situation and came running. He pushed `Uqbah away and said, "Will you kill a man just because he worships his Lord?"

Another time it has been mentioned that he stepped on the Prophet's neck until his eyes rolled over and was about to faint.

Some of the Lessons that we learn from `Uqbah's story is:

- Having patience in the harassment of others.
- Neighbors should be people that help and care, not people that bother and harass.
- The hardships that the Prophet went through were more than the hardships of any prophet before him.

