

'Uqbah ibn Abi Mu`it (part 2)

The Worst of the Two Evil Neighbors

The Prophet's Relentless Effort

In spite of the fact that `Uqbah was a horrible neighbor and would go to any length to harm the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam), the Prophet still did not give up inviting him to Islam.

The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) continuously called him to Islam so much, that at one time he actually came very close to accepting the faith. But Ubay ibn Khalaf who was very close friend prevented him from doing so.

A Great Banquet

One time Uqbah had a big feast in which he invited all the nobles and elite people of the Quraysh. He had even invited the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) but he refused to come. The Prophet told him that I will come to your feast on one condition: that you accept Islam.

`Uqbah ibn Abi Mu`it did not like that anyone should be left behind from this great banquet of his, so he uttered the *shahadah* and accepted Islam! When the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam) heard of his accepting Islam, he came to his banquet and ate from his food.

A Choice Between Islam and Friends

When `Uqbah's friend, Ubay found out about him embracing Islam, he was enraged. He just could not believe it.

So Ubay came running to `Uqbah saying, "Have you turned away from the religion of your forefathers, O `Uqbah?!"

`Uqbah replied him, "I thought it was very shameful to have anyone refuse my invitation. So I accepted Islam in order that he may accept."

Ubay said, "By Allah, I will never speak to you until you leave Islam and prove to me that you have left his religion. Go and spit in his face, step on his neck and say evil to him."

The Wrong Choice

Evil friends were more beloved to the wretched `Uqbah so he actually went to prove himself to Ubay. He did not want to lose his friend so he stood at the corner to where the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) was going to pass by, and he did the evil act.

The evil `Uqbah spat in the direction of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) but Allah Ta`ala made the spit fly back to his face. The spit actually burned `Uqbah's face and lips, and the wound remained on his face till the day he died.

Allah Ta`ala disgraced him in this world and he will be disgraced in the hereafter. After he had done this evil action, Allah Ta`ala revealed these verses in Sura Furqan about him:

25:27. The Day that the wrong-doer will bite at his hands, he will say, "Oh! Would that I had taken a straight path with the Messenger.

25:28. "Ah! Woe is me! Would that I had never taken such a one for a friend!

25:29. "He led me astray from the Message of Allah after it had come to me! And indeed Shaytan is but a disgracer to man!"

This will be the regret of `Uqbah and others like him on the Day of Judgment. They will be biting their hands of regret and sadness for what they did in this life, but it will not benefit them at all.

May Allah Ta`ala save us from the condition of those who go astray