

Ubay ibn Khalaf

Epitome of Evil Conduct

Causing Harm to Others

It has been mentioned that Ubay ibn Khalaf was a very vile and wicked person from the beginning. Even the Arabs of pre-Islamic times used to respect the Hajjis and pilgrims who would journey from far and wide to visit the Sanctified Ka`bah in Makkah Mukarramah.

To honor the Hajjis and serve them was considered an act of virtue even amongst the idolaters. But even in that time and amongst that society, Ubay ibn Khalaf was known to hurt and disturb the pilgrims of the Sanctified House.

His trouble and disturbance would especially affect the traders and business people who would come with the caravans. He would cheat and lie to them. He would not fulfill their rights nor pay their bills in full. This continued until the *Hilf al-Fudhul* (Alliance of Graciousness) compelled him to pay back all the people he owed.

***Hilf al-Fudhul* (Alliance of Graciousness)**

This Alliance was established by the noblemen of Quraysh to assist any people that may have been wronged and or oppressed. It was established to uphold the rights of the weak and lowly who had no social support or status in society.

The great tribes of Banu Hashim, Banu Muttalib, Asad ibn Abdul-Uzza, Zuhra ibn Kilab, and Taym ibn Murrah all gathered in the house of Abdullah ibn Jud`an because he was the oldest and most respected amongst them. They all swore allegiance that they would stand up for the rights of the weak and oppressed. They made a resolution that anyone who was wronged in any way the members of that Alliance would make sure that justice would be served and the rights would be fulfilled.

This Alliance took place 25 years before prophethood when the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) was only 15 years old. The Messenger himself

was present at that historical event and even commented on it saying, **“I was present at the house of Abdullah ibn Jad`an when the *Hilf al-Fudhul* took place. I would not take anything in the world in place of being at that noble gathering. (It was such a righteous gathering) that if I were to have called the members of that Alliance to accept Islam, then they would have accepted it.”**

An Example of His Oppression and Cruelty

A clear example of Ubay ibn Khalaf’s unfair conduct and bad attitude was when the businessman, Lumays ibn Sa`d al-Bariqi from the tribe of Azd came to Makkah to do business. Unfortunately, he ended up doing business with Ubay who cheated him of his goods and refused to pay him his money. On top of that, he also showed extreme disrespect and bad attitude.

When Lumays became totally hopeless of getting anything from Ubay, he went to get help from the Makkans who completely ignored him. Someone told him that he should go to the people of *Hilf al-Fudhul* and that they might be able to help. So he went to the Alliance and they told him to tell Ubay ibn Khalaf that the Alliance is demanding him to pay you back. If he refuses, then come back to us and tell him that you are returning to the Alliance and you will tell them that he is not complying.

When Lumays went to Ubay and told him that he just came from the Alliance and that they are demanding him to pay up, he immediately gave Lumays the money he owed him.

Lumays then mentioned this poetry about the virtue of the Alliance and the cruelty of Ubay ibn Khalaf:

Will Ubay cheat me of money in Makkah wherein I have none of my tribesmen to assist me?

And I cried out to my people of Bariq to assist me, but many deserts and valleys separated us.

*But the *Hilf al-Fudhul* was there in your place to serve justice, and take it by force if need be.*

