

Abu Lahab ibn Abdul Muttalib (part 2) **Uncle of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)**

Muslim Sons of a Disbelieving Father

Abu Lahab had three sons; Utbah, Mu`attib, and Utaybah. Despite all the hatred and animosity of Abu Lahab for Islam and the Muslims, two of these sons, Utbah and Mu`attib accepted Islam at the hands of the Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).

The story of them accepting Islam has been narrated by Ibn Abbas (radhiAllahu anhumu). He says that on the Day when Makkah was finally conquered by the Muslims, the Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) asked as to where his two cousins; Utbah and Mu`attib were. He was told that they were in seclusion with all the other idol-worshippers of Quraysh. So the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) told their uncle Abbas (radhiallahu anhu) to go and bring them.

Abbas (radhiallahu anhu) went to the place they were staying and quickly brought them to the Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). The Messenger then invited them to Islam with kind words and they readily accepted his message. He then took their hands and walked with them to the door of the Ka`bah. There, the Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) prayed to Allah Ta`ala for a while and as he finished his prayer, the happiness and joy could be seen shining from the Prophet's face.

So Abbas (radhiallahu anhu) said to the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam), "Why is it that you are so happy, O Messenger of Allah?"

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) answered, "I prayed to Allah Ta`ala to grant me these two cousins of mine, and He granted them to me!"

(Tabaqat al-Kubra of Ibn Sa`d; 4/60)

The Disbelieving Son and His Evil End

As for the third son, Utaybah, he disbelieved in the Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) and was on the same path of his wretched father. He would go to lengths to hurt the Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). The first thing he did was divorce Umm Kulthum, the daughter of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam), to prove his loyalty to the idol-worshippers.

He would also mock and make fun of the message of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) any chance that he would get. One time, when he and his father were preparing to go on a journey to Syria, Utaybah took an oath that he would not leave on his journey until he ridicules Muhammad regarding his Lord. So he came to the Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) and said, "O Muhammad, I disbelieve in you and in what you have been sent with."

The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) replied, "O Allah, send upon him a beast from amongst your beasts!"

So when Utaybah returned to his father, Abu Lahab, he asked him what Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said to him.

Utaybah replied, "He said to me: 'O Allah, send upon him a beast from amongst your beasts...'"

Abu Lahab suddenly became very worried and said to his son, "I fear for you that the du`a of Muhammad should afflict you."

They then proceeded on their journey to Syria until they reached a place where there was a small monastery of a monk. The monk advised them not to stay the night in that area because it was not safe. When they asked why, the monk told them that lions roam the area like sheep of a herd.

Abu Lahab then told the monk that they had no choice but to stay there. He requested the monk to allow his son to stay in his encampment. He told him that he feared that the du`a of Muhammad should afflict his son.

The monk accepted the request and they devised a plan to have the son protected from lions. They put Utaybah's bed in the middle, and they laid their entire luggage around him like wall. The others slept beyond the wall, guarding Utaybah inside.

When all the people fell asleep, a fierce lion prowled in the encampment just as they had expected. In spite of their disbelief in the religion of Muhammad, they knew for sure that Muhammad (sallallah alayhi wa sallam) can never tell a lie. The lion slowly lurked through the sleeping people, smelling the heads of each individual as if the lion knew exactly who he was looking for. When it could not find who it was looking for, it paused for a moment and then made a gigantic leap over the wall of luggage to where Utaybah was sleeping. The lion ripped Utaybah's face to shreds, and he was saying in his last breaths of life, "Did I not tell you all that Muhammad was the most truthful of all people?!"

Abu Lahab, who was devastated by this terrible situation said, "I knew that he would never escape the du`a of Muhammad."

TO BE CONTINUED....