

Ubay ibn Khalaf II

Enjoining Evil and Forbidding Good

When the light of Islam began to spread throughout the corners of Makkah and the number of Muslims began to increase, the hatred and anger of the idolaters also began to increase. The idolaters could not stand to see the prosperity of Islam and its followers. People like Ubay ibn Khalaf would do anything to see the Muslims suffer and go through difficulties.

Therefore, the efforts of the idolaters were to think of different ways and methods to torture and prevent the believers from Islam. Their job was to enjoin evil and forbid the good. Whenever they would see anyone doing something that would harm the Muslims, they would support that with all their strength.

Allah Ta`ala said: **“You should help one another in good works and fear of Allah and you should not support anyone in sin and aggression.”** (Sura Ma'idah: 2)

From this verse we understand that supporting others in good things is required from a believer, to the best of his or her ability. And not supporting evil works is also the duty of a believer.

The idolaters however do the opposite of this: they support the works of evil and oppression and stop the efforts of good and righteousness.

A perfect example of this was Ubay ibn Khalaf.

An Example of Supporting Evil

Bilal ibn Rabah and Abu Fukayha were two slaves who were owned by Umayyah ibn Khalaf, the brother of Ubay. When they accepted Islam, Ubay incited his brother Umayyah to beat them up and torture them.

He would tell his brother: “Torture them more and let us see if Muhammad will save them with his magic!”

They would drag them along the burning hot sands of Makkah and place heavy boulders on them. They remained in this state of distress for a very long period of time.

Umayyah and Ubay would pass by mounds of animal droppings and say mockingly to Abu Fukayha: "Is this your lord?"

So Abu Fukayha would answer them: "Allah is my Lord, your Lord and the Lord of everything!"

Hearing this enraged them and they began to choke Abu Fukayha severely until he passed out. They thought that he had died from this so they let him go. He again regained consciousness and they knew that he was alive. When they came back to start choking him again, Abu Bakr (radhiAllahu anhu) came to the scene and bought Abu Fukayha from these two wretched men and saved his life.

Abu Bakr (radhiAllahu anhu) also saved the life Bilal (radhiAllahu anhu) and freed him from slavery.