

Abu Lahab ibn Abdul Muttalib (part 3) **Uncle of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)**

The Battle of Badr and the Shameful Loss of the Idolaters

The Muslims migrated to Madina with the command of Allah Ta`ala, leaving behind the persecution and enmity of Abu Lahab and the Quraysh and looking forward to a peaceful life of devotion to Allah.

But the Abu Lahab and idolaters had no intentions of leaving the Muslims to practice their religion and devotion in peace. This enmity eventually reached to the level that the idolaters fought against the Muslims in the Battle known as BADR. Abu Lahab did not join this expedition but rather sent `Aas bn Hisham ibn Mughirah to fight in his place.

While the warriors of Quraysh were out on this battle, every day Abu Lahab eagerly awaited the news of the victory of Quraysh and the loss and destruction of Muhammad and the Muslims. In the meantime, the Quraysh were fleeing from the battlefield in all directions, taking refuge in caves and valleys. They returned to Makkah defeated and humiliated not knowing how to break the news to the nobles and leaders.

When the news reached Abu Lahab, he just could not believe his ears. He was so angry that he started to beat up Abu Rafe`, his brother's servant, out of anger. But that was because Abu Rafe' said in front of all the idolaters: "The Muslims were victorious because ANGELS WERE HELPING THE MUSLIMS."

Abu Lahab could not tolerate such statements so he went into a fit of rage. He would not stop his violence so the wife of Abbas (radhiallahu anhu) intervened and hit him on the head so hard that it started to bleed. Then he finally came to his senses and calmed down. This incident totally made Abu Lahab hopeless and shameful. This shame and humiliation still did not bring Abu Lahab to come to the truth and see the light of Islam.

An Evil Death for an Evil Man

When the Muslims were granted victory, assistance and honor from Allah Ta`ala, the idolaters in Makkah were filled with anger and bitterness for the losses they suffered. The worst of those who were bitter was the wretched Abu Lahab.

After the Battle of Badr, seven nights did not pass except that Abu Lahab was afflicted with a strange disease like small pox that produced boils and sores all over his body. This disease was terribly feared by the Quraysh and they considered it highly contagious, so none of them even went close to him to look after him and care for in that state. He eventually died alone and wretched from that same horrible disease. And even after he had died, his sons would not even go near his dead body out of fear.

Three days passed and the body started to give off an awful stench because it was decomposing. The smell eventually got so bad that it was becoming unbearable. The people urged the sons to dispose of the body saying, "Don't you all feel ashamed? Your father's body is decomposing there in the house and you are not doing anything about it?!"

They said, "We are frightened of the cursed contagiousness that his sores carry!"

Some of Abu Lahab's supporters from the idolaters said, "It'll be fine... we will assist you in burying him."

So they went inside of the stench-filled room and first washed the body, throwing the water on him from afar. After that, they took the body to a far-off place and they dug a hole. They then pushed the body in the hole with a long stick and then threw stones upon the hole from far away until it was filled to the top. He was seventy-years old when he died.

This was the evil end for the evil man. A man who kept a life-long grudge in his heart for the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). A man who left no stone unturned to harm Islam and the Muslims. A man who spent all his wealth, energy and efforts in acts of hatred and animosity. A man who severed family ties and respected no family relations.

That is why when A'isha (radhiallahu anha) would pass by the grave of Abu Lahab, she would cover her head with her shawl.

Quick Summary of Surah Masad

Abu Lahab was also that enemy of Islam and Muslims regarding whom Allah revealed a whole chapter about, foretelling his future destruction. It even mentions the condition of his wife who supported her husband in all his efforts.

1. Perish the hands of the Father of Flame! Perish he!

2. No profit to him from all his wealth, and all his gains! (It has been mentioned from Ibn Mas`ud that when the Messenger of Allah called his people to faith, Abu Lahab said, "Even if what my nephew says is true, I will ransom myself (i.e., save myself) from the painful torment on the Day of Judgment with my wealth and my children.")

3. Burnt soon will he be in a Fire of Blazing Flame!

4. His wife shall carry the (crackling) wood - As fuel!- (She was supportive of her husband in his disbelief, rejection and obstinacy. Therefore, she will be helping to administer his punishment in the fire of Hell on the Day of Judgment.)

5. A twisted rope of palm-leaf fibre round her (own) neck! (This will be her condition in the fire of Hell. She will have a twisted rope around her neck.)

May Allah Ta`ala save us from the character and actions of the people of Hell.
Ameen.