

## **Musaylama the Liar**

### **A Desire for Power and Authority**

When the glorious light of Islam was spreading all throughout Arabia, there were some people who saw this as an opportunity to also gain power and authority.

They saw that Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) was gaining many followers and people were supporting him from all tribes and clans. They thought to themselves that this would be a good way for them to get the same. Thus they desired to achieve power and authority through claiming prophethood.

Little did these ignorant people know that prophethood was not a business through which one gains power, money and followers. Prophethood is a duty granted by Allah Ta`ala to His chosen and selected servants.

Allah Ta`ala says:

**“Allah is most knowing of where He places His prophethood. Soon will the wicked be overtaken by humiliation before Allah, and a severe punishment, for all their plots.” (An`am: 124)**

### **Aswad al-`Anasi and Musaylama: Two Lying Imposters**

Imam Bukhari narrates that Musaylama came to the Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) with many people from his tribe and told him, “If Muhammad makes me his successor after him, only

then will I believe in him as a Prophet.”

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) told him: “If you were to ask me of this stick in my hand, then I would never give it to you. And if you turn your back to Islam, then Allah will disgrace you. (And I already know that you will be disgraced) because Allah has shown me in my dream what is going to happen to you two.”

The dream that the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) had seen about them as narrated by Abu Hurayra (radhiAllahu anhu) from the Prophet himself, went like this:

“I saw that I had two golden bracelets around my wrists, which were bothering me very much. I was extremely worried about them. So I was commanded in the dream through revelation to blow on them. When I blew on them, they flew away. I then interpreted the two bracelets to be the two liars: Aswad al`Anasi and Musaylama. Allah will do away with them just like the two bracelets in the dream.”

### **The Claim to Prophethood**

When Musaylama returned back to his tribe of Banu Hanifah after coming from the Messenger, he announced that he had also received prophethood. He started calling himself the Rahman of Yamama. He began his campaign of lying and deception. He would go from person to person calling them to his false message, the objective of which was power and wealth.

He then wrote a letter to the Prophet in the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Hijrah, asking the Prophet to make him a partner with him in prophethood.

*To Muhammad, the Prophet of Allah...I am indeed a partner with you in your prophethood. So half of Arabia goes to me and you the other half will go the Quraysh...*

Musaylama then had two messengers deliver the letter to Rasulallah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) wrote a reply to him saying,

*“Peace be upon those who follow the right path. The land belongs to Allah which He grants to whom He wills from His slaves. And the good end is for those who fear Allah.”*

### **Things Get Worse**

With all of the deceptions of Musaylama, people still did not believe him that much until Rijal ibn Unfuwah came in the picture. This man migrated to the Prophet, memorized the Qur’an and learned the rules and regulations of Deen. When he was sent by the Prophet to Yamama to teach the people so that the people may come to know what true Islam is, he totally turned away from Islam.

He began saying to the people that he had heard the Prophet say that Musaylama was also a prophet along with him. So all the people believed his lie, accepted him and followed his lead. They did not ponder over what he had said, neither did they question him. They just followed him blindly and became of the losers.