

`Amr ibn Hisham: Abu Jahl (part 2) **“The Pharaoh of this Ummah”**

An Old Jealousy

It becomes apparent from the history books that Abu Jahl had an old jealousy and dislike for the family of Abdul-Muttalib. He was jealous of them because of how much they were respected and honored by the other Qurayshi's and Arabs. This evil quality of his is what led to future opposition and fighting against the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) because was also, after all, from the family of Abdul-Muttalib.

Here is the story behind it all.....

A man by the name of Aws ibn Hajar, from the tribe of Banu Tamim, came to Makkah and approached Abu Jahl asking him to introduce him to his family. He had heard many good things about the tribe of Abu Jahl, BANU MAKHZUM, and wished to see them.

So Abu Jahl told all the young men of his tribe to come to the Haram wearing their nicest and most presentable clothes. So when they came in that manner, Aws ibn Hajar was very impressed by them when he saw them. Then Abu Jahl prepared a delicious banquet for Aws and the rest of his tribe who had come with him.

While they were enjoying this feast, suddenly Abdul Muttalib entered the Haram surrounded by his sons all around him. Aws saw an amazing sight of an honorable old man, surrounded by his tall, strong, and handsome sons circling him. He had never seen a

more noble sight as them. All of the sudden, he completely forgot about Abu Jahl and his family and started to inquire about Abdul Muttalib. So he asked with great interest, "O Abul-Hakam! Who is that honorable old man with all those strong and handsome youth around him? By Allah, I have never seen more handsome, strong and intelligent looking family than this! "

Abu Jahl felt very insulted and disrespected with this question and snapped back in reply saying, "You've seen him.... He is Abdul-Muttalib with his sons. So what!?"

It was this seed of jealousy which grew bigger and bigger until Allah Ta`ala selected Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) to become His Messenger. Abu Jahl then did everything in his power to oppose Islam and the Muslims.

Announcing His Open Rejection and Refusal

One night, Abu Jahl overheard the Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) reciting the Qur'an in his night prayers and was greatly affected by the beautiful and amazing recitation. But the evil qualities he harbored inside did not allow him to benefit from even the recital of the Noble Messenger himself!

After he heard the recital, he came to Akhnas ibn Shariq, another staunch enemy of Islam, and said to him:

"We competed with the family of Abd Manaf in everything to attain status and nobility. They fed the people, so we also fed the people. They gave charity, so we also gave charity. They looked after people, so we did the same. We did this until we became equals in all things. And now they say, 'A prophet has come from us who receives revelations from the sky?' How can we possibly be able to ever

compete with this?! By Allah we will never believe in him and we will never accept his message!”

This was the announcement of refusal and rejection that would lead Abu Jahl to continue his fight against Islam till the end.

Abu Jahl’s Abuse and the Islam of Hamza (radhiallahu anhu)

One day, while the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) called the people to Islam, Abu Jahl severely cursed the Prophet and said extremely horrible things against him. This hurt the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) to such an extent that the news reached Hamza ibn Abdul Muttalib, the uncle of the Prophet, who was not even a Muslim at that time.

When Hamza heard of this abuse, he just could not take that his nephew was being treated so badly. Hamza had just returned from his lion hunting expedition, and was strapped with weapons of hunting. He walked up to Abu Jahl carrying his bow in the hand, not even saying a single word, when all of the sudden he gave a devastating blow to his skull which caused his head to be split open.

Hamza then roared like a lion saying, “Do you curse him for his religion? Then know that I am also on the same religion as him! So do something to me if you dare! Hit me back if you’re a man!”

As soon as he said this, all the tribesmen of Abu Jahl poured upon Hamza to back up their tribes-member, but Abu Jahl held them back saying that it was his fault and that he had said very bad things to Muhammad.

This was the story of the Islam of Hamza (radhiallahu anhu) who later on became known as the lion of Allah.