

`Amr ibn Hisham: Abu Jahl (part #3) **“The Pharaoh of this Ummah”**

Instigating Evil

From amongst the evil qualities of Abu Jahl was his desire to instigate evil and bring about hatred and enmity against Islam and Muslims. One of his missions for setting of destruction was Umar ibn al-Khattab (radhiallahu anhu) himself. Many of us already know that before accepting Islam, Umar was a staunch enemy of Islam and even intended to assassinate the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). All of this was through Abu Jahl’s evil work.

But by the will of Allah, his evil plot failed and in moments, the light of Islam entered the heart of Umar and he embraced Islam. It has been said that the night Umar ibn al-Khattab accepted Islam he thought to himself as to who is the person most opposed to Islam from the people of Makkah. After putting a lot of thought to it, he came to the conclusion that it was none other than ABU JAHL.

So Umar went straight to the house of Abu Jahl first thing on the morning and knocked on his door. So Abu Jahl opened the door and said happily, “Oh! Welcome in, my dear nephew! What has brought you to my home this early?”¹

Umar (radhiallahu anhu) answers: “I have come to inform you that I have brought faith in Allah and His Messenger, Muhammad

¹ Umar ibn al-Khattab’s mother was Hantama bint Hisham. She was the daughter of Abu Jahl’s paternal aunt. Arabs considered their paternal aunt’s daughter to be like a sister. This is why he referred to Umar as his nephew.

(sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) and I believe in all that he has been sent with.”

So as soon as Abu Jahl heard this news from Umar, he slammed the door in Umar’s face and yelled from behind the door, “May you be destroyed and may everything you believe in be destroyed!”

This clearly shows Abu Jahl’s evil spirit and bad attitude.

Story of the Man from the Tribe of Iraash

The harassment of Abu Jahl was not only directed to his own people, but his bad attitude and evil conduct extended to people outside of Makkah also.

Once, a man from the tribe of Iraash came to Makkah complaining that Abu Jahl had bought a camel from him but never paid him for it. The man said that Abu Jahl promised that he would give the money for it but never did. So the Iraashi man stood there asking the people of Quraysh to help him in this situation.

So the people pointed out Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) to him and they told him that he would be the man for the job. And the whole purpose behind this also was to mock the Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) due to them knowing that Abu Jahl would never accept his request. They just did it to stir up an argument and a fight.

So when the Iraashi man came to the Noble Messenger and told him his story, the Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) listened to him patiently and took him to Abu Jahl’s house. The Prophet knocked on his door and Abu Jahl said, “Who’s there?”

The Prophet said, "It is Muhammad. Come out."

In an instant Abu Jahl came out with his face looking pale and frightened. He looked extremely timid and disturbed by something.

The Prophet told Abu Jahl with dignity to give the Iraashi man's money that he owed him.

Abu Jahl said, "Just stay here until I come back."

So Abu Jahl submissively went to his house, brought out the money and calmly gave it to the man without any questions asked.

While they walked back to where the Quraysh was, the man was seen returning cheerfully with the Prophet, thanking him and appreciating the arbitration on his behalf. When the Quraysh witnessed this seen, they were shocked and disappointed that their wicked plan of stirring up a quarrel did not go through.

Later on, when they saw Abu Jahl coming along, they all blamed him and jokingly said to him, "We didn't expect that from you!!!"

So he explained what had happened to him saying, "Woe unto you all! As soon as I heard the knock on my door, I heard a terrifying sound which filled me with awe. As soon as I looked to see what it was, it was the most colossal and vicious camel I had ever seen standing above my head. By Allah, if I would have delayed or refused it would have devoured me alive!"

From this story, the true face of Abu Jahl comes out that he was nothing but a coward and would take advantage of the weak and helpless.

An Oppressor of the Weak and Feeble

Speaking of taking advantage of the weak and helpless, Abu Jahl has a long history of this. The early Muslims suffered greatly for their faith and religion. Abu Jahl played a major role in persecuting dozens of those early Muslims, who later on became shining examples of sacrifice and perseverance for the sake of Islam.

Amongst these shining examples of sacrifice and perseverance for faith, was the mother of Ammar bin Yasir, Sumayya bint Khubbat (radhiallahu anhuma). Abu Jahl had tied her up in the sun, forcing her to give up her faith in Islam. But despite all his efforts, she was a pillar of strength and faith that would refuse to comply with his evil intentions. He eventually became frustrated and hopeless so this wicked, cowardly man took a spear and stabbed Sumayya (radhiallahu anha) with it and killed her. She was the first martyr of Islam. May Allah have mercy on her soul and be pleased with her.

Where is the bravery and manhood in hurting the weak and helpless? Where is the courageousness in hurting women and children? Those people who hurt innocent, helpless people can never be on the right path. They can never be courageous. They can never be considered brave. Rather they are cowards, oppressors and shameful.

- **We learn from this lesson that instigating evil and causing fights is a quality of the wicked-hearted people like Abu Jahl.**
- **We learn from this lesson that not fulfilling the rights of others is an evil quality. And that Allah has the power to pay back those who are wronged and put to shame the wrong-doers.**

- **We learn from this lesson that only cowards hurt the weak and feeble and the strong help the weak and oppressed.**