

`Amr ibn Hisham: Abu Jahl (part #4) **“The Pharaoh of this Ummah”**

Abu Jahl Cheats His Own Brother

Ayyash ibn Abi Rabi`ah was the brother of Abu Jahl and had accepted Islam in the early days. He had made the two migrations: one to Abyssinia and the other to Madina Munawwara. This was an incredible accomplishment and struggle that he had made for his faith, but Abu Jahl just could not take it. He did not want to see his own brother practicing Islam in freely in Madina with the other Muslims. So the treacherous Abu Jahl devised a plan to cheat his own brother into returning back to Makkah.

Abu Jahl and their other brother, Harith ibn Hisham, left for Madina to bring their brother Ayyash back. This was at that time when the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) had still not left for the hijrah to Madina and was in Makkah, anticipating Allah’s command to make the move.

When Abu Jahl arrived to Madina, he made up a sad story about their mother that she took an oath that she would never sit in the shade nor comb her hair until she sees her son Ayyash again. Hearing this about his mother made Ayyash very emotional and did not want to become the cause of his mother’s suffering.

But Umar ibn al-Khattab signaled him not to fall in their trap. But Ayyash just couldn’t refuse to go along with his own brothers who came to save their dear mothers’ life.

So he left Madina with his two brothers and as soon as they reached far enough from the city, both brothers ambushed Ayyash and tied up his hands and feet. They entered Makkah in broad daylight and came dragging their brother along saying, “O People of Quraysh! This is what you should do to your foolish one’s just as we have done to our foolish one!”

When this incident occurred, the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) was greatly saddened and made du`a to Allah to save Ayyash and the other Muslims who were trapped and ambushed like him. Eventually Allah Ta`ala saved all of them through the blessings of the Prophet's supplications.

Abu Jahl's Plan To Assassinate the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)

When all the persecutions and tortures failed, Abu Jahl gathered the leaders of Quraysh to an important meeting and proposed a very decisive plan that would take care of Islam and the Muslims once and for all. Abu Jahl said, "I have come to the conclusion that we have no other option left except one, and that is we call one brave youth from every clan. And we give to each one of them the sharpest sword there is. Thereafter all of them should go into Muhammad's residence together and stab him with their swords at once.

In this way, the blood will be shared throughout the clansmen and Muhammad's tribe will not have the ability to start a war with all the tribes because they will be outnumbered and overcome. The Quraysh were very pleased with this plan and considered it an ingenious scheme that could not fail.

When the night of the assassination came, Allah Ta`ala willed for the perpetrators to fall asleep and the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) walked out of Makkah right from their midst without anyone noticing them, along with his noble companion, Abu Bakr Siddiq (radhiallahu anhu).

Shameless and Despicable Man

This situation enraged the pitiful Abu Jahl who immediately went to the door of Abu Bakr demanding to know where he and the Prophet were. He banged on the door and Abu Bakr's daughter Asma opened the door. She asked what the problem was. Abu Jahl demanded to know where her father was. She said that she didn't know. As soon as she said this, Abu Jahl lifted his hand and slapped Asma so hard on the face that her earring flew off of her ear. Abu Jahl was such a shameless and despicable man that he did not even respect women. Can there be a greater coward than Abu Jahl?