

`Amr ibn Hisham: Abu Jahl (part #5) **“The Pharaoh of this Ummah”**

One Hundred Camels For the One Who Brings Him Dead or Alive!

After the Messenger (sallallah alayhi wa sallam) was protected by Allah and the evil plot of Abu Jahl went astray, Abu Jahl was furious. His pride and arrogance could not allow him to be humiliated like this! Again Abu Jahl devised a wicked plan to bring an end to the spread of Islam and the Muslims.

Now he put a bounty on the head of the Messenger: ONE HUNDRED CAMELS FOR ANYONE WHO CATCHES HIM... DEAD OR ALIVE!

The two bounty-hunters who were driven by greed were Kuraz ibn Alqamah and Suraqah ibn Ju`shum al-Mudlaji. Suraqah was the greedier of the two who mounted his horse and raced behind the Messenger, tracing the path which led to him.

Suddenly, Abu Bakr noticed a fast rider quickly approaching them so he said, ‘O Messenger of Allah, there is someone following us and he is coming closer...’ When the Messenger of Allah turned to see who it was, he supplicated Allah saying, “O Allah, subdue him! Save us from him in the way that you wish!”

Suddenly as he rode near them, the hooves of the horse sunk into the desert ground which caused Suraqah to become terrified! But he still intended to keep going to the direction of the Prophet so the horse sunk deeper up to its knees, and then a third time up to the horse’s chest. At that time, Suraqah was certain that this was the protection of Allah Ta`ala and that Muhammad was truly the Messenger of Allah, so he begged the Prophet for mercy saying, ‘I am Suraqah ibn Malik ibn Ju`shum. Please listen to me... I will not deceive you... You will not see any evil from me...O Messenger of Allah, pray for me and I will not harm you!’

Foe Transformed into Friend!

So the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) supplicated his Lord, and the horse was lifted back up to the top of the ground. Suraqah then said, 'O Messenger of Allah, command me to do anything you wish!'

The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) told him, 'Stay in this area and anyone who comes through this direction after us, do not let them pass. And do not reveal to them our whereabouts.'

As Suraqah turned his horse around to head back into a closer position, the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said to him, 'O Suraqah, it is as if I am seeing you wearing the bracelets of the emperor of Persia!'

Suraqah was shocked by this statement of the Prophet and puzzled. How could a person in Arabia ever wear the jewelry of the king of Persia? It didn't make sense to him at that time, but this was actually a prophecy of events yet to come in the future.

Thereafter, any bounty hunters who would come that direction Suraqah would tell them, 'Don't worry. I got you all covered. I have already checked this path.' So when they would hear that, they would think that there is no trace of who they were looking for on that path.

Suraqah would then say regarding this incident of his, 'I came out most greedy to catch them. And I returned most desirous that they don't get caught!'

Abu Jahl's Wicked Plan Fails Yet Again!

When Suraqah was completely certain that the Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) and his noble companion had reached Madina, he returned to Makkah relating his miraculous incident to everyone. Due to the fact that Suraqah was the leader of his tribe, Banu Madlaj, Abu Jahl feared that his tribe would accept Islam if they heard his story.

So Abu Jahl writes a letter to the Banu Madlaj tribe warning them of the deviation of their leader and advising them to disobey him.

So Suraqah finds out about this and replies this letter saying, 'O Abu Jahl! If you were there to see the hooves of my horse sinking into the ground, then you also

would not doubt the prophethood of Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)! I truly see that he will soon dominate all of Arabia and everyone will be his followers!

Suraqah formally accepted Islam 8 years later at the hands of the Messenger (salallahu alayhi wa sallam) after the Battle of Hunayn.

The Prophecy Comes True

In the caliphate of Umar ibn al-Khattab (radhiallahu anhu), when the Persian Empire was conquered and the Muslims became victorious there, Suraqah ibn Malik returned to Madina from the Persian conquest wearing the bracelets of the Persian king.

He kept on saying, 'Praise be to Allah who gave the treasures of the Persian kings to the Bedouin: Suraqah ibn Ju`shum from the tribe of Banu Mudlaj.'