

`Aas bin Waa'il

The Messenger of Allah (salallahu alayhi wa sallam) was sent to mankind in a time where people were drowned in the ignorance of idol-worship and nonsensical customs.

`Aas bin Waa'il was from the tribe of Banu Sahn who were respected as nobleman and people of authority. They were also considered to be responsible for the offerings that were made to the idols at the Ka'bah. People from all over Arabia would come to give their gifts, offerings and sacrifice for the idols at the Ka'bah.

`Aas bin Waa'il was the responsible individual from the Banu Sahn tribe for accepting these offerings on behalf of the idols. He would present it to them morning and evening.

This is one of the main reasons that `Aas bin Waa'il staunchly refused and opposed the message of Islam when it was presented to him.

`Aas bin Waa'il did everything he could to stop the Messenger of Allah (salallahu alayhi wa sallam) from his mission. He even went to Abu Talib, the uncle of the Prophet who was still on the way of his forefathers, and tried to convince him to make him stop his nephew from calling people to Islam.

Abu Talib however, even though he was not a Muslim, he cared for the well-being of his nephew. He therefore encouraged `Aas bin Waa'il and the others to not harm his nephew and go about the situation in a rational and non-violent way.

The idolaters however did not see things the way Abu Talib did. They were not rational people, they were ignorant and stubborn people who considered only their way right and oppressed those who were not like them.

A Man of Mockery and Ridicule

Ibn Is'haq, the great Islamic historian mentioned the names of the five people who mocked and ridiculed Islam and the Muslims:

(1) Walid bin Mughira (2) Aswad ibn Abd Yaghuth (3) Aswad ibn Mutallib (4) Harith ibn Talatila (5) Aas bin Waa'il.

One of the ways `Aas bin Waa'il oppressed the Muslims was through mockery and ridicule. One day, Abu Bakr (radhiAllahu anhu) was sitting near the Ka`bah when some foolish idolater came and threw dust on the head of Abu Bakr. After this, `Aas bin Waa'il passed by and because he was considered to be one of the nobleman of Makkah, Abu Bakr told him, "Do you not see what this ignorant man has done to me?"

`Aas bin Waa'il mockingly replied, "He didn't do it.... You did it to yourself O Abu Bakr!!!"

Another time, the great companion of the Messenger- Khabbab ibn al-Arat (radhiAllahu anhu), who was the 6th person to accept Islam, came to `Aas bin Waa'il, asking him to pay him the money he owed him.

Khabbab used to be a sword-maker and had made a sword for `Aas bin Waa'il so he wanted his payment for that. When Khabbab demanded his money `Aas made a mockery of him and said, "I won't give you your money until you disbelieve in Muhammad!"

So Khabbab answered him saying, "I will never disbelieve in Muhammad until you die and are resurrected."

So `Aas replied, "Oh? And will I be resurrected after death? Then I will pay you back then when I see you!"

Two Blessed Sons from a Wretched Father

What increased `Aas bin Waa'il in his rage and enmity against Islam was fact that the two sons of `Aas bin Waa'il: Hisham and `Amr, became sincere believers.

An Evil End

It has been mentioned that once the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam) was making tawaf of the Ka`bah when suddenly the angel Jibril (alayhis salam) appeared. He said to the Prophet, "I have been commanded that I should do away with the ones who hurt you and mock at you."

So when Walid ibn Mughira passed by Jibril (alayhis salam) asked the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam), "what do you think about this one?" The Prophet answered, "An evil man." So Jibril (alayhis salam) pointed to Walid ibn Mughira's shin and said, "He's been taken care of...."

Then `Aas bin Waa'il passed by and Jibril (alayhis salam) asked the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam), "what about this one?" The Prophet answered, "An evil man." So Jibril (alayhis salam) pointed to `Aas bin Waa'il's **foot** and said, "He's been taken care of...."

Then Aswad ibn Muttalib passed by and Jibril (alayhis salam) asked the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam), "what about this one?" The

Prophet answered, "An evil man." So Jibril (alayhis salam) pointed to his **eye** and said, "He's been taken care of...."

Then Aswad ibn Abd Yaguth passed by and Jibril (alayhis salam) asked the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam), "what about this one?" The Prophet answered, "An evil man." So Jibril (alayhis salam) pointed to his **head** and said, "He's been taken care of...."

Then Harith ibn Talatila passed by and Jibril (alayhis salam) asked the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam), "what about this one?" The Prophet answered, "An evil man." So Jibril (alayhis salam) pointed to his **stomach** and said, "He's been taken care of...."

All of these people died horrible deaths from some ailment or sickness in the exact place Jibril (alayhis salam) pointed.

And it so happened that the wretched `Aas bin Waa'il was out with his sons for sightseeing in the countryside. While he was strolling down a valley he held on to his foot and started to scream. All his sons gathered around and looked to what could have caused the pain. They could not find anything (such as a scorpion, etc.) and were perplexed. His foot started to swell up until it became as thick as the neck of a camel. He died of this swelling at the age of 85 and the people said that `Aas was stung by the earth!

May Allah Ta`ala guide us on the straight path. The path of those whom Allah has favored, not the path of those who have earned His anger nor those who have gone astray. Ameen.

