

Abu Musa al-Ash`ari (radhiAllahu anhu)

The Known Tribe

"I can tell the house of each and every person from the tribe of Al-Ash`ariyeen. I recognize them by the beautiful recitation coming from their homes at night."

Rasulullah, (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) gave this compliment to the tribe of Abu Musa Al-Ash`ari.

Abu Musa Al-Ash`ari's real name was Abdullah bin Qays and he was from this blessed Yemeni tribe. His conversion to Islam was due to a series of rumors he heard. People from far would narrate stories about a man in Makkah that claims to be a Prophet. After hearing so many stories, Abu Musa (radhiAllahu anhu) decided to travel to Makkah and see for himself who this person is.

It didn't take him long to realize that indeed, Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) was the true Messenger of Allah. Without delay, at the young age of 18, he declared his Islam, and sought guidance from Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) instructed him to go back to his people and tell them about Islam. "And when you hear I have migrated to Madinah, then migrate to Madinah as well," added Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).

Holding back his love and emotions, Abu Musa (radhiAllahu anhu) went back to Yemen and taught the people about Islam. A few years later, news reached him that Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) had migrated to Madinah. Rejoicing, he too packed up his belongings and headed for Madinah to be with his beloved Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). But this time, he would not travel alone to the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). He took with him the fifty new Muslims who accepted Islam through his invitation.

Blown Off Course

All of them closed up their businesses, packed their belongings, and travelled by sea to the new Islamic city of Madinah. However, just because one travels for the sake of Allah Ta`ala doesn't mean that he is not going to see hardships and difficulties. While on the sea journey, heavy winds blew them off course and they ended up in Habasha (Ethiopia).

In Habasha, they found several Sahabah and Sahabiyaat who were also waiting to migrate to Madinah. Amongst them was the beloved Sahabi of Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam), Jafar bin Abi Talib (radhiAllahu anhu). Together, they all boarded the ship, set sail for Madinah Munawarrah.

Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal narrates in his Musnad that soon before their arrival in Madinah, Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) informed the people, "Soon a group of people will be arriving here who are very soft hearted and they cry for Allah's sake." This news about the tribe and its nearing arrival was brought to Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) by none other than Angel Jibreel (alayhis salam). And it wasn't before long that at last, they were all united with the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) in the blessed city of Madinah Munawarrah.

Beautiful Recitation

He was known amongst the Sahabah for his beautiful recitation of the Qur'an. He was so occupied in reciting that it can be said his favorite hobby was to recite the Qur'an day and night.

Even the one upon who the Qur'an was revealed would stand for a long time listening to this Sahabi offering his Salatut-Tahajjud. It happened one late night that Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) was standing quietly by the door of his house. A`isha radhiAllahu anha asked him, "Ya Rasulullah, what are you

doing?" He said, "Come here and listen!" When she went over there, she heard "the beautiful recitation of the Qur'an by Abu Musa Al Ashari."

What To Do While Travelling

Sahabah say that Abu Musa (radhiAllahu anhu) loved reciting Qur'an so much that even after long and tiring journeys he would still recite the Qur'an at night while most of us rested. During these times of fatigue we would feel refreshed with his melodious recitation.

The Sahabah appreciated his constant utilization of time. They say, "As the journey continued, some of us would talk about various things just to pass the time. Abu Musa (radhiAllahu anhu) would remind us, 'Why don't we talk about something of our faith and Imaan? Why don't we talk about Jannah and Jahannam?' And before we knew, the topic was changed to something more beneficial and enjoyable."

Allah Ta`ala Professes His Love for Them

Once, Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said to Abu Musa (radhiAllahu anhu), "Did you know that there is any ayah in the Qur'an regarding your tribe?" Abu Musa (radhiAllahu anhu) surprisingly asked, "Ya Rasulullah, which ayah is that?!" Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) recited the following:

"And if you turn away (from Islam and the obedience to Allah), He will replace you for some other people and they will not be like you". (47:38)

Subhanallah, what an incredible guarantee they received from Allah Ta`ala. Millions of people profess their love for God, but can there be anything greater than Allah Ta`ala professing His love for someone? And if Allah loves them, then surely, we know what their status will be in this world and in the Hereafter.

Rasulullah's (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) Advice to a Governor

Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) assigned Abu Musa (ra) as governor in Yemen. Before sending him off, he (saw) instructed him, "Abu Musa, when you arrive in Yemen, keep on teaching the people the Qur'an." (Musnad Ahmad)

What unusual instructions for his newly appointed governor!! In today's world, this is unheard of; however, our pious predecessors were first and foremost concerned about the Deen of Allah Ta`ala over everything else. Their concern was to establish the Word of Allah Ta`ala and Deen in people's lives.

During the khilafah of Umar bin al-Khattab (radhiAllahu anhu), Abu Musa (radhiAllahu anhu) was assigned as governor of Basra. Umar (radhiAllahu anhu) included in his will that all the governors he appointed should serve a maximum term of one year after his death. After that, they should be removed and someone else can be appointed. He did this because he did not want to be held accountable in front of Allah Ta`ala for the mistakes of any governor he appointed because during his khilafah, he could maintain a check on them, but after his death he didn't want accountability.

However, he specially requested that Abu Musa (radhiAllahu anhu) be kept for four more years. What confidence Ameerul Mumineen had in this Sahabi that he is willing to take a personal guarantee for him!!

Dedicated Teacher of The Qur'an Kareem

Abu Musa (radhiAllahu anhu) never let go of the instructions given to him by his great teacher, Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). He was an exceptionally dedicated teacher of the Qur'an throughout his life. After Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) passed away, he would go the Masjid for Zuhr Salah. After prayer, he would turn around and say to the people, "Brothers, please stay with me and let me teach you the Qur'an the way I have learned it from Rasulullah."

He would stay there from Zuhr till 'Asr teaching anyone that wanted to learn. After 'Asr prayer, he would turn around again and say, "Is there anyone else that wants to learn the Qur'an or more of it?" If anyone volunteered, he would sit with

them till Maghrib prayer. After Maghrib prayer, he would repeat the same question! He would continue teaching as long as the people were interested.

His life was the Qur'an, the final word of Allah Ta`ala to the Universe. Abu Musa (radhiAllahu anahu) dedicated his life to following the instruction given to him by Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). Even at the time of his death, he was exactly the same age as Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) when he passed away: 63 years old, in the year 52AH. May Allah Ta`ala grant us the honor of making our life the recitation and instruction of His book. Ameen.