

Mus`ab ibn Umair (radhiAllahu anhu)

A Charming Young Man

Historians and narrators describe Mus'ab as the most charming of the Makkans, the most handsome and youthful, the flower of the Quraish! He was born and brought up in wealth, grew up with its luxuries, pampered by his parents, the talk of the ladies of Makkah, the jewel of its gatherings and assemblies.

Hearing About Islam

The youth heard one day about Muhammad the Truthful (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) sent by Allah as Messenger to call them to the worship of One God. In Makkah, there was no other talk but the Prophet and his religion and this spoiled boy was one of the most attentive listeners. Even though he was rich and spoiled, he after all did have common sense.

He went one night to the house of Arqam, anxious to learn about Islam. There, the Prophet was meeting his Companions, reciting the Quran to them and praying with them to Allah Ta`ala.

Mus'ab (radhiAllahu anahu) had hardly taken his seat and contemplated the verses of the Quran recited by the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) when his heart changed that night. The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) patted his heart with his blessed right hand, and the light of Islam filled his heart. In the twinkling of an eye, the youth who had just become Muslim appeared to have more wisdom than his age and a determination that would change the course of time.

Facing Hardships After Islam

Mus'ab's mother was Khunaas Bint Maalik and people feared her because she was a very serious lady with a strong personality. Mus'ab was satisfied with

his faith and avoided the anger of his mother who knew of his embracing Islam. He continued to frequent Arqam's house and take lessons from the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). The news eventually reached his mother who was astonished by it. His mother aimed a heavy blow on him. However, his mother, under the pressure of her motherliness, spared him the beating and the pain, although it was within her power to avenge her gods whom he had abandoned. Instead, she took him to a rough corner of her house and shut him in it. She put shackles on him and imprisoned him there.

Hijrah to Abyssinia

Mus'ab heard the news of the emigration of some of the believers to Abyssinia and managed to trick his mother and the guards, and so escaped to Abyssinia with his fellow emigrants. Later, he returned to Makkah and emigrated again for the second time under the advice of the Prophet.

Poverty after Luxury

He went out one day to some Muslims while they were sitting around the Prophet, and no sooner did they see him than they lowered their heads and started to cry because they saw him wearing worn out and tattered garments. They were used to seeing him dressed in very nice and expensive clothes before he had become a Muslim. The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) saw him with the eyes of wisdom, thankful and loving, and his lips smiled gracefully as he said, "I saw Mus'ab here, and there was no youth in Makkah more cared for by his parents than he. Then he abandoned all that for the love of Allah and His Prophet!"

His mother had withheld from him all the luxury he had, when she could not return him to idol-worship. Her last connection with him was when she tried to imprison him for a second time after his return from Abyssinia, and he swore that if she did that, he would fight all those who came to her aid to lock him up. She knew he was serious about what he said and so she said goodbye to him weeping.

When she said to him, "Go away, I am no longer your mother," Mus'ab went close to her and said, "O Mother, I am advising you and my heart is with you, please bear witness that there is no God but Allah and that Muhammad is

His servant and messenger." She replied to him, angrily raging, "By the stars, I will never enter your religion, to degrade my status and weaken my senses!" So Mus'ab (radhiAllahu anhu) left the great luxury in which he had been living. He became satisfied with a hard life he had never seen before, wearing the roughest clothes, eating one day and going hungry another.

The Prophet's messenger

While he was in this state, the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) commissioned him with the greatest mission of his life, which was to be his messenger to Madinah. His mission was to teach the Ansar who believed in the Prophet and had pledged their allegiance to him at 'Aqabah, to call others to Islam, and to prepare Madinah for the day of the great Hijrah.

There were among the Companions of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) at that time who were older than Mus'ab and closer to the Prophet by family relations but the Prophet chose Mus'ab. Mus'ab was up to the task and could be trusted because Allah had given him an excellent mind and noble character. He won the hearts of the Madinites with his piety, uprightness and sincerity. And so they embraced the religion of Allah in large groups.

At the time the Prophet sent him there, only 12 Muslims had pledged allegiance to the Prophet. During the next pilgrimage season, a few months after that, the Madinite Muslims sent a delegation of 70 believing men and women to Makkah to meet the Prophet! They came with their teacher and their Prophet's messenger, Mus'ab Ibn 'Umair.

Mus'ab had proven, by his good sense and excellence, that the Prophet knew well how to choose his messengers and teachers...

Mus` ab the Protector of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)

In the Battle of Uhud, when the Muslims were being attacked by the idol-worshippers of Quraysh, they concentrated on the Prophet of Allah to finish him off. Mus'ab saw the oncoming threat, so he ran to defend the Messenger of Allah from the enemies.

All he wanted was to draw the attention of the enemy to himself in order to turn their attention away from the Prophet. The enemies struck him with swords and spears to get to the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa salam) but Mus`ab would not allow it, until he finally fell. He put himself in harm's way for the sake of the Prophet.

After the battle, the Prophet and his Companions came to inspect the scene of the battle and bid farewell to the martyrs. Pausing at Mus'ab's body, many tears dripped from the Prophet's eyes.

Khabbab ibn Al-Arat (radhiAllahu anah) narrated: We emigrated with the Prophet for Allah's cause, so our reward became due with Allah. Some of us passed away without enjoying anything in this life of his reward, and of them was Mus'ab ibn Umair, who was martyred on the Day of Uhud. He did not leave behind anything except a sheet of shredded woolen cloth. If we covered his feet with it, his head was uncovered, and if we covered his head with it, his feet were uncovered. The Prophet said to us, "Cover his head with it and put grass over his feet."

May Allah Ta`ala be pleased with him. Ameen.