

## **Zayd bin Thabit (radhiAllahu anhu)**

### **Young Boy of Madina**

When the Prophet of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) arrived in Madina Munawwarah, Zayd bin Thabit was only of the tender age of 11 years old. Those who were looking after him presented him to Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) praising him for his excellent memorization and recitation of some surahs from the Qur'an. So when he came before the Prophet of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) and recited, the Prophet was extremely pleased with his talent and intelligence.

### **Translator of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)**

After seeing the talent and intelligence of this young companion, the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said to Zayd, "O Zayd! Learn the Hebrew language because I do not trust the Jewish translators in what they convey from me to others." So Zayd (radhiAllahu anhu) stood up to the task and learned the Hebrew language in less than a month! After that he began to write letters for the Prophet to the Jews whenever the need arose and he would read and translate their letters to him. Thus, the young Zayd became THE TRANSLATOR OF PROPHET (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).

### **Master of the Qur'an Karim**

On the day when the Muslims conquered Syria Umar ibn al-Khattab (radhiAllahu anhu) stood up amongst the people and delivered a sermon in which he said,

"O People! Anyone who has any questions about the Qur'an, then let them come to Zayd bin Thabit...

And anyone who has any questions about fiqh, then let him come to Mu`adh ibn Jabal...

And anyone who has any question about wealth and its regulations, then let him come to me, for Allah Ta`ala has put me in charge of wealth and its distribution."

## Compiler of the Qur'an Karim

After Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) passed away, Abu Bakr (radhiAllahu anhu) became the Khalifah. The need of the compilation of the whole Qur'an in the form of a Book was seen. In the battle of Yamamah and other battles, many huffaz were martyred. Umar (radhiAllahu anhu) noticed this and went to the Khalifah, and told him about this matter. At first Abu Bakr (radhiAllahu anhu) hesitated in doing something that the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) had not done but then, seeing the importance of this, he agreed.

Then Zayd bin Thabit (radhiAllahu anhu) was called. Zayd bin Thabit (radhiAllahu anhu) used to write the Qur'an for the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) during his time. At first, Zayd (radhiAllahu anhu) refused to do so saying, "By Allah, if I was ordered to move a mountain, it would not be so difficult for me as much compiling the Qur'an [and doing something the Prophet did not do]."

Zayd bin Thabit (radhiAllahu anhu) said to Abu Bakr and Umar, "How can you do something that the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) did not do?"

So Abu Bakr (radhiAllahu anhu) said, "By Allah, it is for the good."

Zayd then said, "Allah then opened up my heart to the importance of this tremendous task just as Abu Bakr and Umar's hearts were opened up."

So the compilation of the Qur'an started, with Zayd bin Thabit (radhiAllahu anhu) in charge. Lots of companions, including Zayd had memorized the whole Qur'an and so the Qur'an could have easily been written down from memory.

There were also complete collections of the verses of the Holy Qur'an available with many companions. But Zayd bin Thabit (radhiAllahu anhu) knew he had to be careful. He used both methods by collecting verses that were written during the time of Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) and also using memory. He followed four steps.

1. First he verified the verse with his own memory.
2. Umar (radhiAllahu anhu) who was also a Hafiz, was in charge of the project and he verified it, too.
3. Then, before the verse could be accepted, the two reliable witnesses had to testify that it was written in the presence of Prophet Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)

4. After that, written verses were collated with the collections of different Companions.

The purpose of this method was so that the utmost care be taken in the transcription of the Qur'an, and rather than rely on memory alone, it should be transcribed from verses that were written in the presence of the Prophet also.

It was this way that the Qur'an was compiled. In this copy, all Surahs were written separately. The purpose of this transcription was to prepare an organized document with the endorsement of the whole Ummah so that reference could be made to it when required. The transcripts stayed with Abu Bakr (radhiAllahu anhu). After his death in 634 they were passed on to the second Khalifah Umar (radhiAllahu anhu). And after Umar (radhiAllahu anhu), they were given to his daughter, Hafsa (radhiAllahu anha)

### **The Demise of Zayd ibn Thabit (radhiAllahu anhu)**

According to Waqidi (the great Islamic historian) Zayd ibn Thabit (radhiAllahu anhu) passed away in Madina Munawwarah in the 45<sup>th</sup> year of Hijrah, at the age of 56.

On the day of his demise Abdullah Ibn Abbas (radhiAllahu anhu) was reported to have said, "Today, great knowledge has left the world."

Abu Hurayrah (radhiAllahu anhu) said, "The great scholar of this Ummah has passed away. Perhaps Allah Ta`ala will make Ibn Abbas a good successor for what we have lost."

MAY ALLAH TA`ALA BE WELL PLEASED WITH HIM AND ALL OF THE NOBLE COMPANIONS. AMEEN