

The Youngest Scholar of the Ummah: Abdullah ibn Abbas (radhiAllahu anhum)

A Very Special Young Man

Abdullah ibn Abbas (radhiAllahu anahu) was born three years before the Hijrah and he was only 13 years old when the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) passed away from this world. When he was born, his mother carried him to the Messenger of Allah and he did his *tahneek*. So the first thing which entered his stomach was the blessed saliva of Rasulallah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).

He was a very special young man and was blessed with many great qualities and virtues.

First of all, he was blessed with the companionship of Rasulallah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) at a very young age.

Secondly, he was a close relative of the Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). He was the cousin of Rasulallah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam), the son of the Prophet's uncle: Abbas ibn Abdul Muttalib (radhiAllahu anhu).

Thirdly, he was a very pious person. He would spend his days in fasting and his nights standing in tahajjud prayer. And he used to cry so much out of the fear of Allah that there were permanent marks on his cheeks from the tears that would flow down from his eyes.

Fourthly, he was such a great scholar that at the age of 13 he had memorized the Qur'an and 1,660 ahadith from the Prophet! All of these ahadith have been narrated in the books of Bukhari and Muslim.

With the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam) Day and Night

From the time that Ibn Abbas (radhiAllahu anhu) reached the age of understanding he was in the company of the Messenger of Allah (salallahu alaihi wa sallam) day and night.

Ibn Abbas (radhiAllahu anhu) would prepare the water for the Prophet's wudhu. He would stand next to the Prophet in his nafl prayers. He would ride with the Prophet on his camel in journeys.

While in the Prophet's company he would memorize all that the Prophet would say and remember everything that he would teach. It was like this that he memorized so many of the Prophet's ahadith.

Getting the Special Prayers of the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam)

One day the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) wanted to make wudhu so Ibn Abbas quickly came with the water before he could even get it himself. This made the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam) very happy. After the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam) made wudhu, he told Abdullah to stand by his side so that they could pray together. But instead of standing next to the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam), Abdullah went behind him.

When the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam) finished his prayer he asked Abdullah as to why he didn't stand next to him, so Abdullah Ibn Abbas said, "You are too honorable and great in my eyes O Prophet of Allah that I should be worthy of standing by your side." When the Prophet heard these words of respect and honor from this young boy, he lifted his blessed hands to the sky and asked Allah to give this boy knowledge and wisdom.

An Amazing Story About the Knowledge of Ibn Abbas (radhiAllahu anhu)

A student of Abdullah Ibn Abbas (radhiAllahu anhu) relates that one day the streets were packed with people trying to enter the house of Ibn Abbas (radhiAllahu anhu) to ask him various questions about the deen and to learn from him.

So he told the servant to bring him water for wudhu. After he made wudhu, it was said to the crowd of people outside, "Anyone who is here to ask a question about the recitation of Qur'an, come inside." So all of the people who were there for that purpose entered and filled the house until all of their questions were answered and they were sent off to make way for the others.

Then he announced, "Anyone who is here for learning about the tafsir and commentary of the Qur'an, then let him come inside and ask." So all of the people who were there for that purpose entered until all of their questions were answered and they were sent off to make way for the others.

Then he announced, "Anyone who is here to ask about the halal and haram and fiqh, then let him come inside and ask." So everyone who came for that purpose entered until all of their questions were answered and they were sent off to make way for the others.

Then he announced, "Anyone who is here to ask about the distribution of inheritance then let him come inside and ask." So everyone who came for that purpose entered until all of their questions were answered and they were sent off to make way for the others.

Then he announced, "Anyone who is here to ask about the Arabic language and poetry then let him come inside and ask." So everyone who came for that purpose entered until all of their questions were answered and they were sent off to make way for the others.

Ibn Abbas's knowledge was so vast that he would not only answer their questions but would give them more than they were asking for.

This is but one example of the immense knowledge and wisdom of this young scholar of the Ummah. And it is for this reason that he was called: *Bahr*-the Ocean of knowledge.

The Demise of Abdullah Ibn Abbas (radhiAllahu anhu)

Abdullah Ibn Abbas (radhiAllahu anhu) passed away at the age of 71 after filling the entire world with knowledge and wisdom. May Allah Ta`ala be pleased with him and all of the companions. Ameen.

