

Zubayr ibn al-Awwam (radhiAllahu anhu) The HAWARI of the Prophet

Zubayr (radhiAllahu anhu) embraced Islam at the tender age of eight, although he was still young, he was a strong believer, fully convinced, for he had suffered a lot for the sake of Islam in spite of his well-known family name and his honor.

His uncle used to wrap him in a burning straw mat until the smoke came out of it and he almost suffocated, and tried to force him to disbelieve in Allah Ta`ala and His Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).

Zubayr (radhiAllahu anhu) would say: By Allah, I would never return to disbelief after I have become Muslim!

Man of the Two Migrations

At the age of 18 Zubayr (radhiAllahu anhu) had immigrated in the two immigrations, to Ethiopia, then to Madina Munawwarah. These were very hard journeys in those times, and only those who were strong-willed and had firm faith could do so.

Defender of Islam

He was the first one to use a sword to defend the Cause of Allah and that was in Makkah when the Muslims were being persecuted.

This was when there had been a rumor that the non-believers had captured the Messenger of Allah. Quickly Zubayr took his sword and went out walking through Makkah wishing to save the Messenger from the clutches of the Makkan idol-worshippers.

When Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) saw him, he asked him: "What is wrong with you Zubayr?!"

He said: I was told that you were captured. The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) seeing his concern and faith in him, prayed that he be granted peace and blessings, and prayed for him and his mighty sword.

The Great Status of Zubayr ibn al-Awwam (radhiAllahu anhu)

Zubayr (radhiAllahu anhu) is the nephew of Khadija bint Khuwaylid (may Allah be pleased with her), and the son of Safiyah the Prophet's (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) aunt, and the husband of Asma, the daughter of Abu Bakr As-Siddiq.

He is among the first five men who embraced Islam. He accepted Islam after Abu Bakr (radhiAllahu anhu).

He is also one of the ASHARA-MUBASHARA (the ten men promised to enter paradise) and one of the six Shura (consultants) that Umar (radhiAllahu anhu) recommended as Khalifah (Caliph).

Zubayr (radhiAllahu anhu) accompanied the Prophet in all the battles he fought. And was always at the Prophet's side to defend him and accompany him in the hardest times.

So the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "Every Prophet used to have a HAWARI (disciple), and my HAWARI (disciple) is Zubayr ibn al-Awwam (radhiAllahu anhu)."

Zubayr (radhiAllahu anhu) was once seen during pilgrimage wearing the Ihram clothes (sheets worn when going for Hajj). Someone saw how his body was full of wounds from the strikes of swords. He also saw in his chest what seemed like heavy deep scars from arrows and spears, so he told him:

By Allah, I have never seen a body with so many wounds like your body. So Zubayr (radhiAllahu anhu) said: None of these wounds have happened except in the company Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).

Zubayr ibn al-Awwam (radhiAllahu anhu) died while he was in prayer at the age of 75. May Allah be pleased with him.