

## **Huyay ibn Akhtab, The Jealous One**

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) entered Madina Munawwara after 10 years of persecution in Makkah. The Ansar of Madina were very happy and extremely delighted by the arrival of Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). But this was not the feeling that everyone had. Rather this auspicious arrival of the Prophet, for some people, was the worst thing that could ever happen to them.

### **Three Tribes of the Jews**

There were 3 tribes of the Jews who resided in Madina Munawwara when the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) arrived there. They were Banu Nadhir, Banu Qurayzah, and Banu Qaynuqaa. They knew for sure that Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) was a true Prophet because all of his signs and his exact description was given in detail in their Divine Book. But in spite of all this, many of them still refused to accept the Prophet's message due to their jealousy and hatred for him.

### **Huyay ibn Akhtab and His Jealousy**

When the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) entered Madina and invited the people to Islam, Huyay ibn Akhtab was the head Rabbi of the Jews from the tribe of Banu Nadhir. His brother, Abu Yasir ibn Akhtab went to see the Messenger and listen to what he had to say.

When he came back to his people, and told them:

“O my people! The one whom we have been waiting for has come! Follow his way and do not oppose him.”

When Huyay heard this, he went to hear the Prophet and listened to what he had to say. He returned to his people filled with jealousy and anger and said to them:

“O my people, I have come to you from a man that I will forever be an enemy to.”

His brother told him, “Please listen to me in this matter, O my brother, and you will not regret it.”

Huyay replied, “By Allah, I will never obey you!”

He then led the way of deviation for his people and they followed him blindly towards destruction. All of this was due to the fact that he could not stand to see the Prophet of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) getting respect and honor besides him. He could not stand to see someone other than his tribe and people in position.

### **Abdullah Ibn Salam, the Great Rabbi Who Accepted Islam**

Abdullah ibn Salam was a Jewish Rabbi and was a scholar of the Torah (the Divine Book of the Jews). When he saw the Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) entering Madina and heard his message, he went and referred back to the Torah and other Jewish traditions and confirmed that Muhammad was actually the promised and final Messenger sent to mankind.

Abdullah Ibn Salam tells his own story saying: The first words I heard him say were: “O people! Spread peace... Share food... Pray

during the night while people (normally) sleep... and you will enter Paradise in peace.”

I looked at him closely. I scrutinized him and was convinced that his face was not that of an imposter. I went closer to him and made the declaration of faith that there is no god but God and that Muhammad is the Messenger of God.

Subsequently, I went back to the Prophet (peace be upon him), and said: “O Messenger of God! The Jews are a people (inclined to) slander and falsehood. I want you to invite their most prominent men to meet you. (During the meeting however), you should keep me concealed from them in one of your rooms. Ask them then about my status among them before they find out of my acceptance of Islam. Then invite them to Islam. If they were to know that I have become a Muslim, they would denounce me and accuse me of everything base and slander me.”

The Prophet kept me in one of his rooms and invited the prominent Jewish personalities to visit him. He introduced Islam to them and urged them to accept Islam.

They began to dispute and argue with him about the Truth. When he realized that they were not inclined to accept Islam, he put the question to them:

“What is the status of Abdullah ibn Salam among you?”

“He is our *sayyid* (leader) and the son of our *sayyid*. He is our rabbi and our *alim* (scholar), the son of our rabbi and *alim*.”

“If you come to know that he has accepted Islam, would you accept Islam also?” asked the Prophet.

“Allah forbid! He would not accept Islam. May Allah protect him from accepting Islam,” they said, horrified.

At this point I came out in full view of them and announced: “O assembly of Jews! Be conscious of Allah and accept what Muhammad

has brought. By Allah, you certainly know that he is the Messenger of Allah and you can find prophecies about him and mention of his name and characteristics in your Torah. I for my part declare that he is the Messenger of Allah. I have faith in him and believe that he is true. I know him.”

“You are a liar,” they shouted. “By Allah, you are evil and ignorant, the son of an evil and ignorant person.” And they continued to throw at him all sorts of insults.

When Abdullah ibn Salam accepted Islam, Huyay ibn Akhtab incited his people even more against and the Prophet and said, “There can be no Prophet from the Arabs! He is but a lying imposter. He wants to be a ruler and have power!”

He made more effort on the Jews to unite them against the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).

Allah Ta`ala revealed the following verses about him:

“Quite a number of the People of the book wish they could turn you (people) back into disbelief after you have believed, due to their selfish jealousy, after the Truth hath become Manifest unto them: But forgive them and overlook their faults, Till Allah accomplish His purpose; for Allah Hath power over all things.” (2:109)