

The Sons of `Amr ibn Jamuh (radhiAllahu anhum)

Amr ibn Jamuh, a nobleman of Madina

Amr ibn Jamuh was a chieftain and nobleman of Madina in pre-Islamic times. And it was a custom that each noble kept idols in their houses other than the big idols set up in places of public gathering. They used to pray to them, make sacrifices and offerings for them. As a nobleman and chief, Amr Ibn Jamuh made an idol to keep in his house and called it Manat. He had it made from very expensive, precious and fine wood. He used to care for the idol very much and spend a lot of money in buying expensive perfumes and fragrances for this idol.

Amr ibn Jamuh's whole family accepts Islam

Amr ibn Jamuh had already passed the age of 60 when the brilliant light of Islam reached Madina Munuwwarah through the da`wah of the young companion Mus`ab ibn Umayr (radhiAllahu anhu). He was but a teenager at the time and the whole family of Amr ibn Jamuh accepted Islam at his hands. His three young sons; Mu`awwadh, Mu`adh, and Khallad, including their mother, secretly accepted Islam and Amr ibn Jamuh did not even know it!

Making a Joke out of Manat

Mu`adh the son of Amr ibn Jamuh and his young friend Mu'adh Ibn Jabal (radhiAllahu anhuma) were now calling the people of Madina to Islam with great enthusiasm and zeal.

His son Mu'adh Ibn Amr agreed with his friend Mu'adh Ibn Jabal to make a joke out of Amr Ibn Jamuh's idol. They used to enter his house at night, take the idol and throw it into a pit. And when Amr would wake up in the morning, he would not find Manat in its place, and would keep looking for it till he found it thrown into that pit.

He used to be enraged and say, "Woe unto you, who did this to our gods this night!"

Then he would wash and perfume it. When night came again, the two Mu`adhs, would do to the idol as they had done the previous night.

When Amr got tired of this continuous disrespect to his beloved idol, he took his sword and put it on Manat's neck and said to it, "If you are truly a beneficial god, then defend yourself."

When he woke up he did not find it in its place, but rather found it thrown in the same pit. But this time, it was not in the pit alone but was tied to a dead dog by a strong rope.

The Light of Iman Enters the Heart of Amr ibn Jamuh

While he was angry, sorry, and surprised, some of the nobles of Madina who had preceded him in Islam approached him. They pointed at the idol tied to the dead dog and addressed Amr Ibn Jamuh's mind, heart and common sense, talking to him about the Most True and Most High Allah Whom there is nothing like.

They talked to him about the trustworthy, faithful Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) who came to give, not to take, to guide, not to misguide. They talked to him about Islam that came to liberate mankind from all the shackles, revive the spirit of Allah in them, and spread His light in their hearts.

In a few moments, Amr discovered himself and his destiny. He purified and perfumed his clothes and body, then went, bearing his head high, to acknowledge the Leader of the Prophets (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) and to take his place among the believers.

All of this was due to the efforts of the young companions; Mus`ab ibn Umayr, Mu`adh ibn Jabal and his son Mu`adh ibn Amr who were but teenagers at the time. May Allah Ta`ala be pleased with all of them.