

SUMMER IMMERSION HAYAT AL-SAHABA



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SESSIONS →

Hayat al-Sahaba

- A spiritual and historical compilation of stories from the lives of the companions of the Prophet ﷺ.
- Organized thematically into 19 chapters across three Arabic volumes (~800–900 pages each).
- English translation: 4 volumes by Mufti Ilyas and his wife (South Africa).
- Footnotes by Sheikh Ilyas Bara Banki add depth.
- Organization (tabwīb) by Sheikh Abdul Fattah Abu Ghudda helped shape its current form.
- Stories arranged by theme: da'wah, struggle, faith, sacrifice (men, women, children).
- The author wrote while in active da'wah work, not in luxury.

Author's Background

- Sheikh Yusuf Kandalwi, descendant of Abu Bakr al-Siddiq رضي الله عنه.
- Grew up in Kandala, settled in Delhi; memorized Qur'an young.
- Known for writing Ma'ani al-Athar (commentary on hadith).
- His father founded the tabligh movement.
- Grandmother intentionally married her daughters only to scholars during British colonial rule, aiming to preserve deen amidst cultural erosion.

- The family resisted Christian missionary schooling and Hindu cultural influence.
- Sheikh Yusuf wrote his book late at night during travels and died while delivering a lecture.
- Chapter headings (bab) carry scholarly opinions subtly, as seen in Imam Bukhari's method.
- The author adopted a similar approach—concise, researched chapter intros.
- First chapter: Baab al-Da'wah ila Allah تَعَالَى اللَّهُ عَنْهُ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَحَبَّ إِلَى النَّبِيِّ وَإِلَى الصَّحَابَةِ مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ.

Story of Wahshi & Forgiveness

- Wahshi killed Hamza رضي الله عنه during Uhud.
- Fled Mecca, hesitant to accept Islam due to fear of hellfire (Surah Nisa:48).
- First verse offered: Surah Furqan 70 – requires tawbah, belief, righteous deeds.
- Second: Surah Nisa 48 – Allah forgives anything except shirk.
- Wahshi still unsure: "What if Allah doesn't forgive me?"
- Third: Surah Zumar 53 – Allah forgives all sins. Ibn 'Abbas called it the most hopeful verse.
- After this, Wahshi accepted Islam and recited shahada.
- Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم clarified that this ayah applies to all Muslims, not just Wahshi.
- After Wahshi accepted Islam, the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم asked him not to sit in front of him (غَيْبٌ وَجْهَكَ عَنِّي فَلَا أَرَاكَ).
- Not out of hatred, but due to painful memories of Hamza.
- Also a spiritual protection for Wahshi: pain to the Prophet hurts Allah and spiritually harms the source.
- The Prophet still wished for Wahshi's success in this world and akhirah.

- فَأَوْلَئِكَ يُبَدِّلُ اللَّهُ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ حَسَنَاتٍ (Surah Furqan)
 - Literal view: 10,000 sins become 10,000 good deeds.
 - Deeper tafsir: sincere regret creates long-term behavioral change, leading to consistent good.
- The sin becomes a reason and catalyst for transformation.

Stories of Repentance Among the Sahabah

- Wahshi later killed Musaylimah al-Kadhdhab and said: "I killed the best of people (Hamza) in Jahiliyyah and the worst of people (Musaylimah) in Islam."
- Ikramah: repented, asked the Prophet for forgiveness, doubled his efforts, died a shaheed.
- Khalid ibn al-Walid: fierce enemy strategist, later key general for Islam.
- Umar ibn al-Khattab: redirected his energy from sin to worship.
- Abu Hudhayfa: regretted doubting the Prophet's fairness, sought martyrdom to make amends.

Principles of Dawah

- First chapter of the book: da'wah is more beloved to the Prophet and Sahabah than everything else.
- Da'wah means wanting guidance for everyone—even enemies.
- The Prophet ﷺ wished for Wahshi to enter paradise.
- Forgiveness is offered to everyone, no matter the past, if they repent.