

SUMMER IMMERSION HAYAT AL-SAHABA



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The Story of Abu Hurayrah and His Mother

- Abu Hurayrah is one of the most prolific narrators of hadith among the companions (Sahaba).
- He spent only 4-5 years with the Prophet ﷺ but narrated more hadith than almost anyone else.
- **Top narrators among the Sahaba:** Abu Hurayrah, Abdullah ibn Umar, Abu Sa'id al-Khudri, and Aisha (may Allah be pleased with them all).

His Mother's Conversion

- Abu Hurayrah's mother was initially a polytheist and would say harsh things about the Prophet ﷺ.
- Deeply hurt by her words, Abu Hurayrah sought the Prophet's dua (supplication) for her guidance.
- The Prophet ﷺ made dua: "O Allah, guide the mother of Abu Hurayrah."
- Miraculously, upon returning home, Abu Hurayrah found his mother ready to accept Islam. She declared the shahada:
- Abu Hurayrah's joy at his mother's conversion was immense, highlighting the emotional struggles of converts and their families.

Lessons on Defending the Prophet ﷺ

- The companions were deeply offended by insults to the Prophet ﷺ, but the correct response is not violence or extremism.

- The unity of the Muslim community is often strongest in defending the dignity of the Prophet ﷺ.

The Importance of Salah (Prayer)

- After accepting Islam, the first command is to establish Salah.
- The Prophet ﷺ would teach new Muslims Salah before other acts of worship.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring their children pray from a young age.

الَّذِي تَفُوتُهُ صَلَاةُ الْعَصْرِ كَأَنَّمَا وُتِرَ أَهْلَهُ وَمَالَهُ

If someone misses the asr prayer it is as if he has suffered a great misfortune in his family and wealth. (Muwatta Malik)

- Only about 15% of the Ummah prays five times daily; Salah is the first thing asked about on the Day of Judgment.

إِنَّ أَوَّلَ مَا يُحَاسَبُ بِهِ الْعَبْدُ الْمُسْلِمُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ، الصَّلَاةُ الْمَكْتُوْبَةُ فَإِنْ أَتَمَّهَا، وَإِلَّا قِيلَ: انْظُرُوا هَلْ لَهُ مِنْ تَطْوِيعٍ؟ فَإِنْ كَانَ لَهُ تَطْوِيعٌ أَكْمَلُتِ الْفَرِيَضَةُ مِنْ تَطْوِيعِهِ. ثُمَّ يُفْعَلُ بِسَائِرِ الْأَعْمَالِ الْمَفْرُوضَةِ مِثْلُ ذَلِكَ

The first thing for which the Muslim will be brought to account on the Day of Resurrection will be the prescribed prayers. If they are complete, all well and good, otherwise it will be said: 'Look and see whether he has any voluntary prayers.' If he

has any voluntary prayers, his prescribed prayers will be completed from his voluntary prayers. Then the same will be done with regard to all his obligatory deeds. (Ibn Majah)

Hardships in Early Islam

The Prophet's ﷺ Endurance

- The Prophet ﷺ was extremely sensitive to the suffering of his community.
- The Sahaba endured hunger, deprivation, and torture for the sake of Islam.

Example: Bilal and Early Muslims

- Bilal and the Prophet ﷺ sometimes had nothing but dates to eat for 40 days.
- Many companions were tortured by their own tribes or families for accepting Islam.
- Protection in Meccan society was based on tribal affiliation; those without strong tribal ties (like Bilal) suffered the most.

The Role of Abu Talib

- Abu Talib, the Prophet's ﷺ uncle, was his main protector in Mecca.
- His leadership shielded the Prophet ﷺ from harm.
- After Abu Talib's death (Year 10, 'Aam al-Huzn – Year of Grief), the Prophet ﷺ faced open hostility and violence.
- Abu Talib never accepted Islam, despite his support. The Prophet ﷺ was deeply grieved by this, more so than even the loss of his beloved wife Khadijah.
 - Allah consoles:

إِنَّكَ لَا تَهْدِي مَنْ أَحْبَبْتَ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ

Indeed, [O Muhammad], you do not guide whom you like, but Allah guides whom He wills. And He is most knowing of the [rightly] guided. (28:56)

Example: Bilal and Early Muslims

- Story of Miqdad ibn Aswad
 - A man wished he had lived at the time of the Prophet ﷺ. Miqdad replied that one should not wish for what Allah has not decreed, and should be grateful for being born Muslim without facing the hardships of the early companions.

Social Struggles and Modern Parallels

- The struggles of the early Muslims were immense: torture, boycott, and even death.
- Today, Muslims may face social pressure, Islamophobia, or challenges in practicing openly (e.g., praying in public, wearing hijab).
- Compared to the early Muslims, these are minor; we should not be embarrassed or afraid to practice Islam.
- The right to practice Islam should be asserted confidently, just as others assert their rights to different lifestyles.

Conclusion and Takeaways

- The early Muslims endured immense hardship for the sake of Islam; their sacrifices should inspire us to remain steadfast.
- The most important duty after accepting Islam is establishing Salah and ensuring our families do the same.
- We should be grateful for being born into Islam and not wish for different circumstances than what Allah has decreed.
- Building alliances and good relations with non-Muslims is part of the prophetic example.
- Never be ashamed of your Islamic identity, and remember that our struggles today are minor compared to those of the Prophet ﷺ and his companions.