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King Fahd National Library Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Abdul Basit Ahmad
Sa'd bin Mu'adh: The True Supporter of Islam - Riyadh
48 p. ; 14x21 cm.
ISBN: 9960-861-11-2
1-Sa'd bin Mu'adh, ibn An-Nu'man Al-ansari, d. 5 H.
2 - Prophet's Companions and successors 1-Title

239.9 dc 1920/21
Legal Deposit number 1920/21
ISBN: 9960-861-11-2

First Edition: March 2001

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Bookshop: Tel & Fax: 00966-1-4614483

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U. S. A.

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Website: http:// www.dar-us-salam.com
- New York: 572 Atlantic Ave, Brooklyn
New York-11217
Tel: 001-718-625 5925

U.K.

- London: Darussalam International Publications
Ltd. P.O. Box: 21555, London E10 6XQ
Tel: 07947 306 706 Fax: 0044-208 925 6996
- Birmingham: Al-Hidaayah Publishing & Distribution
436 Coventry Road, Birmingham B10 OUG
Tel: 0044-121-753 1889 Fax: 121-753 2422

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Enlightment Book Shop
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Sa'd bin Mu'adh رضي الله عنه

The True Supporter of Islam

By
Abdul Basit Ahmad
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

“Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allâh [i.e., they have gone out for *Jihâd* (holy fighting), and showed not their backs to the disbelievers]; of them some have fulfilled their obligations (i.e., have been martyred); and some of them are still waiting, but they have never changed (i.e., they never proved treacherous to their covenant which they concluded with Allâh) in the least.” (33:23)

Publishers Note

All praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists. May Allâh’s peace and blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, his family and his Companions.

Darussalam is pleased to present this valuable series of books, ‘*The Golden Series of the Prophet’s Companions*’ to the Muslim youth. The purpose of these books is to enlighten our youth about the lives of the greatest heroes of Islam, the Prophet’s Companions. Also, we wish to increase the enthusiasm of the Muslim youth for following and adhering to their religion. In this way, these books achieve two very important tasks: educating our youth and encouraging them to be good Muslims.

In the following story, titled ‘*Sa’d bin Mu’adh* ﷺ – *the true Supporter of Islam*’, you will read about one of the most famous Companions of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, Sa’d bin Mu’adh ﷺ. He was one of the earliest converts to Islam in Al-Madinah and one of the chiefs of Bani Abdul Ash-hal, a clan living in Al-Madinah.

He had embraced Islam before seeing the Prophet ﷺ and invited his whole tribe to embrace the new religion. When he died in his bed a smell of musk was coming from his body. The Prophet ﷺ said:

“Congratulations to you Sa’d! You have fulfilled

your promise and verily Allâh will keep his promise to you.”

We hope that these books are beneficial to our Muslim youth, as they are the future of Islam. We, at Darussalam realize the importance of good Islamic literature for Muslim youth, especially in the West where non-Islamic influences are so strong. For this reason, we feel that the availability of this series will be a valuable aid in instilling a genuine love for Islam in our youth. We would like to thank the author, Mr. Abdul Basit Ahmad, the editors, Mr. Aqeel Walker and Mr. Muhammad Ayub Sapra for their diligent work in preparing this series. As Allâh says:

“Is there any reward for good other than good?” (55:60)

And our final word is that all praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager

Foreword

Before the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ received revelation from Allâh, the Arab tribes in the Arabian Peninsula were waging constant wars against each another. These wars often lasted many years. No one among tribe members except chieftains had the right to question the validity of the causes for which these wars were waged. Some of these wars erupted just because a member of a tribe might have killed a camel belonging to a man from another tribe or because a woman from one tribe insulted a woman from another tribe.

The people who inhabited Yathrib (Al-Madinah) were members of two closely related tribes, namely Al-Aus and Al-Khazraj. The two tribes engaged in a war that depleted most of their resources and left them weak in the face of the Jews who also lived in Al-Madinah with the two tribes. They called

this war 'Bu'ath' which continued for years and years. It stopped only five years before the migration of the Muslims to Al-Madinah.

The Jews were doing their best to keep the two tribes at war with each another. They were always ready to add hay to the fire whenever it was about to be extinguished. Their main aim was to keep the two closely related tribes weak, so that they would remain strong and wealthy.

Al-Aus and Al-Khazraj never thought about the fact that the war was having a bad effect on both tribes. However, some of the wise men from both tribes were eventually able to reach a settlement for the dispute, and therefore, put an end to the daily loss of lives and resources.

In this short biography, we are going to talk about one of those wise men who, through rational judgment, brought about a good

solution between the two tribes.

Our hero, Sa'd bin Mu'adh ؓ, was the chief of Bani Abdul Ash-hal, a clan living in Al-Madinah. He had embraced Islam before seeing the Prophet ﷺ and invited his whole tribe to embrace the new religion. As soon as he listened to the true Word of Allāh, he declared with all sincerity that he was fully devoted to support the Message of Islam. He did his best to support the Prophet ﷺ and the new call of guidance until the last moment of his life.

Let us together learn something about one of those great men who built the great Islamic State and who sacrificed their lives in defense of the ultimate truth.

Abdul-Basit Ahmad

Introduction

Arabs before the rise of Islam

The Arab society in the Arabian Peninsula and surrounding areas mainly consisted of tribes and clans. Some of them lived in towns while most of them followed their flocks everywhere in the desert in search of food and water. These tribes were usually involved in wars amongst each other. Every tribe was invading and invaded by other tribes.

The gloom that loomed over the Arabian Peninsula and the world in general before the rise of Islam killed nearly every virtue in the minds and hearts of human beings at that time. Human rights, for example, were not given any value. Slavery, burying girls alive and injustices were dominating the societies of the city and desert alike. Youth and old were spending their time in grazing animals or practicing trade during the

daytime and seeking trivial pleasures during the night. The guidance brought by previous religions was absent from the life of people. There was no central government; rather, every tribe had its own chief and customs in spite of the fact that some common laws were prevailing in the society.

The people of Arabia were largely idol worshippers. A number of Jews and Christians were scattered here and there, but their practice of their religions had greatly diminished. Every Arab tribe had its own deities and its own forms of worship. The Ka'bah in Makkah was itself surrounded with hundreds of idols which were considered by Makkans as gods.

All these vices and atrocities urgently needed a Messenger from Allâh to reform the society and spread guidance throughout the

Arabian Peninsula in particular and the world in general.

Advent of Islam

The child Muhammad ﷺ grew up in such an environment. When he became a young man, he kept himself away from the evils and vices of the day. Like other youth, he used to graze his uncle's flocks. He was well behaved and was loved and respected by all those who came in contact with him. He was known to be sincere and trustworthy to the extent that he was called *Al-Ameen* (the Trustworthy) by people. He did not like the ways that his peers were following to satisfy their desires. He even could not bear the idea of standing before any idol pleading for help. He sometimes engaged in trade on behalf of wealthy men. It is well known that he visited Damascus twice before he was commissioned with the message of Islam. On the way there, many signs of his Prophethood were seen by his companions and even monks living in isolation. When he was twenty-five years old, he married a wealthy woman who preferred him over the chiefs of the Quraish.

At the age of forty, he was blessed by Allâh with the gift of Prophethood. He started preaching the new religion to his close relatives as ordered by Allâh. After three years of calling to Islam, he was ordered by Allâh to preach Islam in public. He met hard opposition and cruel oppression, especially by his tribesmen.

The Prophet ﷺ spent thirteen years in Makkah calling the people of Makkah and its surrounding areas to accept Islam. However, he did not realize much success.

He visited some nearby towns like Tâ'if to preach Islam and to seek protection against oppression. His attempts did not meet success.

The Prophet ﷺ changed his way of preaching Islam. He began calling visitors of Makkah to provide him with protection to be able to proclaim the Word of Allâh. A group of visitors from a town called Yathrib believed in the message of Islam and pledged to provide the needed protection.

The Prophet ﷺ and his followers migrated to Yathrib (Al-Madinah). From there, they could

negotiating with the Prophet ﷺ and his uncle to reach a compromise. They told the Prophet ﷺ that they would make him a king or give him all the money he might ask for. However, the Prophet ﷺ rejected all of their worldly proposals and continued preaching the message of Islam to all humanity.



The Beginning

The Man

Sa'd bin Mu'adh was the chief of Bani Abdul Ash-hal, a branch of Al-Khazraj tribe. He was a man of dignity, honor and wisdom. He was the most well spoken person of his tribe. He was also very strong and brave when it came to facing enemies.

Like the rest of the Arabs in the Arabian Peninsula, Sa'd and his tribe worshipped idols made of stone. The Jews who were their neighbors knew that they were leading a misguided life, but they never tried to help guide them. On the contrary, they were always threatening them that a new Prophet would appear in Arabia. They told them that they would follow the new Prophet and defeat them.

Four hundred kilometers away from Yathrib, Muhammad ﷺ started calling the Quraish and the other tribes in Makkah to Islam. The few people who believed in the message of Islam were subjected to oppression and all kinds of bad treatment at the hands of the chiefs

welcome by the people. They provided them with all means to start a new life in their town.

Welcoming the Prophet ﷺ in Al-Madinah

When the Prophet ﷺ was sure that all the Muslims had left Makkah and settled in Al-Madinah, he told his closest Companion, Abu Bakr ؓ, that it was time for both of them to leave together to Al-Madinah.

The Quraish plotted to prevent the Prophet ﷺ from migrating to Al-Madinah. They agreed to gather forty strong young men from all clans to kill the Prophet ﷺ.

Gabriel عليه السلام told the Prophet ﷺ that the pagans had decided to kill him and ordered him to leave the city. The Prophet ﷺ told his cousin, 'Ali bin Abi Tâlib ؓ to stay behind to give back trusts the Quraish people kept with the Prophet ﷺ and then to catch up with him in Al-Madinah.

Both the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr ؓ left in the dark. Although the forty young men were

surrounding the house of the Prophet ﷺ, he left his house without being noticed by them. Allâh protected him against their evil plots.

On the day of the Prophet's arrival to Al-Madinah, Sa'd ؓ led his people to the outskirts of Al-Madinah waiting to welcome the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion, Abu Bakr ؓ. As soon as the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion appeared in the horizon, Sa'd ؓ and his people welcomed them with cheers of happiness and joy. He was so happy to give shelter to the new message and to sacrifice all he had to see it victorious.

Building the New Islamic State

The first thing that the Prophet ﷺ did after settling down in Al-Madinah was to make ties of brotherhood among *Muhajirun* (migrants) and *Ansar* (supporters). Every supporter took one of the emigrants as his brother in Islam. They provided the emigrants with all means to help them settle

The Trench

Jewish Conspiracies

The Quraish were very pleased with the victory they had gained over the Muslims. They thought that it would be easy for them to fight the last and fatal battle against the Muslims. The Jews in Al-Madinah were also very keen to put an end to the religion of Islam, especially since they saw how fast Islam was spreading. So, they connived with the Quraish and many of the other Arab tribes to destroy Islam. Although they had made promises with the Muslims to defend them, they broke their promises. The Bani Quraytha Jews sent envoys to Makkah to arouse the Quraish against the Muslims. They even promised to support them in their final battle against Islam.

The Quraish along with other tribes of Arabia gathered a huge army that had never been gathered before in the Arabian

Peninsula. With all their might they made their way to Al-Madinah with great dreams of putting an end to Islam and the Muslims.

The Muslims knew of the plot of the their enemies. The Prophet ﷺ sought advice from his Companions on how to face the challenge. They discussed many options. However, all such options did not satisfy the Prophet ﷺ. At last, Salman Al-Farsi ؓ suggested that they should dig a trench around Al-Madinah in order to defend their city against the tremendous threat. Sa'd bin Mu'adh ؓ was very enthusiastic to carry out the plan. He took part in digging the trench. He spent days with the rest of his Muslim brothers to complete digging the trench before the arrival of their enemies. During the nights he kept open eyes to guard the trench in case the non-Muslims tried to cross over it.

The Prophet ﷺ sent Sa'd ؓ and other chiefs to the Jews to check what their position was. Sa'd ؓ found out that they did

were besieging the Jews.

The Prophet ﷺ told Sa'd ؓ that the Jews had accepted whatever judgment he would make, whether it was for them, or against them. Sa'd ؓ inquired if his judgment would be binding upon both the Muslims and the Jews. The Prophet ﷺ confirmed that any judgment he might make would be binding on both sides.

With a decisive spirit, Sa'd ؓ declared that he had decided that their men be killed, their children and women be taken as slaves and their properties be divided amongst the Muslims.

The Prophet ﷺ told Sa'd ؓ that this judgment was just and fair for the treachery they had committed against the Muslims and for breaking their promises with the Muslims.



The End

Sa'd ؓ was now satisfied that his battle with the powers of gloom had come to an end. The wound he had suffered at the battle of the Trench was now and then profusely bleeding. He had become very ill. The Prophet ﷺ visited Sa'd ؓ to find him desperately ill and about to leave this world. He took Sa'd's head and put it in his lap and said:

“I bear witness before Allâh that he has fought for the sake of Allâh with faith and sincerity. I pray to Allâh that He accepts his soul in the best way Allâh accepts any soul.”

Gabriel عليه السلام came down to the Prophet ﷺ telling him about a man who died that night and whose soul was welcomed in the best manner by the angels. The Prophet ﷺ knew that Sa'd ؓ had died. He hurried up to Sa'd's house to find the man lying on his bed with a smell of musk coming from his body. He Said:

“Congratulations to you Sa'd! You have fulfilled your promise and verily Allâh will keep his promise to you.”