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## Al-Miqdâd bin 'Amr ؓ:

### The First Horse Soldier Of Islam

## Al-Miqdâd bin 'Amr ﷺ:

### The First Horse Soldier Of Islam

#### His Lineage

He is Al-Miqdâd bin (bin means, 'son of') 'Amr bin Tha'labah bin Mâlik bin Rabi'ah bin 'Âmir bin Matrûd Al-Bahrâni, and it is said, Al-Hadrami. His father is 'Amr bin Tha'labah.

Because he killed someone from his tribe, 'Amr had to flee from his homeland; he traveled to Hadramaut, where he allied himself to Kindah, which is why he later took on the attributive appellation, Al-Kindi. 'Amr married one of the woman of Hadramaut, and she bore him a son – Al-Miqdâd ﷺ.

When Al-Miqdâd grew up, he got implicated in a situation similar to the one that his father faced years ago. He got into a dispute with Abu Shamr bin Hajar Al-Kindi, and their quarrel quickly precipitated into a physical fight. Al-Miqdâd got the better of Abu Shamr, for he struck him with his sword in the leg, but being that this occurred in Abu Shamr's homeland – where he had many relatives who would be eager for revenge – Al-Miqdâd ﷺ had to flee like his father before him. He took refuge in Makkah, where he allied himself with Al-Aswad bin 'Abd-Yaghûth Az-Zuhri. Al-Miqdâd then wrote to his



father, informing him of his safe arrival, and his father later joined him in Makkah.

Al-Aswad bin 'Abd-Yaghûth took Al-Miqdâd to be his adopted son – a not uncommon practice at the time, even if the father was alive – and so he became known as, Al-Miqdâd bin Al-Aswad. But during the days of Islam, when the following Verse was revealed:

﴿ادْعُوهُمْ لِآبَائِهِمْ هُوَ أَقْسَطُ﴾

"Call them (adopted sons) by (the names of) their fathers, that is more just."<sup>[1]</sup>

– he again became known as, Al-Miqdâd bin 'Amr.

### His Kunyah

For men, a *Kunyah* begins with Abu, meaning: 'father of.' Usually, one's *Kunyah* is based on one's eldest son, so if one's eldest son is named Zaid, one's *Kunyah* is Abu Zaid. But this is not always the case; one's *Kunyah* can refer to other children; it can even be used in a figurative sense, denoting a close connection between someone and some object or idea. Because he liked kittens, a famous Companion of the Prophet ﷺ is known not by the name he was given at birth, but by his *Kunyah*: Abu Hurairah (Hurairah meaning a small cat).

As for Al-Miqdâd's *Kunyah*, it has been said that it is 'Abul-Aswad; it has also been said that it is Abu 'Umar; and it has also been said that it is Abu Sa'id.

[1] Qur'an 33: 5.

### His Acceptance Of Islam

Al-Miqdâd bin 'Amr ﷺ was one of the earliest of people to accept Islam; in fact, he was the seventh person to openly proclaim his Islam (which does not mean that he was the seventh person to accept Islam, since some kept their Islam secret in the early days of the Prophet's Mission).

### The Punishment He Endured

As we saw from his biography before the days of Islam, Al-Miqdâd ﷺ was not a native of Makkah, never mind one of its chiefs. Thus he shared the lot of other weak Muslims, who were either slaves, people in the lower echelons of Makkan society, outsiders (like Miqdâd) who gained protection in Makkah, or people who had no patron or protector from the chiefs of Makkah. Al-Miqdâd was tortured over and over again, and all he had to do in order to convince his tormentors to stop hurting him was to renounce his Islam; yet he refused, remaining brave and firm and steadfast upon the truth.

### His Description

Al-Madâ'ini said: "Al-Miqdâd was tall and tanned. He was hirsute, with large eyes and connected eyebrows. And he used to dye his beard yellow." Al-Miqdâd's wife, Karimah, described him as having a large stomach.

### His Migration

Al-Miqdâd bin 'Amr ﷺ was one of the few who made both migrations, to Al-Habashah and to Al-Madinah.