

# DEVOTED COMPANIONS

## INTRODUCTION

The Holy Companions (May Allah be pleased with Him), that is, the followers of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) are those great personalities of the world, who are superior to and greater than anyone except the Prophets and Messengers of Allah (peace be upon him). By their achievements they earned the pleasure of Allah and His Holy Prophet (peace be upon him).

When we read the life histories of the Holy Companions, we feel a longing to follow their example. We feel an urge to be firm in our beliefs and to establish the faith of Islam. We believe that had not Allah created those wonderful people; our religion would not have come to us in its pristine form. Allah had caused those noble Companions of our Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) to safeguard our religion. Next to the lives of the Apostles of Allah (peace be upon him). It is the lives of these sages which serve as the best models for us.

The manner in which the Holy Companions went forward with the Islamic movement, the sacrifices which they made in support of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), and the zeal and enthusiasm with which they worked for spreading the message of Islam, carry a good lesson for all human beings of the world, specially the Muslims. For a long time now there has been a feeling that the life-stories of those torch-bearers of Islam should be presented to our children and young persons, boys and girls, for correcting the ills of our present society. This book is intended to fulfill this need and it is hoped that it will be of benefit to our young generation and shall impart especially to them desirable training on the Islamic way of life. May Allah accept this work and reward us in the hereafter

**Mail Khairabadi**

## **HADRAT ABBAS BIN ABDUL MUTTALIB** **(Allah be pleased with him)**

The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) had 10 or 11 uncles. Four of them earned a great name in history---Abu Talib, Abu Lahab, Hadrat Hamza and Hadrat Abbas. Abu Talib earned prominence because he brought up his orphan nephew, Hadrat Mohammad (peace be upon him) with great love and care and always supported and protected him. Abu Lahab got the evil reputation because of his enmity with the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). He always tried his best to destroy Islam. Both Hadrat Hamza and Hadrat 'Abbas (Allah be pleased with them) embraced Islam and remained firm and strong in their faith in Islam. They could sacrifice anything and take any risk to earn the pleasure of Allah. They proved their loyalty to Islam by their words and deeds, putting their resources and their life at stake to serve the cause of Islam.

Though Abbas (Allah be pleased with him) was an uncle of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), there was not much differences in their ages. He was nearly two and a half years older than the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). He had a great love for his nephew. Wherever they worked together, Hadrat Abbas never allowed the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) to undergo any hard work. Once the Holy Ka'aba was under repairs, everybody from Quraish, young or old took part in this sacred project. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and his uncle, Hadrat Abbas were bringing stones along with other children. While working, the Holy Prophet's shoulder was bruised. His uncle Abbas (Allah be the pleased with him) was upset and without any hesitation he took off his own loin-cloth and put it on the shoulders of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) as a pad to protect him from bruises.

His love for the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) developed more and more with the age. Even before embracing Islam he supported the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) in every matter. When he embraced Islam he devoted himself whole-heartedly to the mission of the Prophet (peace be upon him) conveyed the message of Islam to the people in Mecca and invited them to submit before Allah, Hadrat Abbas did not concede apparently but he was fully aware of the impact and implications of the message of Islam and had all his sympathies with it . Thus, when 70 Medinites approached the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) in the valley of Mina, during the Hajj session, and requested him to migrate to Medina, Hadrat Abbas was also present at the secret meeting. The speech which he made on that occasion not only showed his vast experience and sincerity of purpose, but also revealed that he understood fully the difficulties in the way of Islamic movement. He said:

"You know that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is highly respected and revered in our family. We have always protected him against the enemies. Now he wants to accompany you. If you can stand by his side till death, I do not object; otherwise you should not take the risk."

The Ansars gave assurance of their sincere and wholesale support. Hadrat Abbas was satisfied, and the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) migrated to Medina after a few days. Hadrat Abbas stayed in Mecca, but his heart was with the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). At Medina, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) conquered Khyber, a stronghold of the Jews. Somebody in Mecca spread the rumour that the Muslims have suffered a smashing defeat in Khyber and that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) has been taken prisoner and a number of his followers have been killed.

The Meccans were jubilant at the news, but there was mourning and wailing at the house of Hadrat Abbas. Hadrat Abbas could not believe it and sought confirmation of the news from his sources. Soon he came to know that the news was entirely false and that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) had gained a decisive victory over the enemies. Then the joy of Hadrat Abbas knew no bounds. He changed his dress took hold of his walking stick, and arriving at Ka'aba began to make rounds of the sacred house in a blissful mood. People taunted him saying:

"By Allah! Such a great calamity and such a show of resignation!"

Hadrat Abbas (Allah be pleased with him) retorted, "By the same Allah, of whom you have sworn, what you say is quite incorrect. You must know that Khyber has been conquered, and every inch of its land is in the possession of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and his followers."

When the Meccans made enquiries, they found that the information of Hadrat Abbas was correct. They felt small and humiliated and licked their wounds.

Not only did Hadrat 'Abbas (Allah be pleased with him) share the sorrows and joys of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), but he conveyed important news of Mecca to the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) though he was still out of the pale of Islam. He also helped the poor Muslims who could not migrate to Medina for lack of resources. Whenever Hadrat 'Abbas thought of migrating to Medina for lack of resources. Whenever Hadrat 'Abbas thought of migrating to Medina, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) stopped him and said: "It is better, if you stay in Mecca. Just as I am the last of the line of Prophets, you shall be the last person to migrate from Mecca."

The Quraish of Mecca thought that 'Abbas was attached to Muhammad (peace be upon him) only with the relation of blood but he did not contribute to the faith of Islam. On this assumption they compelled him to fight against the Muslims in the battle of Badr. Hadrat Abbas had to go, along with them to the battlefield. But the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) knew fully well the position of Hadrat Abbas (Allah be pleased with him) and, had issued instructions to his companions saying:

"Do not kill 'Abbas, if you happen to meet him in battle, since he has been brought into the battlefield by force."

In the battle of Badar, Allah bestowed success upon the Muslims. Hadrat 'Abbas (Allah be pleased with him) was taken prisoner. He was tied with ropes so mercilessly that he groaned with pain. Knowing him in distress, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessing be upon him) could not sleep. As soon as the holy companions came to know of it, they loosened the bonds of Hadrat Abbas.

Such was the love and affection between the Holy Prophet (peace and blessing be upon him) and his uncle Hadrat Abbas. But in the matter of justice and principles no love and affection did count. When the question of releasing the captives on payment of ransom, arose, Hadrat Abbas was asked to pay a heavy sum of money. In reply, Hadrat Abbas (Allah be pleased with him) argued that he was a Muslim by heart but could not dare to disclose it because of the situation obtaining in Mecca. The infidels forced him to take part in the battle of Badar. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "Allah alone knows what is there in one's heart. If you speak the truth, Allah will reward you. But no concession can be given to you."

Hadrat Abbas said that he was a poor man. This Plea, too, was not accepted. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said "I know you have deposited a big amount of money with your wife," Hadrat Abbas was a we-stricken. He said, "By Allah, no one else knew about that money beside myself and my wife. No doubt you are the Prophet of Allah". Then he paid a large sum of money in ransom. This brought release to him and two other captives, his nephew Aqil and Naufal bin Haris.

In short Hadrat Abbas stayed in Mecca for a considerable time without publicizing his views. He got permission to migrate to Medina shortly before the conquest of Mecca. So he took his wife and children with him and reached Medina. There he publicly proclaimed that he had embraced Islam. This sent a wave of joy and happiness among the Muslims and Hadrat 'Abbas began to support the Muslims openly.

Hadrat 'Abbas (Allah be pleased with him) was very wealthy before embracing Islam. After the death of his father, he took charge of the management of the Ka 'ba and of providing the pilgrims with water. He performed this duty very efficiently till his migration to Medina. His source of income was trade. He lent money on interest. After the conquest of Mecca in 10 A.H. the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) delivered a farewell sermon on the occasion of his last Hajj in which he declared that usury was prohibited (haram) by Allah, He said:

Henceforth the business of lending money on interest is forbidden. And the first interest, I forego, is that of 'Abbas bin Abdul Muttalib."

After this proclamation all the income of Hadrat 'Abbas from usury stopped. The business in Mecca has already closed at the time of his migration to Medina. So the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) helped him with the property seized in battles and also gave him some portion of the income from Fidak, a garden which was owned by the Holy Prophecy (peace be upon him). Hadrat 'Abbas spent this money very generously. He was a very effective. During the caliphate of Hadrat 'Umar (Allah be pleased with him), once there were no rains and the country faced a dreadful famine. Hadrat 'Umar (Allah be pleased with him) requested Hadrat Abbas to pray for Allah's mercy. As soon as Hadrat 'Abbas raised his hands in prayer the clear sky was covered with dense clouds and it rained so heavily that there was plenty of water for a good harvest.

The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) had a great regard and respect for Hadrat 'Abbas (Allah be pleased with him) on account of his extreme love and affection as well as his great qualities and character. If any one put him to grief, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) was displeased and used to say; 'Abbas is the uncle of the Prophet of Allah and an uncle is equal in status to the father."

Sometimes he (peace be upon him) would say: 'Abbas is the uncle of the Prophet of Allah. He is the most generous among the Quraish and has great regard of his relations." Once the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) addressed Hadrat 'Abbas thus:

"By Allah Who is my Creator, whosoever does not love you for the sake of Allah and his Prophet, will be devoid of faith. My uncle is just like my father to me." When the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) passed away, people went to Hadrat 'Abbas to offer their condolences.

Hadrat 'Abbas (Allah be pleased with him) has a powerful voice. In the battle field when nothing could be audibel in the noise of the clash of weapons and the shouts of soldiers, Hadrat 'Abbas's voice could be easily heard. Once he said: "In the battle of Hunain, I was

holding the reins of the horse of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and was running by its side. At the height of the battle, the enemy made such a wild attack that the Muslims were dispersed. The Holy Prophet cried, 'Abbas ! call the spearmen. I had a loud voice, so I shouted, "O you people with spears! Where are you?" The retreating warriors heard the call and turned towards the enemy and made them retreat. Thus a lost battle was won."

A simple story is related here about Hadrat 'Abbas (Allah be pleased with him) which contains many a lessons for those who wish to seek the pleasure of Allah. The story is like this"

"During the days of Hadrat 'Umar Farooq, some people complained that the water outlet of the roof of Hadrat Abbas opened towards the holy mosque. When ever it rains the water collected on his roof falls in the courtyard of the mosque and the people offering prayers are put to great difficulty. The Caliph ordered the water outlet to be closed. Hadrat 'Abbas filed a suit against the Caliph. In his petition he argued that the water outlet was in the same position even during the days of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), and that it has been closed without his permission.

The Qadi heard the case. He called witnesses and then gave the verdict in favour of Hadrat 'Abbas. Hadrat 'Abbas opened the water outlet in the presence of Hadrat 'Umar Farooq (peace be upon him). When it was done, the uncle of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"O, leader of the faithful. Had I forsaken my claim, the people might have suspected that I had done so because of your fear and to gain your favour. Now that I have won the case, I donate this house for the sake of Allah. Now you may use this house as you wish."

Thus in the pursuit of seeking pleasure of Allah, Hadrat 'Abbas (Allah be pleased with him) died at the age of 88. Among his children Hadrat 'Abdullah bin 'Abbas (Allah be pleased with him) was a renowned companion of the Holy Prophet.