

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 SAEED BIN ZAID (Allah be pleased with him)

Hadrat Saeed (Allah be pleased with him) enjoys the odd distinction among the companions of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) that his father, Zaid hated idolatry and its attendant evils even before the advent of Islam. He was so temperate that the advent of Islam. He was so temperate that he refused to accept the meat offered to gods as sacrifice and said boldly, "I do not take the meat of animal's sacrificed for your gods....." But, although he did not believe in idol-worship, he wondered which is the path that leads to one Allah. He traveled far and wide in search of the truth. He met the learned rabbis among the Jews. He visited the Christian priests and put before them his spiritual dilemma. They said, "You will find pure 'Tauhid (belief in one God) in 'Deen-e-Haneef, only. Zaid said, "What is Deen-e-Haneef."

They explained, "Deen-e-Haneef is the religion of Hadrat Ibrahim (peace be upon him)". They could not tell anything else about it. Zaid returned to Mecca with the name of Deen-e-Ibrahim and a great curiosity for it. People would see him often sitting with his back to the wall under the Holy Ka'ba, and saying "By Allah, none among you, besides me, adheres to the religion of Ibrahim."

This pious man died with a burning desire in his heart to see Deen-e-Hanif in its complete and pure form. However, his virtuous son responded zealously to the call of Din-I-Ibrahim (Islam) in its complete form, presented by Hadrat Muhammad (peace be upon him). For, to him, the call to Tauhid was not unfamiliar. His faithful wife also joined him in embracing Islam.

Those were the days when the pagans could not tolerate anybody embracing Islam, especially, when a person from their own family turned Muslim, the other members of the clan considered it a mark of personal shame before their friends and relatives.

Hence the person who inflicted the most painful torture upon his Muslim relation was often his non-believer father, brother, or some other close relative.

The wife of Hadrat Saeed (Allah be pleased with him), Fatinah, was the sister of Hadrat 'Umar (Allah be pleased with him). The sister got the treasure of Islam through her husband; but the brother embraced Islam through his sister!

It is an awe-inspiring event of history. The infidels of Mecca pressed Hadrat 'Umar (Allah be pleased with him) to kill the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). Hadrat 'Umar (Allah be pleased with him) took his sword and went out to find the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). In the way he met a friend who said, "Where are you going 'Umar ?"

"I am going to kill Muhammad ", said 'Umar.

"Well, look to your own house first. Go and see your own sister and husband. They have embraced Islam" taunted the friend.

These words added fuel to his rage. Hadrat 'Umar (Allah be pleased with him) went to his brother-in-law's house in a fit of frenzy. He began to beat his brother-in-law Hadrat Saeed (Allah be pleased with him) mercilessly. When Fatimah (Allah be pleased with her) saw her brother's cruelty and her husband's perseverance, she came forward to intercede. Hadrat 'Umar (Allah be pleased with him) became more enraged, and he beat his sister even more. But he could not lead both of them astray from the path of Islam. The sister said very boldly.

"O 'Umar! You may take our lives but you cannot take Islam out of our hearts. If you do not follow the truth, your Creator will take revenge from you."

Seeing the fortitude of his sister and brother-in-law, Umar (Allah be pleased with him) stood aghast. The sister's words moved his heart. He grew calm, and said, "Then let me listen to what you were reading." Hadrat Saeed (Allah be pleased with him) recited some verses from the Holy Qur'an. The time had come. Allah's blessings were with him. So when he pondered over the meaning of those verses, he was altogether changed. He had come to slay his sister and her husband, but when he got up to depart, the truth of Islam had fully dawned upon him. He had no way out but to go to the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and embrace Islam. Thus by the will of Allah, Hadrat Saeed (Allah be pleased with him) became an instrument to lead Hadrat 'Umar (Allah be pleased with him) to embrace Islam.

From the books on the life-history of Hadrat Saeed (Allah be pleased with him), we come to know that he never did any thing throughout his life against the teaching of Allah and the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). A phrase by a historian depicts a very true picture of him. It says that 'Hadrat Saeed (Allah be pleased with him) always covered the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) keeping himself ahead and in front of him in the battle and always stood behind him in prayers. He took part in a number of battles, even after the death of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), for the sake of Islam, and fought very bravely.

He was offered the office of a Governor on account of his courage and administrative abilities, but he did not accept it.

Once he was appointed Governor of Damascus without his consent. He wrote to Hadrat Abu 'Ubaidah (Allah be pleased with him), "I am unable to offer such a sacrifice : You will perform Jihad while I will be deprived of it. Please send someone else to replace me as soon as you receive this letter. I am coming to you soon." Later, he fought as an ordinary soldier in all the battles which were waged for the cause of Islam. He passed the rest of his life in perfect peace. Allah had favored him with a heart full of patience and resignation. He did not ever incline towards the mundane pleasures of life. He disliked taking an oath. Once he had to attend a court of law in connection with a suit. The Qadi asked him to speak on oath. He withdrew his case and abandoned his claim. His submission to faith, his fear of Allah, and his services for the cause of Islam, earned him the glad tidings from the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) during his lifetime that he would enter the Eternal Gardens in the life hereinafter. He expired at the age of seventy years, and met his Creator striving continuously to seek His Pleasure.