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The Love of the *Sahabah* for the Messenger ﷺ By Shaykh Zulfiqar Ahmad (db)

The *Sahabah* were those fortunate Muslims who enjoyed the company of the Prophet during their lifetime. They were a body of lovers whose hearts were chosen by Allah ﷻ to preserve the ways and habits of His Beloved Messenger, ensuring that they reached the Muslims of future generations. In the previous section we have discussed just some of the great attributes of *Hadrat* Abu Bakr ؓ, and now we continue with the rest of the *Sahabah*.

Hadrat Umar ibn al-Khattab ؓ

Hadrat Umar ؓ commanded a great deal of fear and respect throughout the Quraish of Makkah. Before having accepted Islam, he stepped out alone with the intention of killing the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. Upon accepting Islam, he announced in front of the House of Allah ﷻ (*Baitullah*), “O Quraish, Muslims shall now pray openly. Whoever wants his wife to become a widow and his children to become orphans, come and challenge Umar.” *Hadrat* Umar’s ؓ acceptance of Islam strengthened the Muslims a great deal.

Hadrat Ubaid bin Jarih ؓ said to *Hadrat* Umar ؓ, “I have noticed that you wear hairless leather shoes.” *Hadrat* Umar ؓ replied, “I prefer these because I have seen the Messenger of Allah ﷺ wearing the same kind of shoes.”

At the conquest of Makkah, *Hadrat* Umar ؓ said to *Hadrat* Abbas ؓ, “The day you accepted Islam was dearer to me than when my own father accepted Islam, because your acceptance pleased the Messenger of Allah ﷺ.” This highlights that *Hadrat* Umar ؓ valued the Prophet’s ﷺ happiness above all things.

A legal case was brought before the Messenger of Allah ﷺ involving a Jew and a hypocrite of Madinah, which was ultimately decided in the Jew’s favor. The hypocrite thought that he might take advantage of the situation by going to *Hadrat* Umar ؓ, who was particularly harsh against the Jews. *Hadrat* Umar ؓ discovered that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ had already decided the case and that this hypocrite had only come wanting a decision in his favor. Consequently, *Hadrat* Umar ؓ drew his sword and beheaded the man. “This is how Umar deals with people who refuse to accept the Prophet’s ﷺ decision,” he later said.

Hadrat Umar ؓ said the following when he finally faced the bitter fact of the Prophet’s ﷺ death:

“O Beloved of Allah ﷺ, may my parents be sacrificed for you. You used to deliver sermons leaning against a date palm. When a pulpit was built for you so that people could hear you better, the date palm started crying at being separated from you, and you placed your hand on it so that it stopped crying. If this is a date palm’s condition at your loss, your nation has even more right to weep at your loss.”

During his Caliphate, *Hadrat Umar* ﷺ granted a stipend of three thousand five hundred dirhams for *Hadrat Usama bin Zaid* ﷺ and a stipend of three thousand for his own son, *Hadrat Abdullah bin Umar* ﷺ. His son asked why *Hadrat Usama* ﷺ was given preference over him, and his father replied that *Hadrat Usama* ﷺ had been closer to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ than Abdullah, and even *Hadrat Usama*’s ﷺ father had been closer to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ than *Hadrat Umar* ﷺ himself.

One night, while walking through the streets of Madinah during his Caliphate, *Hadrat Umar* ﷺ heard a voice coming from a house. Drawing closer, he realized it was a woman reciting poetic verses at the loss of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. He knocked on the door with a heavy heart, and the elderly lady asked in surprise what he was doing at her door so late. *Hadrat Umar* ﷺ requested that she repeat what she had been reciting.

*Pious people send blessings upon the Prophet ﷺ
He would worship at night and fast in the day
Everybody must die, but I wish I could know with certainty
That I would meet the Prophet ﷺ after my death.*

Hadrat Umar ﷺ sat crying for a long time after hearing this and fell ill for many days.

***Hadrat Uthman bin Affan* ﷺ**

When *Hadrat Uthman* ﷺ was sent to Makkah as an ambassador on the occasion of the Treaty of Hudaibiya, the remaining *Sahabah* were saddened and said that *Hadrat Uthman* ﷺ was very fortunate because he would be able to perform the circumambulation of the Holy Kaaba (*tawaf*). At this the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said that *Hadrat Uthman* ﷺ would never perform the *tawaf* without him.

The *Sahabah* asked *Hadrat Uthman* ﷺ upon his return whether he performed the *tawaf*, and *Hadrat Uthman* ﷺ replied, “The Quraish were repeatedly insisting and requesting me to perform *tawaf*, but even if I had lived there for a year, I would not perform *tawaf* without the Messenger of Allah ﷺ.”

On one occasion, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was walking with the *Sahabah* to *Hadrat Uthman*’s ﷺ house. The *Sahabah* noticed that *Hadrat Uthman*’s ﷺ gaze was fixated upon the Prophet’s ﷺ footsteps. The Prophet ﷺ later asked him why he had been doing this, and *Hadrat Uthman* ﷺ replied, “O Messenger of Allah ﷺ, today I cannot express the intensity of my joy that such an honorable personality as yourself is visiting my house. I, therefore, took an oath that I would free as many slaves as the number of your footsteps to my house.”

Hadrat Ali ibn Murtaza ﷺ

Having been with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ since his youth, *Hadrat Ali* ﷺ accepted Islam at a young age. Even though the Quraish considered the Messenger of Allah ﷺ an enemy, they still entrusted their valuables and precious belongings to him. Therefore, at the time of the Migration to Madinah, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ still had some of the Quraish's trust money with him. He thus appointed *Hadrat Ali* ﷺ to sleep in his bed that night and return the money to its respective owners the next morning.

Despite knowing the immediate and constant danger from the Quraish who were out to kill the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and the *Sahabah*, *Hadrat Ali* ﷺ laid in the bed without fear. The aim of the *Sahabah* was to risk their lives for the Prophet ﷺ whenever possible.

Hadrat Ali's ﷺ statement at the time of the Prophet's ﷺ funeral bath stands as a beacon of light for all Muslims: "May my parents be sacrificed for you. Your departure robbed us of something so valuable that nobody else had: the *silsala* (chain) of revelation. Your loss brought great despair and was a severe test. If you had not counseled us with patience and forbidden us against wailing, we would certainly have wept, but even then our wound would not have healed, nor our pain lessened."

The Accounts of Other *Sahabah*

Hadrat Anas bin Nadhr ﷺ was fighting gallantly at Uhud when he noticed the Muslims in distress and disarray. A cry was raised that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ had been martyred. Upon hearing this, *Hadrat Anas* ﷺ flew into an emotional rage; "What else is left in life if the Messenger of Allah ﷺ is dead?" Saying these words, he dove into the thick of the battle and fought fiercely until martyrdom. His body was covered with so many wounds that only his sister could identify him, and even then only by his fingertips.

Hadrat Anas ﷺ reports that a tailor invited the Messenger of Allah ﷺ to dinner, at which there was wheat bread and curry containing dried meat and pumpkin. During dinner, *Hadrat Anas* ﷺ noticed that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was searching out and eating pieces of pumpkin. *Hadrat Anas* ﷺ said that he grew to love pumpkin from that day forward. This is *muhabbah*; the lover begins to love whatever his beloved prefers.

Hadrat Bilal ﷺ migrated to Syria after the Prophet's ﷺ death. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ visited him in a dream after a year and said, "O Bilal, why do you not come to visit me?" Drowned in love and tears, *Hadrat Bilal* ﷺ started for Madinah that very night. Upon reaching Madinah, the *Sahabah* requested him to give the call to prayer (*adhan*). He continually refused but complied when the Prophet's ﷺ grandsons, *Hadrat Hasan* and *Hadrat Husain* ﷺ, made the request.

Memories of the days of the Prophet ﷺ grew vivid in the hearts of the *Sahabah* as *Hadrat Bilal* ﷺ started the call to prayer. *Sahabah* from far and near ran towards the sound with tears of remembrance, and women started weeping profusely when *Hadrat Bilal* ﷺ reached

the words, “I bear witness that Muhammad is the Prophet of Allah.” The children asked their mothers, “Bilal is here, when will the Messenger of Allah ﷺ come?”

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ used to be within sight whenever *Hadrat* Bilal ؓ would give the *adhan*, and because he could not bear the pain of the Prophet’s ﷺ absence this time, *Hadrat* Bilal ؓ fainted. Soonafter, he returned to Syria with a heavy heart.

The unbelievers had tried to ambush and kill the Messenger of Allah ﷺ during Uhud. A few young *Sahabah* formed a wall around the Prophet ﷺ and many were killed this way. During the intense fighting, a *Sahabi* passed by the wounded and bloodied body of *Hadrat* Zaidab Sakan ؓ and asked him his last request. *Hadrat* Zaidab ؓ replied in a meek voice, “I want to look upon the Messenger of Allah ﷺ for the last time.”

This *Sahabi* lifted *Hadrat* Zaidab ؓ upon his back, raced to where the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was standing, and placed *Hadrat* Zaidab ؓ at the feet of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. Amassing all his strength, *Hadrat* Zaidab ؓ opened his eyes and breathed his last while looking upon the glorious face of his Prophet ﷺ.

*May I breathe my last at your feet,
This is my desire, this is my wish*

Hadrat Zaid ؓ had been taken prisoner before the conquest of Makkah. One day, Abu Sufyan asked him, “Tell me the truth by your Allah, do you not wish that you were with your wife and children and your Messenger be in your place?” *Hadrat* Zaid ؓ replied, “I swear by Allah ﷻ, I do not even wish that I should be in my home and my Prophet ﷺ should suffer even a thorn prick.” Hearing this, Abu Sufyan said in astonishment that he had never seen the level of *muhabbah* that the *Sahabah* had for the Messenger of Allah ﷺ .

When *Hadrat* Bilal ؓ was near death, his entire family was in despair. However, *Hadrat* Bilal ؓ said that he was overjoyed and said:

“What joy! Tomorrow we will meet the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and the other Sahabah.”

This illustrates the intensity of love that the *Sahabah* had for the Prophet ﷺ

Urwa bin Masoud was sent to the Muslims as the Quraish ambassador during the Treaty of Hudaibiya. He reported back the following to the Quraish regarding the *Sahabah*:

“By Allah ﷻ, I have been to the courts of kings, the courts of Caesar of Rome, but I have never seen a king respected by his courtiers so much as these Muslims respect their Prophet. They run to fulfill his every command and sit quietly when he performs ablution for prayer, not letting a drop of water fall on the ground except that they wipe it on themselves. Out of tremendous respect, they do not even look up to meet his gaze.”

Hadrat Kabis bin Rabia ؓ had a striking resemblance to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. Therefore, whenever he would come to meet *Hadrat* Amir Mu’awiya ؓ, the *Amir* would

stand up to receive him and kiss him on the forehead. At the end of their meeting, the *Amir* would always present him with a gift, all this only because *Hadrat Kabis* ﷺ reminded him of the illustrious face of RasulAllah .

Hadrat Abdur Rahman bin Sa'ad ﷺ reports that on one occasion, *Hadrat* Abdullah bin Umar's ﷺ foot became numb. Someone told him that his foot would get better if he thought of someone he loved. At this *Hadrat* Abdullah ﷺ cried out, "O RasulAllah!" and his foot recovered.

Hadrat Abdullah bin Zaid Ansari ﷺ used to give the *adhan* in the Mosque of the Prophet ﷺ on various occasions. Upon hearing the news of the Prophet's ﷺ death, he prayed for his sight to be taken away, and Allah ﷻ accepted his prayer. When people asked him later why he made such a prayer, *Hadrat* Abdullah ﷺ replied, "My sight was only to look upon the glorious face of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. What is the use of these eyes if he is gone?"

Hadrat Anas ﷺ and his household were deeply involved in the daily service of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. His mother, *Hadrat* Ummi Salim ﷺ, used to send her children to collect samples of the Prophet's ﷺ perspiration while he slept, which she would then use in making perfume. When *Hadrat* Anas' uncle ﷺ heard the rumor of the Prophet's ﷺ martyrdom during Uhud, he said, "What is the use of living now?" and threw himself in the thick of battle and fought until martyrdom. His father, *Hadrat* Abu Talha ﷺ; his brother, *Hadrat* Bara'a bin Malik ﷺ; and his aunt, *Hadrat* Ummi Haram ﷺ were all great lovers of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ.

Hadrat Zahir ﷺ used to come to Madinah to sell his harvest, and the Messenger of Allah ﷺ would fondly refer to him as his friend from the country. One day *Hadrat* Zahir ﷺ was selling his goods when the Messenger of Allah ﷺ approached and grabbed him from behind. The Prophet ﷺ said affectionately, "Is there anyone who will buy this slave?" When *Hadrat* Zahir ﷺ heard this he said, "O Beloved of Allah ﷻ, who would buy someone as worthless as me?" The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "You are very precious in the eyes of Allah ﷻ."

Hadrat Rabia bin Kab Aslami ﷺ would attend to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ at night and would take care of his shoes and miswak as well as arranging for his ablution water. One day the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was in a joyful mood and said, "سهل (ask)," and so *Hadrat* Rabia ﷺ said:

I want to be with you in Paradise

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ asked him if he wanted anything else, and *Hadrat* Rabia ﷺ said that he had no other needs.

Hadrat Wahab bin Qaaboos ؓ visited Madinah from his village and learned that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ had already departed for the Battle of Uhud. Consequently, *Hadrat* Qaaboos ؓ left his livestock there and immediately set off for Uhud. Once there, he saw a platoon of unbelievers advancing toward the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ said, “Whoever disperses them will be my companion in Paradise.”

Hadrat Wahab ؓ attacked and was successful in fending off the enemy. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ gave him the glad tidings of Paradise.

When the Messenger of Allah ﷺ raised the call to prepare for the Battle of Badr, *Hadrat* Maqdad ؓ said, “We are not the followers of *Hadrat* Musa ؑ who would say, ‘You go fight alongside your God,’ rather we will fight at your every side.” The Prophet’s ﷺ face lit up when he heard these words.

*To abandon is not the tradition of the faithful
We have nourished at the bosoms of honorable mothers.
We jump into the ocean at the command of the Messenger.
We captivate the world with the cry of Allahu Akbar!*

Hadrat Sa’ad bin Raa’bi Ansari ؓ told a *Sahabi* at the battlefield of Uhud, “Give my greeting (*salam*) to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, and tell him that I received twelve wounds on my body. Announce among my tribesmen that if the Messenger of Allah ﷺ is martyred during this battle, and if even *one* person is left alive among us, he will be able to present no excuse in front of Allah ﷻ.”

Hadrat Suhaib ؓ had to undergo a great deal of hardship after he accepted Islam. He finally decided to migrate to a more hospitable land, but the unbelievers pursued him. *Hadrat* Suhaib ؓ finally turned and faced them, saying, “I am a better archer than you and can hold all of you at bay. When my arrows finish, I also have my sword. If you wish I have wealth and two servant girls in Makkah that you can have in place of me.” The unbelievers accepted this and turned back, and so the verse was revealed:

And there is the type of man who gives his life to earn the pleasure of Allah; and Allah is full of kindness to (His) devotees (2:207)

The Prophet ﷺ received him warmly in Madinah and said, “A very good bargain indeed, Suhaib.”

Hadrat Khubaib ؓ was taken prisoner by the Quraish and sentenced to death. A slave girl from the town of Hijr, who later accepted Islam, relates the chain of events leading to *Hadrat* Khubaib’s ؓ martyrdom.

Hadrat Khubaib ؓ requested to pray two *rakats* when asked his last wish. After praying he said, “I would have prayed two more *rakats* had I not thought that you would think I was delaying because of fear.” *Hadrat* Khubaib ؓ was then taken to be hanged, and the

unbelievers began mocking him. *Hadrat* Khubaib ؓ cursed them, the result of which was that everyone present there died within a year. *Hadrat* Khubaib ؓ said, “O Allah ﷻ, we lived our lives according to Your Messenger’s ﷺ instructions. Please convey my *salam* to him.”

*What counts is how a person meets his death,
This life is temporary so why lament on its loss?*

Hadrat Usama ؓ said that he was seated with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ in Madinah and saw the indications of revelation on the Prophet’s ﷺ face. The Prophet’s ﷺ eyes became teary as he returned the *salam* and said, “Allah ﷻ conveyed Khubaib’s (ؓ) *salam* to me.”

Hadrat Asayd bin Hazr ؓ was a very good-humored *Sahabi*. On one occasion, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ announced, “If I have wronged anyone, he may come forward and claim from me.” *Hadrat* Asayd ؓ stepped forward, saying that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ had hurt him on one occasion with his staff when lines of battle were being drawn. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ hence motioned to *Hadrat* Asayd ؓ to come forward and claim his due. *Hadrat* Asayd ؓ said, “O Messenger of Allah ﷺ I did not have my shirt on at that time,” so the Messenger of Allah ﷺ took off his shirt. *Hadrat* Abu Bakr and *Hadrat* Umar ؓ were shocked at what was happening, and offered themselves to *Hadrat* Asayd ؓ but the Messenger of Allah ﷺ ordered them back.

Hadrat Asayd ؓ then stepped forward, hugged the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, and kissed him on his chest. He said, “O Messenger of Allah ﷺ, I had been longing for this opportunity but never before got the chance.”

One day, *Hadrat* Abdullah bin Abbas ؓ said, “Thursday was an especially hard day” and cried so much that the ground became wet. *Hadrat* Syed bin Jabir ؓ asked what he meant, and *Hadrat* Abdullah ؓ said that Thursday had been the day of the start of the Prophet’s fatal illness. Saying this, he started crying again.

A man accepted Islam and returned to his village after spending some days with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. Previous to this, he had maintained an extramarital relationship with a woman who now came to meet him, but he would neither meet her nor look at her. The woman was surprised and said, “What is the matter? There was a time when you longed for a glance at me. Now I myself have come to see you and you turn away?”

Without looking at her the *Sahabi* said, “My eyes cannot look upon another after looking upon the personality I have been with.” The woman insisted, “Just look at me once.” The *Sahabi* became angry and said, “I have sold my soul. Leave this place or I shall cut your head off with my sword.”

Abdullah bin Ubai was the leader of the Hypocrites who was spreading malicious rumors regarding the noble wives of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. His son, who was a Muslim, came to

the Prophet ﷺ seeking permission to kill his father. However, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ prohibited this – this was the *Sahabah*'s standard of *muhabbah*; love for the Messenger of Allah ﷺ outweighed all else, including love for parents.

The *Sahabah* were often asked to give their wealth in the path of Allah ﷻ. On one such occasion, all the *Sahabah* gathered their belongings according to their means, but there was one young *Sahabi* who had nothing to give. He kept contemplating what he could contribute and at long last went and asked a Jew for a loan. The Jew refused but suggested that he would give some dates in payment if the young man would work the well all night in place of the oxen.

The *Sahabi* decided that working the well all night was a small price to pay for presenting something to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ the following morning, and so he agreed. He worked the well all night in place of the Jew's oxen, and by morning he was exhausted to the point of collapse. Distressed and disheveled, he came to present his night's wages to the Prophet ﷺ. The *Sahabi*'s condition related the story of his tremendous sacrifice.

*Having sacrificed everything in someone's love,
Here he comes after a night of extreme hardship.*

Accepting the dates, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ instructed another *Sahabi* to spread the dates carefully among what had been collected thus far, such that the dates looked like diamonds sparkling in a vast sea.

Hadrat Abdullah bin Umar ؓ saw a man walking barefoot outside the mosque, taking great care not to tread where the Messenger of Allah ﷺ might have walked. *Hadrat* Abdullah ؓ learned that this man was *Hadrat* Muhammad bin Usama ؓ and commented, "If the Messenger of Allah ﷺ would have seen this man, he would have loved him." Every *Sahabi* loved the Messenger of Allah ﷺ in the same way and would weigh everything in their lives according to what the Messenger of Allah ﷺ would have thought.

Hadrat Abu Ayyub Ansari ؓ came to visit the grave of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and rested his head against one side of it. When Marwan saw him he said, "Do you even realize what you are doing?" *Hadrat* Abu Ayyub ؓ replied, "I have not come for these bricks and stones but in the service of my Prophet ﷺ"

Hadrat Muhammad bin Aslam ؓ was an elderly *Sahabi* who was regular in offering two cycles of prayer (*rakats*) daily in the Mosque of the Prophet ﷺ before returning home from the market. One day he forgot and returned to the mosque before entering his house saying, "The Prophet ﷺ told us that whoever comes to Madinah should not go home without offering two *rakats* in the Mosque of the Prophet ﷺ."

There was a *Sahabi* from Africa who would wish that he could part his hair in the middle like the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. However, his hair was stubbornly curly. One day he could no longer bear this, and with an intense desire in his heart, he warmed a long stake of iron in the fire. He applied this heated rod to his head, burning off the roots of hair in the middle of his skull so that from afar it would seem that his hair was parted in the middle.

These people were willing to bear intense pain rather than sway from the path of their beloved. May Allah ﷻ grant us the ability and fortitude to follow their example in our lives. *Ameen.*