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How ‘Abdullah Ibn Salaam became Muslim

Translated by

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

[From ‘*Saheehus-Seeratin-Nabawiyyah*’ (pp.80-81), Shaikh al-Albaanee - (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)[1]- verified edition of al-Haafiz Ibn Katheer -(رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)- ‘*as-Seeratun-Nabawiyyah*’.]

* From `Awf ibn Maalik al-Ashja`ee (رضي الله عنه)[2], who said:

“The Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم)[3] went off one day, and I was with him, until we entered a synagogue of the Jews (in al-Madeenah, on a festival day of theirs, and they disliked our entering upon them), and he said (to them) : << **O assembly of Jews! Show me twelve men who will bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah, and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah, and Allaah will remove from every Jew beneath the sky the Anger which He has upon them.**>> He said: So they remained silent; no one responded to him. Then he repeated it, but no one responded to him. So he said: << **You have refused, but, by Allaah! I am indeed ‘*al-Haashir*’ (the Prophet after whom the people will be gathered), and I am ‘*al-`Aaqib*’ (the final Prophet), and I am ‘*an-Nabiyyul-Mustafaa*’ (the chosen Prophet): whether you believe or reject the truth. >>**

Then he departed, and I was with him, until (when) we had almost left, a man behind us said: ‘Stay as you are, O Muhammad!’ Then that man said: ‘What sort of man do you people know me to be amongst you, O company of Jews?’ They said: ‘By Allaah! We do not know there to be any man amongst us who knows Allaah’s Scripture better than you; nor who has better understanding of the religion than you; nor than your father before you; nor than your grandfather before your father.’ He said: “Then I testify for him, by Allaah, that he is indeed the Prophet of Allaah, whom you find in the *Tawraat* [Torah].”

They said: ‘You have lied!’ Then they rebutted his saying, and they said evil things about him, so Allaah’s Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said: << **You people have lied. Your saying will never be accepted. Just now you were praising him with the good that you were praising him with; but when he believed you called him a liar, and said what you have said. Your saying will never be accepted.** >> He said: So we departed, and we were three: Allaah’s Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم), myself, and `Abdullaah ibn Salaam; and Allaah -the Most High- sent down regarding him:

قُلْ أَرَءَيْتُمْ إِن كَانَ مِنْ عِندِ ٱللَّهِ وَكَفَرْتُم بِهِۦ وَشَهِدَ شَاهِدٌ مِّنۢ بَنِىٓ إِسْرَٰٓءِيلَ عَلَىٰ مِثْلِهِۦ فَـَٔامَنَ وَٱسْتَكْبَرْتُمْ ۖ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِى ٱلْقَوْمَ ٱلظَّٰلِمِينَ

[1] (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) **(rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him**
[2] (رضي الله عنه) **(rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah be pleased with him**
[3] (صلى الله عليه وسلم) **(sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him**

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[[Meaning: **Say: Do you see: if this Qur'aan is from Allaah, and you reject it, and a witness from the children of Israa'eel testifies to its like, and believes in it; and you haughtily reject it; then Allaah does not guide the wrongdoing Disbelievers**]]."[4] [5]

**** IMAAM AL-BUKHAAREE'S -** (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) **- NARRATION:**

Imaam al-Bukhaaree narrated (no.3329): from Anas - (رضي الله عنه):

"`Abdullaah ibn Salaam heard of the arrival of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) at Al-Madeenah, so he came to him and said: 'I am going to ask you about three things which nobody but a Prophet will know.' He said: 'What is the first of the signs of the Hour? And what will be the first food, which the people of Paradise will eat? And on account of what does a child resemble its father; and on account of what does a child resemble its maternal uncles?' So Allaah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: **«Jibreel has just informed me of them. »** He said: `Abdullaah said: 'He is the enemy to the Jews from amongst the Angels.' Allaah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: **«As for the first of the signs of the Hour, then it will be a fire, which gathers the people from the east to the west. As for the first food which the people of Paradise will eat, then it will be the extra lobe of the liver of the fish. As for the resemblance of the child, then when the man has intercourse with the woman and his semen outstrips the fluid of the woman, then the child will resemble him; and if her fluid outstrips, then the resemblance will be towards her.»** He said: 'I testify that you are the Messenger of Allaah.' Then he said: 'O Messenger of Allaah! The Jews are a people who are great liars: if they know about my Islaam before you ask them, then they will lie about me to you.' So the Jews came, and `Abdullaah ibn Salaam entered the house. So Allaah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: **«What sort of a man is `Abdullaah ibn Salaam amongst you? »** They said: 'He is the most knowledgeable one of us, and the son of the most knowledgeable one from amongst us; and he is the best one of us, and the son of the best one of us.' So Allaah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: **«What would you think if `Abdullaah were to accept Islaam? »** They said: 'May Allaah preserve him from that.' So `Abdullaah came out to them and said: 'I testify that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah, and I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah.' So they said: 'He is the most evil one of us, and the son of the most evil one of us', and they spoke against him'.''

*** A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF `ABDULLAAH IBN SALAAM -** (رضي الله عنه)**:**

`Abdullaah ibn Salaam ibn al-Haarith, al-Israa'eelee, Aboo Yoosuf. He was previously a confederate of Banoo `Awf ibn al-Khazraj. He accepted Islaam when Allaah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) came to al-Madeenah. He was present at the battle of the Trench (al-Khandaq), and the battles after it. He was present with `Umar (رضي الله عنه) at the conquest of Jerusalem, and at al-Jaabiyah. He died in al-Madeenah in 43 H. [[ref. '*Tahdheebut-Tahdheeb*' of al-Haafiz Ibn Hajr]] Allaah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) bore witness that he will be a person of Paradise, as reported by al-Bukhaaree (no. 3812) and Muslim (no. 2483) from Sa`d ibn Abee Waqqaas *-radiyallaahu `anhu-* who said: " I never heard Allaah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) say about anyone who still

[4] **** Shaikh al-Albaanee (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) said: "Reported by Ahmad (6/25), and the additions are his; and by al-Haakim (3/415-416), and he said: '*Saheeh* to the standard of the two *Shaikhs*'! And adh-Dhahabee agreed with him! But it is only to the standard of Muslim, since al-Bukhaaree did not report the narrations of Safwaan ibn `Amr except in his '*al-Adabul-Mufrad*'."**

[5] **[Sooratul-Ahqaaf (46): 10]**

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walked upon the earth that he was a person of Paradise, except `Abdullaah ibn Salaam. He said: And this Aayah came down concerning him

وَشَهِدَ شَاهِدٌ مِّنْ بَنِيٓ إِسْرَٰٓءِيلَ عَلَىٰ مِثْلِهِۦ

[[Meaning: **And a witness from the children of Israa’eel testifies to its like**]].”[6]

And at-Tirmidhee reported (no. 3804) from Mu`aadh ibn Jabal - (رضي الله عنه) - who said: I heard Allaah’s Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) say: << **He will be the tenth of ten in Paradise.** >> [Declared ‘*Saheeh*’ by Shaikh al-Albaanee.]

[6] **[Sooratul-Ahqaaf (46): 10]**