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Who was Aboo Hurairah?

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Taken from the works of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

With regards to the name and the kunyah of the great Companion Aboo Hurairah (رضي الله عنه) 1 , the Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَجِمَهُ اللهُ) 2 states:

Most people are not aware of the name of Aboo Hurairah radi Allaahu 'anhu and therefore there occurred differing with regards to the name of the narrator of the hadeeth (number nine of an Nawawee's forty).

And the most correct of the sayings and the closest of them to what is correct is that which the author (an-Nawawee rahimahullaah) mentioned, that his name was:

'Abdur Rahmaan ibn Sakhr.

And he was given the kunyah (agnomen) Aboo Hurairah ("father of a kitten") because he used to have with him a hirrah (cat) which he was fond of and which was fond of him. So as a result of its accompanying him, he was given a kunyah relating to it.

(Sharh al Arba'een an-Nawawee (p 133) of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَجِمَهُ اللهُ))

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¹ (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

 $^{^{2}}$ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him