

Chapter – 07

'Abdullah ibn 'Abbas

(619 - 688 AD)

'Abdullah ibn 'Abbas is the cousin of the Noble Prophet. 'Abdullah is his name and Abul-'Abbas is his Kunniya. The father's name is 'Abbas and his mother's name is Um al-Fazl. He was born in "Shoab Abi Talib", a historical valley of Makkah. He has the honor that at his birth the Prophet has put his saliva in his mouth and prayed for him with these words, "*May Allah give him a sharp mind, understanding of religion and elucidation*". Later, on different occasions, the Prophet wished for him with the same prayer. Since 'Abdullah's mother had become involved with Islam in early days, therefore as soon as he became sensible enough he got the opportunity to get benefits of Islam. He was very soft person.

'Abdullah bin 'Abbas was only 13 years old at the time of passing away of the Prophet. But whatever time he got in the initial days of his consciousness, he spent his every moment with the Noble Prophet in learning something from him. The Noble Prophet was the most beloved personality for him. So he remained with him all the time. He used to do personal works of the Prophet. He traveled with him like a shadow. Thus, he has learnt a lot from the company of the Noble Prophet. However, he got his regular education from the learned Companions of that time. Since he was very much fond of learning, he used to ask questions with his elders constantly,

and as such he had increased his knowledge. As he was naturally an intelligent person, he soon got expertise in Islamic knowledge and arts of meditation.

Besides his hard work, the Prophet's prayers also had the effect that 'Abdullah ibn 'Abbas grew up and became a very high-ranking intellectual and prominent religious scholar. He became the elucidator of Quran and the narrator of hadith. He has narrated 2660 accurate hadiths. All the hadiths he had narrated have been collected by Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim. He was considered as the living legend of the Islamic knowledge and its knowhow. Apart from religious studies, he had a deep taste for poetry and literature. His speeches were very appealing, so much so that the audience had to appreciate and praise loudly. Because of his aptitude and intelligence, 'Umer used to give these remarks, "*Ibn 'Abbas is a young man but he is very much matured*".

In the heart of Ibn 'Abbas, the degree of feeling for the immensity of knowledge and the extent of love for the Prophet can be measured from this fact that once he heard from a Companion about a hadith, and he went to the Prophet's house. On arrival at the house he thought that knocking the door will not be appropriate, so he preferred to wait until the Prophet himself came out of his house. The Prophet realized that 'Abdullah was sitting at the door waiting for him for so long, so he said, "*O 'Abdullah! What's the matter, why didn't you call me?*" He replied, "*I didn't just come to see you, but I came to ask you about a hadith, so I should have waited here in respect of the knowledge.*"

'Abdullah ibn 'Abbas was not much younger than Zaid bin Thabit, but he always respected him for his knowledge. On one of the trips he was with Zaid, he was talking to him in a

very modest tone, and always following a step behind him on the go. Zaid felt this thing and said to him, "*O Ibn 'Abbas! do not embarrass me like this.*" He replied, "*You deserve such respect due to your knowledge.*" Zaid said, "*Ok! Bring your hand*". When Ibn 'Abbas raised his hand, Zaid kissed him affectionately and said, "*And this is how we love Ahl-e-Bait (Family member of the Noble Prophet).*"

The knowledge of 'Abdullah Ibn 'Abbas was not limited to his own self, but he always spread it to others. There was a full time teaching sessions at his home. He would answer everything related to the Quran and solve the problem of the Sharia very easily. His explanations used to be brief, clear, and logical. As a result, the people would rate his house as a university.

It is narrated by Ibn Abi Shaiba that a person came to him and said, "*The way of talking of Ibn 'Abbas is so attractive and sweet that my heart unreservedly wants that I should kiss his head*". One another of his contemporaries narrates that "*'Abdullah Ibn 'Abbas once described the interpretation of Surah an-Noor in the Hajj season in such a wonderful way that I did not listen nor met with elsewhere. If the people of Persia and Rome could have heard it, then nothing would have stopped them from accepting Islam.*"

This shining star died in 68AH/688AD. 'Abdullah ibn 'Abbas is buried in Taif.