

Chapter – 08

'Abdullah Ibn Masood

(??? - 655 AD)

Most of 'Abdullah's childhood and youth was spent in the remote mountains of Makkah. For a period, he was called with the name "*Ibn Umm 'Abd*", means the son of a slave's mother. His father's name is Masood. No reference is available as regards to his date of birth. In his early days, he was a shepherd of goats of 'Aqbah Ibn Mu'eet of the tribe of Quraish.

In those days Prophet Muhammad (*PBUH*) faced acute persecution of the Quraish. To avoid this, he used to go out of Makkah to the surrounding hills. Once he arrived at this place where 'Abdullah was taking care of goats. Hazrat Abu Bakr was also accompanied with him. Both were thirsty at that time, so they asked 'Abdullah to give some milk to drink from his goats. "*I can't do this because I don't own these goats*", 'Abdullah replied. These two gentlemen really liked this honesty of 'Abdullah. The Noble Prophet had extremely praised the young man.

When 'Abdullah came to know that the person who was applauding him is Prophet Muhammad (*PBUH*), he was so impressed that he not only became a Muslim but offered himself immediately to become a slave of the Noble Prophet. The Prophet granted this request of 'Abdullah. After that 'Abdullah got the permanent closeness of the Noble Prophet. The training and the whole time association of the Prophet had completely changed his personality.

When Ibn Masood read the Quran from the Prophet, he became the best Qari. When he started to learn Quran, it's understanding and excellence was achieved in a very short time. Likewise, he soon became prominent in the familiarity of the Sharia.

Ibn Masood was one of the compilers of Quran. He was a collector of hadiths and simultaneously an expert of *فقه* (Islamic Jurisprudence). At the same time he was a Mujahid and remained always ready to sacrifice his life in the name of Islam.

As regards his bravery, by nature he was not less than 'Umar. There is an incidence of those days when Muslims were still few in number. Once the Prophet asked the people of Makkah: "*Until now the Quraish have not heard the Quran with their ears; is there any of you who can loudly recite in the mosque*"? 'Abdullah offered himself to recite the Quran. People told him that there is a danger to you. He said that Allah will save me to do so. So he arrived at the Mosque and stood at the Place of Ibrahim and recited the Verses of Surah Ar-Rahman loudly. When Quraish heard it they realized that these are the same words that Muhammad had brought with him. They attacked 'Abdullah with which he became seriously injured. Colleagues said that at last that happened what was we were apprehending. 'Abdullah ibn Masood replied: "*Wow! The relief that comes to me at this moment is certainly not the same as the enemies of Allah's position is. If I get the chance, tomorrow I will be happy to do so again.*"

It was the period of 'Umer. Once a man reached to him and said, "*I am coming from Kufa. There is a person making copies of the Quran based on his memory*". 'Umar became very angry and asked, who is he? The answer was, "*Ibn Masood*". On listening this name, all the anger of 'Umar diminished and he said, "*I do not know that there is any man who is capable of*

doing the work of the Quran better than Ibn Masood at this time." Then he said that let me tell you an event of one time. Abu Bakr and I entered the Mosque with the Noble Prophet while 'Abdullah was reciting the Quran in prayer. We stopped to listen it. The Noble Prophet turned to us and said, *"If any of you want to recite the Quran with its full health, recite like Ibn Um 'Abd ('Abdullah)."* Afterwards, when 'Abdullah finished his prayer and raised his hands to pray (*Dua*), the Prophet was so happy at that time that he said twice, *"Whatever you ask for, you will get it. Whatever you ask for, you will be get it"*. Abu Bakr and I went to 'Abdullah ibn Masood and told him the good news the Noble Prophet had given for him.

When 'Abdullah ibn Masood was suffering from severe ailment, it was the period of Caliph 'Uthman. 'Uthman wanted to provide some financial assistance to his family, but he said that why do you care about them, I have taught them Surah al-Waquia from Quran and told them the hadith of the Prophet that: *"Whoever sleeps every night reciting Surah al-Waquia, will never be short of money."*

In the year 34AH/655AD he met his Creator. At that moment, words of the Quran were going on in his tongue.