

Chapter – 09

Zaid bin Thabit

(611 - 666 AD)

Zaid is the name. Abu Saeed and Abu Abdur Rahman is his Kunniya. Father's name is Thabit. Since he belonged to Najjar branch of the tribe of Khazraj, so he is Ansari. His father was killed in the war that took place in Madinah five years before the emigration. Zaid, became a Muslim in his young age.

In 2 AH/624AD, the preparations for the Battle of Badr were in progress. Zaid was around thirteen years old when he reached in the spirit of Jihad to the Noble Prophet to get his permission to join the war. Her mother, An-Nawar bint Malik, came along to share her son's wish for participating in the war. The Noble Prophet was impressed by their feelings, but Zaid was not allowed in view of his lesser age. On this, he and his mother both were very sad. One year after, the Battle of Uhad was also took place, still he was not allowed to participate.

Zaid was extremely anxious to come closer to the Messenger of Allah. So he thought for a new idea for it. He started to focus on memorizing the Quran and reciting it with enchanting voice. When he had memorized about 17 Surahs of the Quran, his mother once again reached to the Noble Prophet and introduced her son Zaid with this new dimension. The Prophet found that not only he was reciting the Quran beautifully but also he felt that Zaid was reading the Quran with understanding. Consequently, Zaid was ordered by the Noble

Prophet to learn different languages. So, in compliance with the instruction of the Prophet, Zaid bin Thabit started learning the Hebrew and Syrian languages and within a few weeks he was able to write fluently in both the languages. In this way, the passion for reading and writing grew and he soon became one of the most educated persons. Because of this, the Noble Prophet has entrusted the work of writing to him the Verses of Quran which were under the Revelations. In addition to writing the Divine Revelations, the office of the Secretary of Madinah State has been entrusted to him. The Noble Prophet used to receive letters in different languages from various places, and he had to give reply in the same languages. Therefore, all the confidential letters were also required to be written by him. Thus Zaid's desire was fulfilled and he had not only received the proximity of the Noble Prophet but with his love and hard work he also became a trusted personal assistant of the Messenger of Allah.

It is said that the Noble Prophet took the writing works of the Book of Revelations from some 48 Companions and Zaid ibn Thabit remained always prominent among them. Zaid not only did the writing work of the Book but also arranged and composed it under the supervision of the Prophet. This work of compilation gave him the opportunity to know not only every Surah of the Quran, but also the details of each Verse directly from the Prophet. In this way Zaid bin Thabit also became fully acquainted with the minuteness of the Sharia.

In addition to being a proven linguist and multilingual person, Zaid bin Thabit was also a prominent figure in the knowledge. He was also having expertise in the subject of Jurisprudence. That is why Abu Bakr and then 'Uthman had appointed as members of the committees which were formed

for the purpose of compilation of the Quran and the recitation of the Quran. Because of his knowledge, he held both the Mufti and the Qazi positions in these Caliphates. 'Uthman also gave him the position of Mujtahid of these two departments. The Companions used to respect and appreciate his interpretations and opinions.

Whenever someone spoke to 'Umer in connection with the Quran he would say:

***"People! whoever wants to inquire about the Quran,
should approach Zaid ibn Thabit".***

Zaid-bin-Thabit died in 45AH/666AD. He was about 55 years old at that time. On his death, Abu Hurairah paid tribute to him with the following word:

"Today a great scholar of the Muslim Ummah has left this world".

Today's Muslims, when reading or listening to the Quran, must remember that in giving this current order of Surah and its Verses, Zaid bin Thabit has very important contributions to assist the Noble Prophet. Indeed, he had done his part in this compilation work and has shown the truth of the following decree of the Quran:

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

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