

Chapter – 21

## Hassan bin Thabit

(563 - 674 AD)

Hassan is his name, Abul Walid is his Kunniya, and the "*Poet of the Prophet*" is his title. His father's name is Thabit and the mother's name is Faria'h bint Khalid. The ancestors of Hassan mostly remained heads of their tribe. They were the residents of Madinah. When the Noble Prophet migrated to Madinah, Hassan accepted Islam with other Ansar as well. He was about 60 years old at that time. His mother also accepted Islam with him.

Hassan was born with a poetic heritage. His ancestors were poets and then his sons and grandchildren also became poets. He was considered as one of the "*Golden Poets*" of that era, means the poetry whose words were written with gold water. Since he was so much impressed with the articulacy and eloquence of the Quran, his poetry was also influenced by the same mode.

In the poetry of Hassan bin Thabit, the decency in the use of indicative words, the balance of rhythm and the beauty in rhyming remained exceptional. In the days of Ignorance, the element of exaggeration was prevalent in his poetry, but in the post-Islamic period, this component had totally disappeared. Therefore, the critics points out this aspect of his poetry. The main theme of his religious poetry remained either the manifestation of the virtues of Islam or it remained condemning the atheists.

Since he was an experienced poet, a visionary elder, and a highly respected Companion, his verses teach us religious preaches and high morality. The translation of his poetry on the subject of honor and dignity is exemplified as follows:

*"I save my honor through wealth, because Allah does not bless in wealth after honor. If wealth does not exist then it can be achieved, but the honor cannot be recovered repeatedly. If there is wealth, it does not give hand to the vitality and safety, and if trouble comes then it does not interrupt in the relaxation."*

Some people believe that Islam does not like poetry, it is not true. The fact is that, according to the Noble Prophet, poetry is a good means of influencing people. Nevertheless, Hassan bin Thabit did not consider good any exaggeration in love or satire. Whenever Hassan said his poetry close to the happening, the Noble Prophet not only liked it but also ordered him to respond to the poetry of the atheists or nonbelievers. This is also a reality that the Noble Prophet used to arrange a pulpit in the Mosque and Hassan used to stand up there and read his poetry for the Noble Prophet, and the Prophet showed his pleasure to hear him. Once, Hassan has said in praise of the Noble Prophet the following words:

نبيُّ اتانا بعد ياس و فتره من الرسل والاولئان في الارض نعبد

*{O Prophet! You are one of them who came to us after a long period of our despair and depression, and at that time idols were being worshiped on the earth}*

فامسلى سراجاً مستيزاً و هاديا يلوح كما لاح الصقيل المهمند

*{You, who came as a brightened lamp, spreading shine and guidance all over, Whose shine is as bright as the brightens of mahmund sword}*

و اندرنا ناراً و بشر جنه و علمنا الاسلام فالله نحمد

*{And you alarmed us from hell and gave us the good news of paradise, and taught us Islam, so this is Allah to whom we praise}*

وانت اله الخلق ربى و خالقى بذكر ما عمرت فى الناس اشهد

*{And You are the Creator of all beings and my Lord and my Creator,  
and for that we will continue to testify throughout our lives}*

One day, the Noble Prophet asked Hassan, the poet of the Prophet, "Hassan! Did you ever say any verses in the honor of Abu Bakr Siddique?" He said, "Yes! O the Messenger of Allah! I have also praised for your Companion of the cave. The translation of the verses is:

*"The two of you were in this blessed cave.*

*And the enemy, when he ascended the mountain and circled around it.*

*Abu Bakr, the beloved of the Messenger of Allah was there*

*And people also know this thing that among all human beings  
the Prophet never considered equivalent to him".*

The Noble Prophet heard these verses then laughed and said, "O Hassan, you have told the truth, Abu Bakr is exactly as you said."

Hassan bin Thabit met with his Creator in 54AH/674AD. He was about 111 years old at that time.

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