

Chapter – 14

Abu 'Ubaidah bin Jarrah

(594 - 640AD)

His real name is 'Aamir and his Kunniya is Abu 'Ubaidah. The Noble Prophet gave him the title "Amin ul-Ummah" (*The Custodian of Nation*). His father's name is 'Abdullah, but attributed to grandfather he is known as Ibn al-Jarrah. On the invitation of Abu Bakr he became a Muslim only a day after him. His mother Umaimah bint Ghanam became Muslim as per the Companion of Sair. After the acceptance of Islam, he had to migrate to Ethiopia twice because of the persecution of Quraish.

Abu 'Ubaidah passed his first test in the field of Badr when he had to kill his own father, who had come to fight on behalf of the nonbelievers. In the battle of Uhad, two rings of iron were inserted in the cheeks of the Noble Prophet, Abu 'Ubaidah took part in pulling out those iron pieces. As a result his own two teeth were badly damaged. He prominently contributed his share in the Battle of Trench as well.

In 6AH/628AD, he was entrusted with the task of crushing Banu Tha'laba by the Noble Prophet in which he did attain a success. In the acceptance treaty, Rizwan Pledge, he was one of the signatories as a witness. In 8AH/30AD, Abu 'Ubaidah was sent to join "Zaat As-Salasil" with the flag of his

party. In the same year, he was given by the Prophet the responsibility of monitoring the movement of the various caravans of Quraish. The same year, in Ramazan, Makkah was conquered. Then there were the battles of Hunain and Taif, in which Abu Ubaidah played a prominent part.

On the occasion of the first Caliphate, Abu 'Ubaidah played a key role in ending the conflict. Besides 'Umer, he was also among the first to take allegiance from Hazrat Abu Bakr. In the year 12AH/634AD, Abu Bakr decided to organize battalions to attack Syria from several sides. Abu 'Ubaidah was made commander of the four parties formed. Later on, in his demand, one more party was added in this mission, for which Khalid bin Walid left his Iraq war and met him. The Allied forces conquered Basra, Fahal, and Ajnadain and afterwards besieged Damascus. Their siege lasted for three months. During this period Abu Bakr passed away. Thus, the conquest of Damascus took place in the early period of 'Umar Caliphate.

After the defeat in Damascus, the Romans began to mobilize their troops in Jordan to stop the Muslims there. Eventually, a war broke out between the two in 14AH/636AD, and after several bloody conflicts Christians were utterly defeated. Thus, the entire province of Jordan came under Muslim control under the leadership of Abu 'Ubaidah. After this, Abu 'Ubaidah first conquered Baalbek. Then he turned toward Homs. In 15AH/637AD, the Muslims again had to face a great war with the Romans in Yarmuk. This war was also won under the leadership of Abu 'Ubaidah. After the conquest of Yarmuk, all Syria became submissive to the Muslims.

The plague spread in Syria in 18AH/640AD, and with that Abu 'Ubaidah himself could not remain safe from it. So, before departing on the journey to the Hereafter, he appointed Ma'ad bin Jabal as his successor.

Abu 'Ubaidah was very much particular to keep the limits of Islamic Equality. In his view, even a modest soldier of the army had the same honor as to a great chief.

'Abdullah Ibn 'Umar says:

"There are three personalities of the tribe of Quraish who are very prominent in respect of having humble nature, and when dealing with someone they will never cheat, and when anybody talks to them they will never be denied; they are: Abu Bakr, 'Usman and Abu 'Ubaidah".

The whole life of Abu 'Ubaidah is one such example of a religious devotee and contentedness that will rarely be found. When 'Umar went to his residence, he did not find any item of luxury except shields, swords, and camel's saddles. According to a statement of Ibn Sa'ad, 'Umar once told his companions:

"Someone wished something but my wish is to have a house that would be filled with people like Abu 'Ubaidah."

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