

Chapter – 15

Sa'ad bin Abi Waqas

(594 - 675 AD)

The name is Sa'ad and Kunniya is Abu Ishaq. Abu Waqas is his father while his real name is Malik. His mother's name is Hammah. Sa'ad was a short height man but having very strong body personality. People used to resemble him like a lion. He belonged to a prominent and wealthy family. He was very intelligent too.

He was only seventeen or eighteen years of age when he reached to the Prophet along with Abu Bakr and entered Islam. From the date of entering Islam till the Prophet's migration he remained in Makkah and like other Muslims he had to face the hardships of Quraish tribe. Whenever their rough treatment increased, he used to go on the nearby hills. Once he was busy worshipping in a canyon where some infidels came to him and started making fun of Islam. Sa'ad could not tolerate this joke due to his religious sense of honor. As a result, he picked up something from the ground and hit one's head with such force that his head exploded and blood began to flow. For historians, this was the "first bloodshed" in support of Islam, which came into effect by the hand of Sa'ad bin Abi Waqas.

In the battle of Badr, Sa'ad showed all the essence of his extraordinary bravery and killed Saeed bin Al-A'as, who was the leader of the nonbelievers. In the battle of Uhad, Sa'ad was among those Companions who stood firm in their place till the end of war. Since he was an excellent archer, so during fight he had the honor to receive arrows from the Noble Prophet in person, through which he used to continuously shoot them on the enemy. Sa'ad also fought effectively in the path of Islam in the battles of Trench, Hunain, Tabuk, and Taif. On the day of victory of Makkah he was also there with all other Muslims.

In 10AH/532AD, on the occasion of Hajja-tul-Wida he was in Makkah with the Noble Prophet and he suddenly became seriously ill. His anxiety started to grow by the time so the Prophet asked him, "*Why is Sa'ad crying so much?*" Since he used to love Madinah so much so that he did not want to die in Makkah. Therefore he said, "*It looks to me that I will be blessed with the ashes of the earth that I have forsaken forever in the love of Allah and His Messenger.*" On that, the Prophet invoked Allah for him and gave him the good news of a long life which was also fulfilled.

When the reign of 'Umar started he turned his attention to Iraq, which was ruled by the Iranian rulers. The first commander-in-chief of this campaign was Abu 'Ubaidah. Then the leadership was given to Mathna. Although much of Iraq was conquered, it soon had to withdraw from the conquered areas. In this situation, 'Umar considered it necessary to build a large army against the Iranians. Consequently, with a new army, Sa'ad bin Abi Waqas was sent as Chief of the troops to help Mathna. But at the same time Mathna died. In this way, Sa'ad became commander-in-chief of this large army. Sa'ad bin Abi Waqas fought against Maymanah, Ghadeeb and then Qadsiah and got success. Shortly thereafter, Sa'ad bin Abi Waqas

proceeded forward to conquer the well known city of Madain and got victory as well. After the success of Madain, Muslim rule was established throughout the Iraq. Later on, in Jallulah and Tukrit an army was staged and after several months of fighting, Sa'ad mounted the Islamic flag over there too.

After receiving many victories, Sa'ad initially resided in Madinah. But due to unsuitable climate for him, with the permission of 'Umer he developed a new city of Kufa and settled over there. After some time, the people of Kufa went to 'Umar and complained that Sa'ad does not lead the prayers properly. On the investigation of 'Umer, this did not turn out to be true. However, in order to avoid any sort of trouble from a large group, he thought it would be better to push out Sa'ad from his position. Sa'ad accepted the decision of his Chief, but he regretted it all his life. After that he returned to Madinah and settled in a solitary situation .

The Noble Prophet had earlier given him the good news in the following words:

"O Sa'ad! You will not die unless you detriment one nation and benefit another nation."

After the Muslims victory of Qadsiah, in the history, it has been considered a major defeat of the Sasanian (*Middle Persian*) Empire. And its hero is regarded as Sa'ad bin Abi Waqas. Thus, this prediction of the Noble Prophet was fulfilled.

Hazrat Sa'ad died in Madinah in 55AH/675AD. He was 81 years old at that time.