

YAQEEN INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC RESEARCH

# 40 HADITHS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

## LECTURE NOTES

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## Chapter 16: A Show of Strength

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Ibn 'Umar Narrated that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: "O Allah! Honor Islam through the most dear of these two men to you: Through Abu Jahl or through 'Umar bin Al-Khattab." [Jami' Tirmidhi]

عَنِ ابْنِ عُمَرَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ "اللَّهُمَّ أَعِزَّ الْإِسْلَامَ بِأَحَبِّ هَذَيْنِ الرَّجُلَيْنِ إِلَيْكَ يَا بِي جَهْلٍ أَوْ يُعْمَرَ بْنِ الْخَطَّابِ

[جامع الترمذي]

### Introduction

- Showing strength when you're vulnerable as a community is a methodology in Islam.
- There's a famous hadith when the Prophet (s) said: "A strong believer is better and dearer to Allah than a weak one..." [Sahih Muslim]
- Another Hadith says, "the upper hand (giving hand) is better than the lower hand (receiving hand)..." [Sahih Muslim]
- There are many forms of strength: there's financial strength there's strength in influence, etc.

### The Two Umars

- A commonly mentioned wording of this narration is اللَّهُمَّ أَعِزَّ الْإِسْلَامَ بِأَحَبِّ الْعُمَرَيْنِ
  - "Oh Allah give victory to Islam though the Umar that's more beloved to you."
  - The two Umars being mentioned in these Ahadith are Umar ibn Alkhatib and Abu Jahl.
  - The Prophet (s) made dua for one of these two people to become Muslim because they were hostile, Muslims were vulnerable and oppressed, and he wanted the one that was more beloved to Allah to become Muslim.
- Abu Lahab was closer to the Prophet (s) than these two Umars. But the Prophet (s) saw something very particular about the two Umars. They had qualities that could be used for the sake of Islam.

- Abu Jahal was Umar's maternal uncle. He was about the age of the Prophet (s). He came from a famous tribe, Banu Makhzoom (often opposed to Banu Hashim). He wanted someone powerful from a competing tribe so it could dispel that this religion was only for some people and unite people. His nickname before Abu Jahal was Abu al-Hakam (the father of wisdom). He was a learned man. But the Prophet (s) said it's a sin to call him Abu Hakam because there's no wisdom to how he responded to the call of Islam. He was a man of huge stature. He was strong of body and mind. He was someone who took great pride in his people. He was the greatest threat to the Prophet (s). He murdered the first Muslims in the most horrific way. He imposed the boycott on the Prophet (s) and his people which led to the death of Khadijah and the Prophet's uncle. He made counter duas to the Prophet (s) and plotted his death. The Prophet (s) thought if this man would become Muslim imagine what he could do. He could've been an amazing Muslim.
- Umar Ibn Khattab was similar. Very wise, very learned, very strong. He was a little younger but because of his skill he ascended the ranks very quickly. He's someone everyone feared. The day he became Muslim, the Islam of Umar was عزة, strength, honor, dignity. Before him the Muslims would be scared and hide. He told the Muslims to go behind him and they felt safe. He went to Abu Jahl's house and proclaimed he's Muslim. He fought many men alone in one day. It only took him to help people feel strong and safe. People stood behind him. He also had humility that was unprecedented. He would humble himself to Bilal. He would say he's the master that was freed by our master. He would have to be on his knees to see eye to eye to some people but he would humble himself.
  - Umar's motto was, aren't we on truth? Why are we hiding? Umar never felt that we should feel weak no matter what our circumstances are.
    - Even in Hdaybiyyah this is what he said
    - Dua of Umar: "Oh Allah I complain to you of the incompetence/weakness of the trustworthy people and of the strength of the wicked"

## Strength in Battle

- During the Battle of Uhud-Abu Dajana who was strutting and the Sahaba thought it was boastful. The Prophet (s) said Allah hates this kind of behavior except in these circumstances.
  - In the Quran Allah says:
    - وَأَعِدُّوا لَهُمْ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ قُوَّةٍ وَمِنْ رِبَاطِ الْخَيْلِ تُرْهَبُونَ بِهِ عَدُوَّ اللَّهِ وَعَدُوَّكُمْ...
    - "Prepare whatever forces you [believers] can muster, including warhorses, to frighten off God's enemies and yours." 8:60
  - There's an incidence that took place in the battle of Qadisiyyah against the Persians: the Persian empire would bring elephants to stomp on the opposing army. While the Muslims were trying to figure out their plan, a man said we need to figure out a way to make elephants. He put a structure on elephants so the camels looked huge, and the elephants ran away because they had never seen anything like this before.

## Other Examples of Strength and Dignity

- As Muslims we need to show an appearance of strength. Strength has to be governed with strength against yourself so you don't become unjust. Showing strength is a methodology.
- Imam Malik talked about clothes of fame/distinction. He used to wear the best clothes. Imam Hanifa would do so as well and would even buy clothes for his students. It doesn't justify extravagance but it shows something. Imam Malik believed that it was important for the scholars to be revered and respected.
- Umar raised the salaries of all government workers and scholars because he didn't want them to be vulnerable to bribery, so they could be self sufficient and independent.
- Abdullah ibn Mubarak was a great scholar and was extremely wealthy because he was a merchant besides becoming a scholar and would spend on the greatest scholars (Sufyan ath-Thawri, Sufyan ibn Uyaynah, Hammad ibn Salamah, Hammad ibn

Zayd, Fudayl ibn Ayyad, and Ismaeel ibn Ulayya) so they didn't have to worry about money. He said if it weren't for them he wouldn't work anymore.

- On a community level, Umar ibn Abdul Aziz, when he assumed the Khilafah and wanted to strip the masjid of all the ornaments, some scholars told him it's important we stay on par with the other places of worship so we stay respectable and has strength. That's why Muslims took their architecture very seriously because they understood this notion.
- The Prophet (s) had swords that were made in Rome and Persia. He equipped himself with the best he could have.

### Conclusion

- Prestige, strength and power can be harmful. But it's not for Muslims to put themselves in positions of vulnerability or to display weakness in vulnerability.
- We should display strength for the sake of those who are even more vulnerable than us and uplift them
- We should always seek the means of strength that will allow us improve society.