

THE **F1RST**S

A Lecture Series

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INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC RESEARCH

Talha Ibn Ubaydillah

The Living Martyr

Talha was born into a wealthy tribe, Banu Taym. He was a successful trader and a clothing merchant. He was tall, dark, and handsome and walked at a swift pace. He wore expensive clothing and scents and had everything a person could want in this world. Talha was eighteen when Prophet Muhammad ﷺ received revelation.

He was from the same tribe as Abu Bakr, was his second cousin, and later became his son-in-law. Similar to Abu Bakr, Talha was known and loved for his generosity. He was married to several women from the high rank in powerful tribes.

A Fateful Meeting

He came across a Christian monk who was worshipping God, and he asked Talha if "Ahmad" had arrived in Mecca yet. When Talha inquired more about Ahmad, he told him that he was Abdullah's son and the prophets' seal. He told him to hurry up and embrace him quickly. This information penetrated Talha's heart, and as soon as he got back to Mecca, he asked if anything new had happened while he was away. They told him that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ had claimed prophethood and that Abu Bakr had accepted him as a prophet. He trusted Abu Bakr, so he went to him to ask about him. Abu Bakr told him to follow Muhammad ﷺ as well because he calls for truth and goodness.

Accepting the Message

Abu Bakr took Talha to meet Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and learn about his message, and he embraced Islam, as the 8th person to convert at 18 years of age. He is one of the ten that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ promised Paradise, and he one of the six that Abu Bakr brought into Islam.

Those who accepted Islam and were elite in society were punished behind closed doors. His tribe punished him. Nofal (brother of Khadija) was the leader of his punishment. Abu Bakr was tortured with Talha. They were nicknamed "the two tied ones" because they were tied together and punished by Nofal. Talha's mother hit him for becoming a Muslim.

Because of his social status and because he traveled often and was barely in Mecca, he did not get tortured as the others were. He informed the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr about the news he heard on his trade routes and brought them clothing and supplies while they were

on the hijrah. He accompanied the family of Abu Bakr to Medina. In Medina, he was paired with Abu Ayoub as his Ansari partner.

A Tale of Two Battles

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ had asked Talha to do something, and that resulted in him missing the Battle of Badr. Talha felt terrible because he missed fighting alongside the Prophet ﷺ in the Battle of Badr, but Prophet Muhammad assured him that he would be rewarded as if he was physically present there because he had the intention to be there.

When Uhud was mentioned in Abu Bakr's presence, he said that would be the Day of Talha. He was not buried there, but the way he served Allah on that day was stunning to all. He showed heroic courage, never leaving the side of the Prophet ﷺ. He had no hesitation in answering all directives given by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said that during the Battle of Uhud, he had Angel Jibreel on his right and Talha on his left.

There are many narrations of Talha at the Battle of Uhud. When the arrows were coming, Talha used his body and hands to catch the arrows meant for the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, and he sustained many wounds. Talha carried the Prophet ﷺ on his back, out of harm's way when he was severely hurt. Talha was bleeding from all over his body, but somehow he survived. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ looked at him and said that today, Paradise had become mandatory for Talha.

A Living Martyr

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ called him the walking martyr because of the sacrifice he displayed at the Battle of Uhud. Everyone that saw his wounds was shocked that he survived that day. He had 24 wounds that never healed, and his hand was partially paralyzed, but he continued to fight alongside the Prophet ﷺ in every battle after.

Qualities of a Hero

Talha was a man of extreme courage. He was also proficient in his trade. He was well known for his asceticism and gave generously of his wealth. He was known for forgiving debts, even large ones. He is considered among those who are listed as pleasing to the Prophet ﷺ.

He was given three nicknames, along with "The Living Martyr," "Talha the Good One," "Talha the Generous One," and "Talha The beneficent one." The name Talha means a tree, and like a tree, he had those qualities as his branches.

The Legacy

Talha was one of 6 appointed by Omar ibn Khattab to choose the next Caliph (Othman). He had no interest in that and gave his vote to Abd el Rahman ibn Awf.

He wasn't with Othman when he was assassinated and felt very guilty about it. He said to Allah, "take from me for Othman until you are pleased," and demanded justice for the murder of Othman.

He fought in all the battles after that and later died in the battle of Al Jamal. This was the first battle that there were sahaba on both sides of that battle fighting each other due to fitna amongst the Muslims.

Ali ibn Abu Talib found Talha's body, and he wept to see him like that, saying, as he held his head in his hands and wiping away the dust from his face, "you are too noble and beloved to me to see you in this state." He washed him and prayed for him, leading the janaza. He told his son Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم to sit next to him and said: "This is the most of honored of faces that came out on the earth and I heard the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم say Talha & Zubayr are my neighbors in Jannah." Furthermore, Ali invoked, "I ask Allah to make your father and me be amongst those mentioned in the aya: We have removed from their hearts all grudges and made them brothers upon these thrones facing each other." Talha had 74 wounds on his body which he suffered from throughout his battles.

A man had seen Talha in a dream three times after his death, and he said, "the water has harmed me, so move my body." As they transferred his body, witnesses said his body was still intact, and his scent was remarkably beautiful.

Family of Talha

Talha was married to 4 sisters in the law of the Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم, which gave him a solid connection to the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم and his family.

The names of his children were all Prophets. His daughter, Aisha, was one of his greatest legacies. She was one of the most outstanding scholars of Hadith & Fiqh in Medina, which was not something he was known for. Her aunt, Aisha, daughter of Abu Bakr, was her teacher, and many of Aisha's narrations of Hadith are relayed by Aisha, daughter of Talha.

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