

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَنِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيُرِضِّي بَنْ يُصْلِّي عَلَيْهِ

Allah Almighty, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,

The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah Almighty, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon
His Beloved Messenger – *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* – his family & his
companions – *may Allah be pleased with them all*

Leader of Quraish accepts Islam

It is reported that Safwaan bin Umayyah was considered as one of the leaders of Mecca Shareef. He was also good friends with Umair bin Wahb. In the Battle of Badr, the father of Safwaan, Ummayah bin Khalf, and his brother Ali were captured by the Muslims. In fact, they were captured by Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdur Rahman bin Auf - *may Allah be pleased with him* - who was a close friend of these people during the days of ignorance.

Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdur Rahman bin Auf - *may Allah be pleased with him* - narrates, “During the days of ignorance, my name was Abde Amar. When I accepted Islam, I changed it to Abdur Rahman. However, Ummayah said to me, ‘Look my friend, I do not accept Rahman and when I call you by your former name, you do not answer me.

Why not choose a third name instead which I can address you with.' I then informed him that he could call me Abde Ilaahi."

Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdur Rahman bin Auf - *may Allah be pleased with him* - continues, "On the day of Badr, after the battle, I was gathering some arms which had been left by the enemies and walking forward when Umayyah called out to me, 'O Abde Ilaahi! Throw away the arms and capture us. In ransom, you will also acquire a large bounty.' I then threw away the weapons and in one hand, I held Ummayah and the other, I held his son. At that moment, Hadrat Sayyiduna Bilal - *may Allah be pleased with him* - also noticed me. He then said to everyone, 'On this day, either I will live or these enemies of Islam.' I told him that these were my prisoners but he insisted on calling the Ansaar. He also said to them that these people were the head of the disbelievers in Mecca. The Muslims then surrounded us and I tried to save these prisoners but they were quickly killed."

Later on, Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdur Rahman bin Auf - *may Allah be pleased with him* - used to say, "May Allah have Mercy on Bilal. Through him, the weapons were also lost and I also lost these prisoners."

There is no doubt that Ummayah was a very great enemy of the Muslims and of Islam. He had committed many atrocities against the Muslims. There is also no doubt that he faced his damnation in the Battle of Badr. His other son, Safwaan, also continued to oppose the Muslims in Mecca Shareef. In today's time, these people could be considered as enemies of the state. During the conquest of Mecca, Safwaan had run away to Jeddah. Finally, his cousin Umair bin Wahb and his son approached Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - to seek protection for Safwaan.

Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - replied that Safwaan could return as he had been given safety and protection. However, Umair mentioned to Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - that this person had been an ardent enemy of Islam and perhaps he would not accept this just like that. It would be better if Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - gave him some symbol which would prove that the Muslims had offered him safety.

In one narration it is mentioned that Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - then offered Umair his blessed shawl and in another report, he offered him his turban. Umair then convinced Safwaan to return to Mecca Shareef.

When he returned, he was still sitting on his horse, and still fearful of the Muslims while Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - was surrounded by many of his blessed companions. Safwaan asked questions while he was still on horseback. He mentioned, "O Prophet of Allah, this is Umair who had come to me and informed me that you had given me safety and you had also given me two months to think about my position." However, Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - replied, "O Abu Wahb! Jump off your horse. Not only two months, you will be given four months to think about it. You should analyse carefully the message of Islam."

When he was fully satisfied, Safwaan jumped off his horse. In this state of Kufr, he also joined the Muslims in the Battle of Hunain. In this battle, there was also a great need for weapons which the Muslims were short of. Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - then asked Safwaan to contribute some of his weapons. He was also an intelligent person and he asked, "Do you intent to capture my weapons or do you intend to only use it for a brief period?"

Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - replied, "We wish to only use it for a short while and with your permission. These weapons would be returned to you. It is also your wish whether you wish to do so or not."

Safwaan then handed these weapons to the Muslims. As is known to everyone, at first, the Muslims were about to be defeated in this battle. When this news reached one of the cousins of Safwaan, he approached Safwaan and happily informed him that the hold of the Muslims would soon disappear. However, when Safwaan heard these comments, he spat at the person and said, "I swear by Allah Almighty that the Quraish are my true leaders. It is better that I am under the control of Quraish than being under the control of the Bani Hawaazin who is being led by Auf bin Malik Nadari."

A few moments later, the battle turned and the Muslims were victorious. Later on, Safwaan mentioned, "I had great enmity for Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace*

and blessings be upon him - however, when I noticed that he was even giving me the spoils of war (even though he was not yet a Muslim), he became the most beloved person in my sight.”

In fact, it is mentioned that so impressed was Safwaan with the kindness of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - that instead of waiting for four months, he returned within only three weeks and announced to everyone that he had accepted Islam. But, when he arrived in Mecca Shareef, there was another confusion which people created. They informed him that, “He who was not blessed with migration, he has been destroyed and he who has not made migration, his Islam itself is not accepted.”

When he heard these words, he travelled to Madina Shareef to meet Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him*. He was also the guest of the Hadrat Sayyiduna Abbas - *may Allah be pleased with him*. Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - also mentioned that after the conquest of Mecca Shareef, there is no such thing as migration. At the same time, Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - displayed love and affection for his blessed companions and whatever problems they had, he used to help them quickly to remove these problems.

He then asked his companions about who was the host of Safwaan. They replied that his host was the beloved uncle of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him*, Hadrat Sayyiduna Abbas bin Abdul Mutallib - *may Allah be pleased with them*. Sayyiduna Rasoolullah - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - then declared, “O Safwaan! You are the host of such a person from the Quraish who loves the Quraish himself.” He then advised Safwaan to return to Mecca Shareef and continue to give the message of Islam to all those around him. Safwaan stayed in Mecca Shareef until he passed away.

Bear in mind that Safwaan was considered as one of the foremost leaders of Mecca. He was also well learned in classical Arabic and his family used to feed people and used to take great care of visitors and travellers. This was something which had been displayed by many generations prior.

One day, Hadrat Sayyiduna Ameer Mu'awiyah - *may Allah be pleased with him* - asked those around him, "Who is the person in Mecca Shareef who is the best of host?" They replied that it was Abdullah bin Safwaan. When he heard this he replied, "The fire in the guest quarters of these people will never be extinguished." In other words, the fire on their stoves so that they can continue to feed people.

Safwaan bin Ummayah passed away in the first period of the rule of Hadrat Sayyiduna Ameer Mu'awiyah - *may Allah be pleased with him*. His son Abdullah bin Safwaan - *may Allah be pleased with him* - was martyred fighting on the side of Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah bin Zubair - *may Allah be pleased with him*. (Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah; As Seerat An Nabawi ibn Hishaam; Usdul Ghaabah; etc).