

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ وَلَدِ آدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيَرْضَى بِأَنْ يُصَلَّى عَلَيْهِ

Allah *azza wajal*, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,

The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah *azza wajal*, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon

His Beloved Messenger *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam*

The Truth of a Prisoner

Khalifah Waasiq billah Harun Rashid Mu'tasim Billah was born in 196 A.H. He ruled from 227 A.H. until 232 A.H. One of the greatest fitnah in that period was the issue of “considering that the Qur'an was a mere creation.”

Khalifah Waasiq billah had taken this issue as his own personal belief. One cannot count the number of scholars that were martyred in this regard and how many of them were unjustly imprisoned.

In 231 A.H. Khalifah Waasiq billah sent a message to the Governor to test the various Imaams and Mu'azzins on this issue and he was to find out what they believed in. In that year also, Khalifah Waasiq billah freed 1600 Muslim prisoners from Roman jails. He also instructed those in authority that those prisoners who believed that the Qur'an was a mere creation, they should be given two Dinaars and set free. As for those who did not believe this, they were to remain in jail.

For this reason, Khalifah Waasiq billah nominated Ahmed bin Daud to carry out his orders. He also continued to threaten people and forced some people to believe that the Qur'an was nothing but a mere creation. He was also instructed that those who did not believe in this was free to give them whatever punishment he wished. Ahmed bin Daud then started to invite people to this Kufr belief.

Among those prisoners who were freed from Roman jails, one of these prisoners happened to end up in the Palace of the Khalifah. This prisoner was adamant and did not believe that the Qur'an was a creation. Ahmed bin Daud was also present at that moment in the Khalifahs Palace. This prisoner then turned to Ahmed bin Daud and declared, "Answer me this question, (as per your belief that the Qur'an is a creation), and (the manner in which you people are calling others towards this with force and threats), did the Holy Prophet *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* have knowledge of this and if he did, he never forcefully call people towards this belief or are you of the opinion that the Holy Prophet *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* was not aware of this belief?"

Ahmed bin Daud replied, "The Holy Prophet *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* was fully aware of this."

The prisoner replied, "If he was aware, and yet, (he did not imprison other Muslims or force Muslims to think in this manner), why are you doing this. Something which he considered as impermissible, why have you people made it permissible?"

When the people around heard this, they were all shocked.

Khalifah Waasiq billah laughed out aloud and after listening to this he held his mouth from laughing further and entered his private chambers. As he sat on his bed he thought to himself, "That which the Holy Prophet *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* has considered as impermissible, we consider it permissible. And in that issue on which he remained silent, we are forcing this on people."

The words of the prisoner had such an effect on him that he not only freed the prisoner but handed over three hundred Dinaars to him and allowed him to return to his home. After this, he never troubled anyone else about this issue. As a matter of fact, from that day onwards, his anger was actually directed at ibn Abi Daud.

The prisoner mentioned in this incident was actually Hadrat Abu Abdur Rahman bin Mohammed Asrami *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* who was the teacher of Imam Abu Daud *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* and Imam Nisaa'i *Radi Allahu 'Anhu*. (Taarikhul Khulafah, 297)