

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

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**The Prophet's Statements Showing the Virtues of His Companions, and
the learnt Lessons**



All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, "Allah is well pleased with the first Emigrants and Helpers (Ansar) and those who followed them in good deeds, and they are well pleased with Him: He has prepared for them Gardens beneath which Rivers flow, wherein they shall abide forever. That is the supreme triumph." (The Qur'an: ٩-١٠٠) I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

As the Almighty Allah chooses form among His servants the Prophets who are characterized by their pure hearts, clarity of minds, noble traits and high morals, to convey His Messages, He (Glory be to him) chooses also for his Prophets those who are qualified to be their Companions to defend their messages and support them faithfully. The Almighty Allah says, "God chooses messengers from among the angels and from among men. God is all hearing, all seeing:" (The Qur'an: ٢٢-٢٥) Thus, The Companions of the Prophet (PBUH) are the best generation of this Muslim nation, being bearer of the purest hearts, the most knowledgeable and the most tolerant.

There should be no wonder because they were chosen by Allah to accompany the Prophet (PBUH), support Islam and convey it to people.

Speaking about the Companions of the Prophet (PBUH) is a speech about the best humans next to Prophets and Messengers. In commenting on Allah's saying, "Say [Prophet], 'Praise be to God and peace on the servants He has chosen.'" Commenting on this verse, Ibn Abbas said, "the chosen ones" are Companions of the Prophet (PBUH). Moreover, Ibn Mas'oud said: "Verily, Allah looked into the hearts of people and He found the heart of Muhammad (PBUH) to be the best among them, and so He chose him for Himself and sent him with His message. Then, Allah looked into the hearts of people after Muhammad and He found the hearts of his Companions to be the best hearts; so He made them the ministers of His Prophet who defend his religion. Thus, whatever the Muslims view as good is good to Allah, and whatever they view as evil is evil to Allah." (Reported by Ahmad)

It is indubitable that when one reviews the Book of the Almighty Allah, he realizes the high status of the Companions of the Prophet (PBUH), their high standing and great virtues. They are the ones whom Allah has been pleased with and assured the truthfulness of their faith as Allah says, "God was pleased with the believers when they swore allegiance to you [Prophet] under the tree: He knew what was in their hearts and so He sent tranquility down to them and rewarded them with a speedy triumph." Exegetes of the Qur'an say, "It means Allah knew their patience, truthfulness, loyalty, submission, and pursuance of the truth He guided them to.

Allah praised Companions of the Prophet (PBUH) in many occasions in the Ever Glorious Qur'an. For example Allah says, "Those who responded to God and the Messenger after suffering defeat, who do good and remain conscious of God, will have a great reward. Those whose faith only increased when people said, 'Fear your enemy: they have amassed a great army against you,' and who replied, 'God is enough for us: He is the best

protector,' returned with grace and bounty from God; no harm befell them. They pursued God's good pleasure. God's favour is great indeed." Also, The Almighty Allah says about the *Muhajirin* (emigrants) and *Ansar*(people of Median), "The poor emigrants who were driven from their homes and possessions, who seek God's favour and approval, those who help God and His Messenger- these are the ones who are true- [shall have a share]. Those who were already firmly established in their homes [in Medina], and firmly rooted in faith, show love for those who migrated to them for refuge and harbour no desire in their hearts for what has been given to them. They give them preference over themselves, even if they too are poor: those who are saved from their own souls' greed are truly successful."

Such as the Qur'anic verses praised the Companions of the Prophet (PBUH) in the best way and showed their due status, the Ahadith of the Prophet (PBUH) affirmed their high standing and showed their sacrifices and truthfulness. They are the ones who supported the Prophet, helped him and followed the light revealed to him. They loved him more than they loved themselves or their families and all people. Therefore, the Prophet gave them the highest commendation, praised their great virtues and witnessed to their noble situations. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "The best of my followers are those living in my generation (i.e. my contemporaries), and then those who will follow them, then those who will follow the latter." Also, he (PBUH) said, "The stars are a source of security for the sky, and when the stars disappear, there will come to the sky what is promised. I am a source of security for my Companions, and when I am gone there will come to my Companions what they are promised. And my Companions are a source of security for my Ummah, and when my Companions are gone, there will come to my Ummah that they are promised." In another Hadith the Prophet (PBUH) said, "You will continue to be in a good condition as long as there are among you some ones who saw and accompany me, I swear you will continue to be in a good condition as long as there is still among you those who will see may

Companions.” The third generation is given this status as in the hadith only because they have accompanied the Companions of the Prophet.

The Prophet (PBUH) gave special commendation for some of the Companions due to their virtues and precedence especially those who embraced Islam first. He (PBUH) said, “The most merciful of my Ummah towards my Ummah is Abu Bakr; the one who adheres most sternly to the religion of Allah is 'Umar; the most modest of them is 'Uthman; the best judge is 'Ali Ibn Abu Talib; the best in reciting the Book of Allah is Ubayy Ibn Ka'b; the most knowledgeable of what is lawful and unlawful is Mu'adh bin Jabal; and the most knowledgeable of the rules of inheritance is Zaid bin Thabit.”

Once the Prophet (PBUH) ascended the mountain of *Uhud* and he was accompanied by Abu Bakr, 'Umar and 'Uthman. The mountain shook beneath them. The Prophet (PBUH) hit it with his foot and said, "O *Uhud* ! Be firm, for on you there is none but a Prophet, a truthful one, and two martyrs.” (Reported by Al-Bukhari) The Messenger of Allah also said showing the status of Abu Bakr and 'Umar, “The people of the highest degrees of Paradise will be seen by those beneath them as a rising star is seen on the horizon. Abu Bakr and 'Umar will be among them, and how blessed they are!” (Reported by IbnMajah)

The Prophet (PBUH) was keen to show the status of his Companions, and to demonstrate their honour and virtues to encourage them, and to motivate them to serve as role models for other members of the Ummah. He said about Abu Bakr, “Don't hurt me in my friend, the Almighty Allah has sent me with the guidance and the Religion of truth, but people said: **you are liar, and Abu Bakr said:** you are truthhful. Had not Allah has called him a Companion, I would have called him a bosom friend.” (Al-Bukhari and al-Tabrani)

Referring to 'Umar (Allah be pleased with him), the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: “Allah, Most High, has place the truth on the tongue and

heart of 'Umar." (Musnad Ahmed) As for 'Uthman (Allah be pleased with him), he (PBUH) said: "Shouldn't I show modesty to one whom even the Angels show modesty." (Sahih Muslim) While speaking about 'Ali (Allah be pleased with him), he (PBUH) said: "You are from me and I am from you." (Agreed upon)

He who carefully examines the Hadiths of the Prophet (PBUH) on his Companions and his testimony to them will certainly realize that he (PBUH) gave the best example in loyalty, sincere love and good treatment in an unprecedented way, for he used to feel about their pains, feel pity for them, ask for the absentee from them, visit the patient, attend their funerals, accept their invitations, consult with them in different matters, shower them with his mercy, repay debts on their behalf and invoke Allah for them and their children. In this regard, 'Aisha (Allah be pleased with her) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) entered into 'Uthman Ibn Madh'un (Allah be pleased with him), who was then dead. He (PBUH) bent down, kissed him and wept heavily that tears were running on his checks. (Musannaf 'Abd Al-Razzaq). Also, one day after the end of one of his (PBUH) battles with the polytheists, he inspected his companions and said to them, "Is anyone missing amongst you?" They said: 'So and so and so.' He again said: 'Is there anyone missing amongst you?' They said: 'So and so and so.' He then said: 'Is there anyone missing amongst you?' They said: 'No.'" Thereupon he (PBUH) said: 'But I am missing *Julaibib*.' They (the Companions) searched for him amongst those who had been killed and they found him by the side of seven (dead bodies) whom he had killed and he had been killed (by the opponents). Allah's Messenger (PBUH) came there and stood (by his side) and said: 'He killed seven (persons). Then (his opponents) killed him. He is mine and I am his.' He then placed him upon his hands and there was none else to lift but Allah's Messenger (PBUH). Then the grave was dug for him and he was placed in the grave and no mention is made of a bath." (Sahih Muslim) He (PBUH) is further reported to have said: "I am nearer to every believer than himself, so if

anyone leaves a debt or a helpless family, I shall be responsible, but if anyone leaves property, it goes to his heirs." (Sahih Muslim)

With that said, I ask Allah to forgive me and you

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; I bear witness that there is no god deserved to be worshipped but Allah; I bear witness that our master Muhammad is His slave and Messenger; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him, his family, companions and whoever follows his guidance to the Day of Judgment.

Muslim brothers,

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) instructed all the members of his Ummah to venerate all his companions and warned against abusing them or disregarding them, showing meanwhile that to love them, i.e. the Companions is a proof of your love to him (PBUH) and that hating them is but hating him (PBUH). This is clear in his (PBUH) Hadith wherein he said: "(Fear) Allah! (Fear) Allah regarding my Companions! Do not make them objects of insults after me. Whoever loves them, it is out of love of me that he loves them. And whoever hates them, it is out of hatred for me that he hates them. And whoever harms them, he has harmed me, and whoever harms me, he has offended Allah, and whoever offends Allah, [then] he shall soon be punished." (Ahmed and Al-Tirmidhi) He (PBUH) also said: "Do not revile my Companions, do not revile my Companions. By Him in Whose Hand is my life, if one amongst you would have spent as much gold as *Uhud* it would not amount to as much as one much on behalf of one of them or half of it." (Al-Bukhari) Furthermore, he stated, "Allah, the Most Exalted, has selected me and selected my companions to me; He, Glorified is He, made for me from among them ministers, supporters and relatives by marriage; so he who verbally abused them will have the Curse of Allah, the Angels and all mankind be upon them, and neither obligatory nor supererogatory acts of worship will be accepted from him." (Al-Mustadrak 'Ala Al-Sahihayn)

He who carefully investigates the biography of the Prophet's Companions will reach the conclusion that they were not to reach this high rank and superior status unless they were sincere to Allah, the Most Exalted, truthful in their love to His Messenger (PBUH), strove against themselves, supported the truth and defended it, preferred the public interest to their private ones, has good morals and dealt well with people- all of which are reasons that made them worthy of Allah's Praise and His Prophet (PBUH)'s love, to the extent that he (PBUH) placed all his trust on them. How great is that poet who said:

The elite of all peoples are they, so know their status

And to their guidance, you should firmly adhere

The companions (May Allah be pleased with them all) led the way to change the face of life and shatter the darkness of injustice that filled all the corners of the earth before the mission of the Prophet (PBUH). Relying on the light of the Divine Revelation, they managed to turn this injustice into truth, justice and equality. For all of this, to show love for them, i.e. the Prophet's companions is a recommended act, to invoke Allah to them is an act that gets you closer to Allah, to follow their guidance is a means to reach and to adhere to their way is a privilege. Having recorded the traits of both the immigrants and the supporters, Allah, Glorified is He, said: "And [there is a share for] those who came after them, saying, "Our Lord, forgive us and our brothers who preceded us in faith and put not in our hearts [any] resentment toward those who have believed. Our Lord, indeed You are Kind and Merciful." Commenting on this verse, Imam Al-Razi (May Allah have mercy upon him) said: "He who comes after the immigrants and the supporters shall invoke Allah to them and to shower them with His Mercy."

In this context, we affirm that highlighting the status of the Prophet's companions and showing their virtues reinforce the role of the good example which is indispensable to our youth today. That is because

educating the youths to follow the guidance of a good example has a tremendous impact on promoting ethical and positive behavior and enhancing moral values in the society in general and in the hearts of the young generations in particular. Our youths have to adhere to the moderate course of thought stemming from the understanding of the Prophet's companions of the true Islam and to have their distinct characters, so that they will be qualified to bear the message, fulfill the trust and lead the ship of rescue to save the Ummah from its puzzlement and to guide it to the path of guidance, security, happiness, stability and progress.

I wish we would properly understand the rank and status of the Prophet (PBUH)'s companions; take them as role models; follow their guidance; learn lessons of self-sacrifice, generosity, giving and sacrifice with one's soul, property and offspring from them; and follow their footsteps to construct the land, build civilization and bring forth benefit for countries and people in a way that shows the essence and tolerance of Islam.