

The eminent son of Islam, the great Imām, the Hāfiz, the faqīh, the muftī of Madīnah, the warrior, the Companion of Rasūlullāh ﷺ, Abū 'Abd Allāh, Sayyidunā Jābir ibn 'Abd Allāh ibn 'Amr al-Ansārī رضي الله عنه. He accepted Islam before the hijrah of Rasūlullāh ﷺ, a year before the second pledge of 'Aqabah. He attended the second pledge of 'Aqabah along with his father and uncle, and was the youngest of those who attended this momentous pledge.

PARTICIPATION IN BATTLES

He did not participate in Badr and Uhud, for his father left him behind to look after his sisters, who were 7 in number, and they had no brother beside him. After his father was martyred in Uhud, he went out with Rasūlullāh ﷺ to Hamrā' al-Asad in pursuit of the Quraysh, the second day of the Battle of Uhud. Thereafter, he never missed a single expedition Rasūlullāh ﷺ participated in. He participated in 19 expeditions during the lifetime of Rasūlullāh ﷺ. [Sahīh Muslim, 4466]

Jābir رضي الله عنه says:

Rasūlullāh ﷺ sought forgiveness for me on the night of the camel—i.e. the night Rasūlullāh ﷺ wished to purchase his camel—25 times. [Musnad Ahmad, 3/337]

STRIVING IN THE PATH OF ALLAH

After the demise of Rasūlullāh ﷺ, he continued striving in the path of Allah سبحانه وتعالى. He participated in the wars against the apostates during the era of Sayyidunā Abū Bakr رضي الله عنه. Later, he fought in the Roman lands as well as against the Persians.

On one occasion, Mālik ibn 'Abd Allāh passed by Sayyidunā Jābir رضي الله عنه while moving on an expedition in the Roman lands. Sayyidunā Jābir رضي الله عنه was walking despite having a mule, so Mālik said, "Mount your mule, O Jābir, as Allah has given you a conveyance." Jābir replied, "It is only the

words of Rasūlullāh ﷺ that prevents me from riding: 'Anyone whose feet are covered with dust in Allah's Path, shall be saved from the Hell Fire.'"

Mālik rode to the front of the caravan and hollered to Jābir to repeat what he had said. Sayyidunā Jābir رضي الله عنه repeated what he had heard from Rasūlullāh ﷺ at the top of his voice. As soon as the rest of the army heard what Rasūlullāh ﷺ had said, they all dismounted and also began walking. The narrator says, "No other expedition had so many people walking in the path of Allah as was seen on that day." [Sahīh Ibn Hibbān, 4604]

PERSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE

Sayyidunā Jābir رضي الله عنه gained much knowledge from Rasūlullāh ﷺ. He had a circle of learning in the Masjid of Rasūlullāh ﷺ where he would impart knowledge to the people. He grew up to become one of the senior muftīs after Rasūlullāh ﷺ.

He reports 1540 ahādīth. Al-Bukhārī and Muslim jointly narrate 60, al-Bukhārī narrates another 26 and Muslim another 126. These ahādīth are on various subjects. Sayyidunā Jābir رضي الله عنه is responsible for narrating a number of fascinating details relating to the various battles.

He travelled to Makkah Mukarramah, Egypt, and Syria in search of ahādīth. On one occasion, he heard that Sayyidunā 'Abd Allāh ibn Unays رضي الله عنه—someone junior to him—heard a hadīth directly from Rasūlullāh ﷺ. So, he purchased a camel and travelled for one month all the way to Syria. On reaching there, he enquired from Sayyidunā 'Abd Allāh ibn Unays رضي الله عنه about the hadīth. After the hadīth was related, he returned to Madīnah. [Al-Adab al-Mufrad, 42/6]

DIVINE ASSISTANCE OF ALLAH

He reports that Rasūlullāh ﷺ despatched them—a regiment of 300 men—under the command of Sayyidunā Abū 'Ubaydah ibn Jarrāh رضي الله عنه to intercept a caravan belonging to the Quraysh. They were sent to a coastal area. They were still travelling when their provisions were exhausted. Sayyidunā Abū 'Ubaydah رضي الله عنه instructed them to gather together all that was left of the provisions and when it was done, it amounted to only two satchels of dates. He rationed it to them little by little until it was almost finished. They then received only a single date



each (for the day). When someone asked Sayyidunā Jābir رضي الله عنه how they managed with one date, he replied, “We would suck on it like a child does and then drink water. It would suffice us throughout the day and night. We also used our staffs to knock leaves off the trees, which we would wet and eat.” He says in another narration, “When the rations were finished, we missed even that single date.” When they arrived at the seashore, they saw something resembling a gigantic dune. As they observed closely, they realised that it was actually a fish called al-'Ambar (a whale). Sayyidunā Abū 'Ubaydah's رضي الله عنه initial reaction was to say that it was carrion, but he later changed his mind and said, “We are the envoys of Rasūlullāh صلى الله عليه وسلم and we are out in the path of Allah سبحانه وتعالى and have reached the point of desperation. You may therefore eat.” Although they numbered three hundred, they lived off the fish for a month until they even started to put on weight. They used large containers to scoop up oil from its eye sockets and would cut off from it chunks of meat as large as bulls. Sayyidunā Abū 'Ubaydah رضي الله عنه once took 13 men and seated them in the eye socket. They took large chunks of meat with them as provisions for their journey and when they arrived at Madīnah, they reported the incident to Rasūlullāh صلى الله عليه وسلم who observed, “It was your sustenance that Allah سبحانه وتعالى had taken out for you (from the ocean). Do you have any of it with you to give us to eat?” They sent some for Rasūlullāh صلى الله عليه وسلم and he ate from it.” [Sahīh al-Bukhārī, 59/648]

EMULATION OF RASŪLULLĀH صلى الله عليه وسلم

Sayyidunā Jābir رضي الله عنه emulated Rasūlullāh صلى الله عليه وسلم in every aspect. He would wear a headgear and turban, with the end of the turban hanging behind him. His trousers would reach to half his shin. He would trim his moustache off completely and he sometimes dyed his hair with henna.

RASŪLULLĀH'S صلى الله عليه وسلم LOVE FOR HIM

Rasūlullāh صلى الله عليه وسلم displayed much affection towards him. Sayyidunā Jābir رضي الله عنه recalls:

I participated in an expedition along with Rasūlullāh صلى الله عليه وسلم. Rasūlullāh صلى الله عليه وسلم met me (on the way) while I was riding a camel of ours used for irrigation and it had got so tired that it could hardly walk.

Rasūlullāh صلى الله عليه وسلم asked me,
“What is wrong with the camel?”
I replied, “It has got tired.”

So, Rasūlullāh صلى الله عليه وسلم came from behind it, prodded it and prayed for it. As a result, it started surpassing the other camels and going ahead of them.

Then he asked me, “How do you find your camel (now)?”

I replied, “I find it quite well now, as it has received your blessings.”

He said, “Will you sell it to me?”

I felt shy (to refuse his offer) though it was the only camel for irrigation we had. So, I said, “Yes.”

He said, “Sell it to me then.”

I sold it to him on the condition that I should keep on riding it till I reached Madīnah. Then I said, “O Messenger of Allah! I am a bridegroom,” and requested him to allow me to go home. When I took the permission of Rasūlullāh صلى الله عليه وسلم, he asked me whether I had married a virgin or a matron and I replied that I had married a matron. He said, “Why did you not marry a virgin who would have played with you, and you would have played with her?”

I replied, “O Rasūlullāh صلى الله عليه وسلم! My father passed away and I have some young sisters, so I felt it not proper that I should marry a young girl like them who would neither teach them manners nor serve them. So, I have married a matron so that she may serve them and teach them manners.”

When Rasūlullāh صلى الله عليه وسلم arrived in Madīnah, I took the camel to Rasūlullāh صلى الله عليه وسلم the next morning and he gave me its price and gave me the camel itself as well. [Sahīh al-Bukhārī, 52/211]

DEMISE

He was blessed with a long life of 94 years, 80 years of which he spent in Islam. He passed away in Madīnah at the age of 94 and was buried there in the year 77 or 78 AH. Abān ibn 'Uthmān led his Salāt al-Janāzah at the Banū Salamah. [Tabaqāt Ibn Sa'd, 4/391]

This is a brief biography of one of the six most eminent transmitters of hadīth. May Allah سبحانه وتعالى allow us to love him, honour him, emulate him, and learn the beautiful ahādīth of Rasūlullāh صلى الله عليه وسلم that he preserved and passed on to the Ummah. Āmīn.



+2711 373 8000



info@jamiatsa.org



www.jamiatsa.org

