

## What made Allah honour the Ten Promised Paradise?

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 4 July 2008. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

Allah the most high says "To each is a goal to which Allah turns him; then strive together (as in a race) towards all that is good" [Al-Baqara 2:148]

Although this verse was revealed when the Qibla was changed from Jerusalem to Mecca but it contains a very important indication that every human being has his/her own way and direction in this life. Everyone has direction that he is heading in and an objective that he is trying to achieve according to his natural instinctive tendency. Indeed, people are not the same even if they look so as they are different in their psychological and mental abilities.

Oh Muslims,

Prophet (pbuh) was surrounded by a group of people who weren't equal in their abilities, efforts or sacrifices. Among them there were a group whom prophet (pbuh) promised the paradise while they were still in this life.

"Saeed bin Zaid said: I heard the messenger of Allah (s) say: the prophet is in Paradise, Abu Bakr is in Paradise, Omar is in paradise, 'Uthman is in paradise, Ali is in paradise, Talha is in Paradise, Al Zubair is in paradise, Saad bin Malik is in paradise, AbdulRahman bin `Awf is in paradise and Saeed bin Zaid is in paradise." [Abu Dawoud]

In another narration Abu Ubaidah Amr ibn al Jarrah was added and in a third narration Sa'ad ibn Abi Waqqas was added amongst them.

These names shined in the world of the companions of the prophet (pbuh) and they are shining examples for us today. They were like stars with determination to always be at the forefront and on top their responsibilities. There were some other men and women companions whom also promised paradise by the prophet (pbuh) but those 10 names are the most widely none from the authentic narrations.

Oh Muslim,

Don't look at this matter as usually supernatural or as honouring which was given by Allah to those people only but remember that there were a lot of reasons for them to get that honour.

Allah wants you to be made by your own self. He almighty wants you to know the rights of your soul, the rights of your religion, the rights of your family, the rights of your community and the rights of your country and after that to give everyone his rights.

Work hard to prove yourself with your own abilities and effort. That is why Allah says "strive together (as in a race) towards all that is good" meaning that always make your objective is reaching good whatever direction you take. When reaching good is the objective then righteousness will be in everything and in all cases.

Abu baker wasn't Omar, Omar wasn't Uthman and Uthman wasn't Ali... etc, but everyone of them was an independent entity and different character. Their performance and effort was different as a result of the difference in their personalities and way of thinking. They knew their potential, realized their abilities and aptitudes, set their objectives and located the routes which took them to their objectives. They always started on their way with thanks for the blessings of Allah, in full trust and dependence upon Him. Their determination never became weaker by hardships and difficulties but they faced them until they reached their destination. Under this meaning Allah says "And those who strive in our (cause), - We will certainly guide them to our Paths: For indeed Allah is with those who do right" [Al-Ankaboot 29:69]

Those who strive against their own selves to reach the way of Allah and to be in contact with him, those who endure all difficulties and who have patience against adversities are promised in this verse, to always get a helping hand from Allah almighty. They will be rewarded for their good and hard work, belief, behaviour and effort.

So ask you self, what did those 10 companions have that other companions didn't? To answer this question we should know them more, we should study their abilities and potentials, their faith and spiritual characters, and their psychological and moral qualities.

We plan to stop upon those 10 personalities in future reminders God willing to learn about the inspiration that they and we were guided to by the verse "To each is a goal to which Allah turns him; then strive together (as in a race) towards all that is good. Wheresoever you are, Allah will bring you together. For Allah Hath power over all things"

#### Second Reminder

God the almighty says, "Say, who has forbidden (from) the adornment of Allah which He has produced for His servants and the good/lawful things of His provision?" [A'raf 7:32]

Islam has allowed all adornments and indeed muslims are encouraged to use them. But two adornments were prohibited for males and only allowed for females (gold and silk). The general rule is that wearing pure gold/silk or something made in its majority of gold/silk is prohibited for men.

Umar said: "I heard the prophet (pbuh) saying "don't wear silk, as who wears it in this life will not wear it in the next life/akhirah." Ali said: "The prophet (pbuh) took some silk and put it in his right hand and some gold and put it in his left hand - then he (pbuh) said: "those are prohibited for the males of my community/ummah." The prophet (pbuh) saw a man wearing a ring of gold so he took it off his finger and the prophet (pbuh) said "why is one of you taking a piece of fire and putting it on his finger?"

So as a general rule, everything made of pure gold or silk or contains a majority of either one of them - is not allowed for a male muslim to wear as part of his adornment.