

The death of Omar bin Al-Khattab

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on 12 December 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

When Omar bin Al-Khattab performed his last hajj he stood at the mount of Arafat and delivered a great speech. He then called governors of different regions and accounted them in front of everyone so any oppressed person could retaliate.

Said bin Al-Museeb narrated: while at Mina, Omar raised his hands and prayed: "O God, I have now become old. I am feeling weakness in my limbs. Now call me to yourself before I feel incapacitated to work in your cause."

He then went back to Madina and addressed the people: "oh people, sunnah was clarified for you, obligatory duties were imposed on you and you were left with none but the clear path except if you go astray to the right or to the left". Said bin Al-Museeb said: the month of Dhul-Hijja didn't pass before Omar was killed.

His servant Aslam said, Omar used to pray "O God bless me with an honourable death whilst defending your cause, and may that be in Madina the city of your beloved messenger."

One day he was leading Fajr prayers in Madina, after reciting Al-Fatiha he started reciting surat Yusuf till he reached the verse "And his eyes became white with sorrow, and he fell into silent melancholy" [Yusuf 12:84] when he started crying and so did people behind him. As soon as he said Takbir Abu Lulua Al-Majosi stabbed him with a poisoned double-edged knife till Omar fell down while saying "Hasbi Allahu, la ellaha ella Hu, Alaihi Tawalaktu wahuwa Rabbu Ala'rsh alatheem" (God sufficeth me: there is no god but He: On Him is my trust - He the Lord of the Supreme Throne).

Most of the people didn't notice anything as they were fully focussed in their prayers until Abdur-Rahman bin Awf stepped forward and continued the prayer. After the prayer finished Omar asked: "who killed me?" They replied: 'Abu Lulua Al-Majosi' and so Omar said: "All the praises are for God Who has not caused me to die at the hand of a man who claims himself to be a Muslim."

While he was dieing he kept asking: have I prayed? Have I finished my prayer? And when they replied: no, he said: God is He Whose help is sought! His last wish was to finish his prayer, he didn't ask about a son, wife or wealth but only about his prayer and he didn't have rest till he finished it.

They took him to his house and put a pillow under his head but he took it away and said: put my head on the sand may God have mercy on me, he kept crying while saying "oh you whose kingship never deviates have mercy on the one whose kingship has just deviated".

Ali bin Abi Talib went to see him leaning on Ibn Abbas, he said while his eyes were full of tears: 'oh Abu Hafs, by God I have heard the prophet (pbuh) saying many times "I came with Abu Bakr and Omar, I went with Abu Bakr and Omar". Therefore, I ask God to resurrect you with your two companions' Omar replied: "I only wish that I get rescued (from hellfire) not more than that" then he said: "take care of (guard your) prayer".

Omar then said (to his son, Abdullah), "Go to Aisha (the mother of the believers) and say: "Omar bin Al-Khattab asks the permission to be buried with his two companions (i.e. the

prophet, and Abu Bakr).” He went to Aisha who said, “I had the idea of preparing this place for myself, but today I prefer Omar to myself” when Abdullah went back to Omar and told him Omar praised and thanked God.

May God reward Omar bin Al-Khattab for what he did for Islam and Muslims; he was an example of noble manners and righteous behaviour combined in one person. He was a just ruler, ascetic worshiper, knowledgeable scholar, fair judge, servant and advisor to the nation of Muhammad (pbuh), fought for submission to one God (Islam) and he truly loved God and His messenger (pbuh). Some verses in Quran came down agreeing with the opinion of Omar bin Al-Khattab above others. In his era Islam spread to more and more places and he introduced the concepts of ambassadors, a mail/postal system and governors of regions. He did not take anything for himself in his life and he did not leave much for his family in his death.

Oh God, resurrect us in the company of the prophet (pbuh) in an assembly of truth, in the presence of You, the Sovereign, the Omnipotent. Gather us with You as we believed in You without seeing You, and keep us constant in Your company through remembrance of You until we enter from Your entrance to Paradise with the company of the prophets, the sincere, the witnesses, and the Righteous: Ah! what a beautiful fellowship ... AMEN.