

Umm Kulthum bint Uqbah ibn Abi Mu` ayt (radhiAllahu anha)

Daughter of the Great Opponent of Islam and Muslims

Uqbah ibn Abi Mu` ayt: Enemy of Islam

Uqbah ibn Abi Mu` ayt was a nobleman of the Quraysh and was known for his hospitality and generosity. He had a lot of pride for his tribe and people. But unfortunately, it was this pride that led to his staunch opposition and persecution of Islam and its followers. He became known as one of the staunchest enemies of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).

This enmity and hatred led Uqbah to do horrible things to Muslims. One time while the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) was praying his salah in the Haram, some evil people of the Quraysh plotted to hurt the Prophet. So they decided that they were going to put the intestines of the camel on the Prophet's back when he goes down into prostration. But who was to do this terrible act?

None but Uqbah ibn Abi Mu` ayt volunteered to do the job. So he went and threw the intestines on the Prophet's back and after that, all of them started to laugh so hard that they were falling over on each other.

Another time, Uqbah ibn Abi Mu` ayt, in order to prove himself loyal to the villains of Quraysh, went and spat in the face of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). This is what Uqbah was notorious for.

Umm Kulthum: A Blessed Daughter from a Wretched Father

Allah Ta`ala out of His infinite mercy, blesses whom He wishes with the great bounty of Islam. In spite of all the persecutions and oppositions of Uqbah ibn Mu` ayt, his daughter Umm Kulthum embraced Islam secretly in the most dangerous time to be a Muslim in Makkah. Once the light of Islam enters a person's heart, then there can be no one to extinguish that light

from Allah! She was such a brave young woman with strong faith that neither her hard-headed father, nor Quraysh, nor all of Arabia could stop her from being a Muslim.

First Woman to Migrate to Madina Munawwarah

As we have already learned, the Hijrah to Madina was a very dangerous and rough journey. Even the strongest of brave men faced many hardships in this journey. One can just imagine how hard it could have been for the women of that time! But Umm Kulthum was one of those women whose strong faith in Allah Ta`ala gave her the strength to undertake this arduous journey.

She had the honor to become the first woman to make the Hijrah after the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). And this is her story:

Umm Kulthum relates her story of her Hijrah saying, "I used to go the outskirts of Makkah near the wilderness to visit some relatives of ours who lived there and would stay with them for about 3 to 4 days. This was my habit from time to time. My family didn't mind because they knew I used to stay at our relatives' house.

So one day, I finally intended to make the Hijrah to Madina. I acted as if I were coming out to wilderness to go to my relatives' place as was my usual habit. In this way, my family would never suspect that I was a Muslim and wanted to migrate to Madina to the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).

So I left Makkah, and on my way, a strange man suddenly appeared in front of me asking where I was headed to. I became afraid, so I asked him why he wanted to know, and who he was. He told me that he was from the tribe of Khuza`ah, so I was relieved because the tribe of Banu Khuza`ah had accepted Islam at the hands of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).

I told him that I had accepted Islam and that I intended to make the Hijrah to Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) and that I wasn't so acquainted with the way. He said that he would guide me and protect me on the way. He then brought a camel for me and made it kneel down so that I could mount it. After I mounted the camel, he took it by the reins and led the camel on the way. By Allah, he was such a modest and shameful man that he did not utter

a single word to me in the entire way. When we had to stop to rest on the way, he would tie the camel to a tree, make it kneel down and then go away from that area so that I would not feel uncomfortable. In the morning he would come again and take the reins of the camel without looking at me until I would mount the camel, and he did like this all the way until we finally reached Madina Munawwarah. May Allah Ta`ala reward the man with good.

Being Tested By Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)

The struggle was still not over. There was still one important matter to be resolved. And that was, would the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) accept her to stay in Madina or not? As soon as Umm Kulthum reached Madina, she came to Umm Salamah (radhiallahu anha) and she welcomed her and gave her place. Umm Kulthum pleaded to Umm Salamah to convince the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) to let her stay and not to send her back to her family, because she would not be able to withstand their persecution and revenge.

So when the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa salam) saw her, he welcomed her and then tested her as to why she wanted to stay in Madina. Allah Ta`ala commanded His Prophet that any woman who migrates to Madina must be tested so that it becomes known as to why they made the Hijrah.

An oath was to be taken from them saying, "By Allah, we did not migrate except for the sake of Allah and Rasul (sallallahu alayhi wa salam) and Islam. By Allah, we did not come to Madina for any worldly motive or desire. We did not come to Madina for the sake of getting married, or for acquiring any wealth." If they swore on this, then the Prophet sallallahu alayhi wa salam would let them stay, and if not, then they would be sent back.

Umm Kulthum (radhiallahu anha) was amongst those fortunate women who were sincere and thus she was allowed to stay in Madina. Later on she became married blessed with a life of Islam. May Allah Ta`ala be pleased with her and all of the companions of Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). Ameen.