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May Allah have mercy on him.

Pictures from the Lives of the Companions is a book about the people who learned Islam from Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and helped the Muslim community. These stories teach us about faith, Tawheed, honesty, kindness, patience, courage and good manners. Tawheed means worshipping Allah alone. The stories help us learn from the Companions and follow the Prophet ﷺ. These lessons are taught upon The Qur'aan & Sunnah as Understood by the Salaf (Pious Predecessors) of this Ummah.

1. Anas ibn Malik Al-Ansari

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ made this dua for Anas: “O Allah, give him wealth and children and bless him.” (Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, p. 9; PDF p. 5.)

Anas ibn Malik was a young boy in Madinah. He was about ten years old when the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ came to live there. His mother, Umm Sulaym, wanted her son to learn good manners and knowledge from the Prophet. She brought Anas to the Prophet and asked him to let Anas serve and learn from him. Anas was very happy to be close to him. Anas spent ten years helping the Prophet ﷺ. He watched how the Prophet prayed, spoke to people and cared for others. The Prophet treated him with gentleness. When Anas forgot something or became busy playing, the Prophet did not shout at him. Anas said the Prophet never spoke harshly to him during those years. The Prophet also showed kindness to children and greeted them. Anas learned many things by being close to the Prophet ﷺ. He remembered the Prophet's words and taught them to Muslims after the Prophet passed away. He also remembered the Prophet's smile, good manners and care for the people around him. The Prophet made dua for Anas to have wealth, children and blessings. Anas later spoke about the blessings Allah gave him and about his long life. Even when Anas grew old he spoke with love about the Prophet ﷺ. The book shows that Anas valued what he learned from the Prophet more than the things of this world.

Gentleness helps children learn. Good manners, kindness and learning from the Prophet ﷺ are important. Anas also teaches us to be thankful for Allah's blessings. (Story source: Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, pp. 9-16.)



2. Sa'eed ibn Aamir Al-Jumahi

The author quotes the historians describing Sa'eed: "Sa'eed ibn Aamir chose the Hereafter over this world and chose Allah and His Messenger over everything else." (Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, p. 17; PDF p. 13.)

Sa'eed ibn Aamir lived in Makkah before he became Muslim. He saw how Khubayb ibn Adiyy kept his faith during a very difficult test. Sa'eed could not forget Khubayb's patience, prayers and love for the Prophet ﷺ. He began to think deeply about Islam and later became Muslim. Sa'eed left Makkah and joined the Muslims in Madinah. He tried to follow the Prophet's example. He cared more about pleasing Allah than being rich or important. Later Umar ibn Al-Khattab asked him to serve as the governor of Hims. Sa'eed did not want a position of power but Umar reminded him of his duty to help the Muslims, so he accepted. Sa'eed and his wife lived very simply. He did not collect fine clothes or special comforts for himself. Some people in Hims complained that he came out late in the morning, did not meet them at night, took one day off each month and sometimes became weak. Umar listened to the complaints and gave Sa'eed time to explain. Sa'eed said that he helped his wife with work at home in the morning because they did not have a servant. He used the night for worship and his family. He washed his only outer garment on his day off and waited for it to dry. He also became upset when he remembered the suffering he had once seen in Makkah. Umar understood that these were not signs of bad leadership. When Umar later sent him money, Sa'eed and his wife gave it to people who needed help. Sa'eed wanted a good reward from Allah more than he wanted money. A person can serve others without wanting praise or riches. Sa'eed teaches us honesty, patience, helping at home and giving to people in need. (Story source: Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, pp. 17-25.)



3. At-Tufayl ibn Amr Ad-Dawsi

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ made this dua for At-Tufayl: “O Allah, give him a sign that will help him do the good he wishes to do.” (Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, p. 26; PDF p. 22.)

At-Tufayl ibn Amr was a respected man and a poet from the tribe of Daws. When he came to Makkah, some people warned him not to listen to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. They told him things about the Prophet that were not true. At-Tufayl became so worried that he even covered his ears while going near the Ka'bah. One day At-Tufayl heard the Prophet ﷺ reciting the Qur'an. He thought carefully about the beautiful words. He knew how to judge good speech because he was a poet. He decided that it was wrong to avoid listening without understanding. He spoke to the Prophet, heard the message of Islam and became Muslim. At-Tufayl wanted to share Islam with his people. The Prophet ﷺ made dua for him and Allah gave him a special light as a sign. At-Tufayl asked for the light to be away from his face and it appeared on what he carried. When he went home he spoke to his father, his wife and others about Islam. Some accepted and others needed more time. At-Tufayl returned to the Prophet ﷺ when many people from Daws were still refusing to listen. He hoped they would be guided. The Prophet did not give up on them. He made dua for guidance for the tribe. At-Tufayl continued teaching and later came with many people who had accepted Islam. At-Tufayl stayed devoted to Islam for the rest of his life. The book ends with his service to the Muslims and his passing after taking part in a later campaign. Listen carefully before making a judgment. The Qur'an can guide a sincere heart. At-Tufayl teaches us patience when sharing what is right and hope for other people. (Story source: Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, pp. 26-34.)



4. Abdullah ibn Hudhafah As-Sahmi

Umar ibn Al-Khattab said this about Abdullah: “Every Muslim should kiss Abdullah ibn Hudhafah’s head and I will begin.” (Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, p. 35; PDF p. 31.)

Abdullah ibn Hudhafah was one of the Companions who showed great courage and strong faith. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ trusted him with an important task. He sent Abdullah with a letter to the ruler of Persia, known as Kisra. Abdullah travelled a long way to deliver the Prophet’s message. He stayed respectful and did not become afraid in front of the ruler. The Persian ruler rejected the message and treated the letter badly. Abdullah returned and told the Prophet ﷺ what had happened. The Prophet continued his mission and Abdullah remained loyal to Islam. Years later, during the time of Umar ibn Al-Khattab, Abdullah was taken prisoner by the Romans along with other Muslims. Their ruler tried to make Abdullah leave Islam by offering him money, honor and a high position. Abdullah would not change his faith. He stayed firm during a very difficult test. The ruler finally offered to let the Muslim prisoners go free if Abdullah would kiss his head. Abdullah agreed because he wanted to help the other Muslims. When he returned, Umar was happy that Abdullah had stayed faithful and had helped the prisoners. Umar kissed Abdullah’s head and encouraged the Muslims to honour him.

Abdullah showed that caring for other Muslims did not make him weak. He kept his faith and looked for a way to help everyone return safely. Faith is more valuable than money or a high position. Abdullah also teaches us courage, loyalty and caring for people who need help. (Story source: Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, pp. 35–43.)



5. Umair ibn Wahb

Umar ibn Al-Khattab said this about Umair: “Umair ibn Wahb has become dearer to me than some of my own children.” (Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, p. 44; PDF p. 40.)

Before he became Muslim, Umair ibn Wahb strongly opposed Islam. His son was held by the Muslims after the Battle of Badr. Umair spoke privately in Makkah with Safwan ibn Umayyah. The two men made a secret plan for Umair to visit Madinah and harm the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Umair travelled to Madinah. Umar ibn Al-Khattab saw him arriving and became worried because he knew Umair had been an enemy of the Muslims. The Prophet ﷺ allowed Umair to enter and spoke calmly to him. Umair first gave another reason for his journey. The Prophet told him what he and Safwan had discussed in private. Umair was amazed because he knew no one else had heard that conversation. He understood that the Prophet was truly a Messenger of Allah. He accepted Islam. The Prophet ﷺ told the Companions to teach Umair the Qur'an and the religion and to release his son. Umar was very happy to see Umair change. He said that Umair was now dearer to him than some of his own children. Umair learned Islam and asked to return to Makkah so that he could call others to Allah. He spoke to people who had known him before and many began to accept the message. The book shows how a man who had once worked against the Muslims became a sincere Muslim who wanted others to find guidance. A person can change for the better. Umair teaches us that truth should be accepted when it becomes clear and that people should be given a chance to improve. (Story source: Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, pp. 44-50.)



6. Al-Baraa ibn Malik Al-Ansari

Umar ibn Al-Khattab said this about Al-Baraa: “Do not put Al-Baraa in charge of a Muslim army because his boldness may place his soldiers in danger.” (Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, p. 51; PDF p. 47.)

Al-Baraa ibn Malik was the brother of Anas ibn Malik. He was small and thin but very brave. He did not care about being praised or having an important position. He wanted to support the Muslims and gain Allah’s pleasure. His strong courage made the other Muslims admire him. After the Prophet ﷺ passed away, the Muslims faced a difficult struggle against Musaylamah and his followers. Al-Baraa encouraged the Muslims to remain firm. The struggle reached a guarded garden with strong walls and a gate. Al-Baraa asked the Muslims to help him reach the inside so he could open a way for them. Even though the task was very hard he stayed determined. The Muslims later faced another difficult struggle near Tustar. Al-Baraa stood with his companions and asked Allah for help and victory. He trusted Allah and continued showing courage. The book explains that he later passed away as a martyr during this struggle. His bravery was well known. Umar respected him but warned against placing him in charge of a whole army because Al-Baraa would sometimes take risks that other people might not be able to follow. The opening saying teaches that courage should be joined with care for others. Be brave when doing what is right. Al-Baraa’s story also teaches us that a leader must think about the safety of other people and not only about personal courage. (Story source: Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, pp. 51-57.)



7. Thumamah ibn Uthal

The author's opening description of Thumamah: "He placed an economic blockade on Quraysh."
(Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, p. 58; PDF p. 54.)

Thumamah ibn Uthal was a respected leader from the people of Yamamah. At first he did not follow Islam and was strongly opposed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Some Muslims met him during a journey and brought him to Madinah. He was kept in the mosque while the Prophet ﷺ spoke to him. The Prophet asked Thumamah about his situation several times. Thumamah replied firmly each time. The Prophet then told the Muslims to let him go. Thumamah went to a place nearby, washed himself and returned to the mosque. He accepted Islam and declared his belief in Allah and His Messenger. Thumamah told the Prophet that before Islam he had disliked the Prophet and Madinah. Now the Prophet was the person he loved most and Madinah was the city he loved most. The Prophet's fair treatment had helped change his heart. Thumamah travelled to Makkah to perform Umrah. Some people from Quraysh were angry that he had accepted Islam. Thumamah told them that supplies from Yamamah would not reach them unless the Prophet allowed it. This caused hardship for Quraysh. When the Prophet ﷺ asked Thumamah to let supplies reach them, Thumamah obeyed. After the Prophet passed away, Thumamah remained firm upon Islam. He spoke against Musaylamah's false claims and encouraged his people to remain true to Allah. Kindness and fairness can change hearts. Thumamah also teaches us to listen to the Prophet's guidance, keep our promises and stand firm upon the truth. (Story source: Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, pp. 58-65.)



8. Abu Ayyub Al-Ansari

The author's opening description of Abu Ayyub: "Buried beneath the walls of Constantinople." (Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, p. 66; PDF p. 62.)

Abu Ayyub Al-Ansari was also known as Khalid ibn Zayd An-Najjari. When Prophet Muhammad ﷺ arrived in Madinah after the Hijrah, many families hoped he would stay in their homes. The Prophet told them to leave his camel because it would stop where Allah had willed. The camel stopped near the home of Abu Ayyub. Abu Ayyub and his wife were very happy to welcome the Prophet ﷺ. The Prophet first stayed on the lower floor and the family stayed above him. Abu Ayyub worried that walking upstairs might disturb the Prophet. One night water was spilled upstairs and the family quickly dried it so none would fall below. Abu Ayyub asked the Prophet to move upstairs and the Prophet later agreed. Abu Ayyub loved serving the Prophet. He prepared food for him and paid attention to what the Prophet liked. When a dish containing garlic was returned, Abu Ayyub worried that something was wrong. The Prophet explained why he had not eaten it and reassured Abu Ayyub that he could eat it. Abu Ayyub learned to ask respectfully rather than make a wrong guess. Abu Ayyub remained devoted to the Prophet and the Muslims. He helped in the community and stayed active even when he grew old. Later he joined a Muslim expedition toward Constantinople. The book says he wished to be laid to rest near its walls and his wish was carried out. He is remembered for his hospitality, respect, generosity and long years of service. Welcoming guests, showing respect and helping people are beautiful Islamic manners. Abu Ayyub also teaches us love for the Prophet ﷺ and steady service to others. (Story source: Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, pp. 66-75.)



9. Amr ibn Al-Jamuh

The author's opening description of Amr: "An older man determined to enter Paradise despite his limp." (Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, p. 76; PDF p. 72.)

Amr ibn Al-Jamuh was a respected older man from the tribe of Banu Salamah in Madinah. Before he accepted Islam, he kept an idol made from wood and cared for it. His sons Muadh, Muawwidh and Khallad accepted Islam while their father still followed the old ways. They wanted him to understand that an idol could not hear, protect or help anyone. His sons quietly moved the idol from its place more than once. Amr would search for it and put it back. Finally he saw it in a dirty well and understood that something unable to help itself could not be worthy of worship. He listened to the message of Tawheed and accepted Islam. His wife also supported him as he learned the truth. Amr was older and walked with a limp. When the Muslims prepared for the Battle of Uhud, his sons wanted him to stay home because he had an excuse. Amr wished to take part in serving Allah with the other Muslims. He went to the Prophet ﷺ and explained how much he wanted to join them. The Prophet told Amr's sons not to stop him. Amr went with the Muslims and showed great faith. The book says he was martyred at Uhud. The Prophet spoke about his hope for Paradise and comforted his family. His story begins with leaving something false and ends with sincere love for Allah. Worship Allah alone. Amr teaches us to accept the truth even after many years, to be sincere and to do good according to our ability. (Story source: Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, pp. 76-82.)



10. Abdullah ibn Jahsh

The author's opening description of Abdullah: "The first to be called Commander of the Believers."
(Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, p. 83; PDF p. 79.)

Abdullah ibn Jahsh was one of the early Muslims. He was related to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ through his family. His mother was Umaymah bint Abd Al-Muttalib and his sister was Zaynab bint Jahsh. The book also says he was among those who left Makkah for the sake of Allah.

When Abdullah and other Muslims moved to Madinah, some of their homes in Makkah were left empty. Abu Jahl took control of Abdullah's house and sold it. Abdullah told the Prophet ﷺ what had happened. The Prophet comforted him and reminded him of the reward Allah had prepared for those who gave up things for His sake. The Prophet ﷺ later placed Abdullah in charge of a small group of Companions. He gave Abdullah a sealed letter and told him when to open it. Abdullah followed those instructions carefully. The letter directed the group toward a place called Nakhla to learn about Quraysh. This was an important early responsibility. The book says Abdullah was the first Muslim to receive this kind of command and connects it to his opening title. Something difficult took place while the group was away during one of the sacred months. When they returned to Madinah, the Prophet did not immediately approve what had happened. The Muslims waited for Allah's guidance. The author mentions the Qur'anic teaching in Surah Al-Baqarah (2:217) when explaining this event. Later Abdullah took part in the Battle of Uhud. The book describes a heartfelt dua he made there and his wish to be accepted by Allah. Abdullah passed away as a martyr during Uhud. His story shows both careful obedience to the Prophet and willingness to give up worldly comfort for Allah. Follow instructions carefully and put obedience to Allah before personal comfort. Abdullah teaches us patience, responsibility and trust in Allah when facing difficult decisions. (Story source: Suwar min Hayat as-Sahabah, pp. 83-90.)