

How `Abdullaah Ibn Salaam (رضي الله عنه) became Muslim

Translated by

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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* From `Awf ibn Maalik al-Ashja`ee (رضي الله عنه), who said:

“The Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم)³ went off one day, and I was with him, until we entered a synagogue of the Jews (in al-Madeenah, on a festival day of theirs, and they disliked our entering upon them), and he said (to them) : << O assembly of Jews! Show me twelve men who will bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah, and that Muḥammad is the Messenger of Allaah, and Allaah will remove from every Jew beneath the sky the Anger which He has upon them.>> He said: So they remained silent; no one responded to him. Then he repeated it, but no one responded to him. So he said: << You have refused, but, by Allaah! I am indeed ‘*al-Haashir*’ (the Prophet after whom the people will be gathered), and I am ‘*al-`Aaqib*’ (the final Prophet), and I am ‘*an-Nabiyyul-Mustafaa*’ (the chosen Prophet): whether you believe or reject the truth. >>

Then he departed, and I was with him, until (when) we had almost left, a man behind us said: ‘Stay as you are, O Muḥammad!’ Then that man said: ‘What sort of man do you people know me to be amongst you, O company of Jews?’ They said: ‘By Allaah! We do not know there to be any man amongst us who knows Allaah’s Scripture better than you; nor who has better understanding of the religion than you; nor than your father before you; nor than your grandfather before your father.’ He said: “Then I testify for him, by Allaah, that he is indeed the Prophet of Allaah, whom you find in the *Tawraat* [Torah].”

They said: ‘You have lied!’ Then they rebutted his saying, and they said evil things about him, so Allaah’s Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said: << You people have lied. Your saying will never be accepted. Just now you were praising him with the good that you were praising him with; but when he believed you called him a liar, and said what you have said. Your saying will never be accepted. >> He said: So we departed, and we were three: Allaah’s Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم), myself, and `Abdullaah ibn Salaam; and Allaah (تعالى)⁴ sent down regarding him:

¹ (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah be pleased with him

² [From ‘*Ṣaḥeeḥus-Seeratin-Nabawiyah*’ (pp.80-81), Shaikh al-Albaanee (رَجَمَهُ اللهُ) verified edition of al-Haafiz Ibn Katheer (رَجَمَهُ اللهُ) ‘*as-Seeratin-Nabawiyah*’.]

³ (صلى الله عليه و سلم) May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him

⁴ (تعالى) Ta’aala (He, The Most High)

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قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ وَكَفَرْتُمْ بِهِمْ وَشَهِدَ شَاهِدٌ مِنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ عَلَىٰ مِثْلِهِمْ فَقَامَنَ وَأَسْتَكْبَرْتُمْ^ط إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي
الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ

[[Meaning: Say: Do you see: if this Qur'aan is from Allaah, and you reject it, and a witness from the children of Israa'eel testifies to its like, and believes in it; and you haughtily reject it; then Allaah does not guide the wrongdoing Disbelievers]].^{5 6}

⁵ Shaikh al-Albaanee said: "Reported by Ahmad (6/25), and the additions are his; and by al-Haakim (3/415-416), and he said: 'Saheeh to the standard of the two Shaikhs! And adh-Dhahabee agreed with him! But it is only to the standard of Muslim, since al-Bukhaaree did not report the narrations of Safwaan ibn `Amr except in his 'al-Adabul-Mufrad.'"

⁶ [Sooratul-Ahqaaf (46): 10]