

AL-ZUBAIR IBN AL-AWWAM (RA)

Al-Zubair ibn Al-Awwam was a close companion of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), one of the ten promised Paradise, and one of the six members of the consultative council. He was also the first to draw his sword in the cause of Allah, and his position in Islam is of great reverence. His full name is Al-Zubair ibn Al-Awwam ibn Khuwaylid ibn Asad ibn Abdul-Uzza Al-Qurashi. He was the son of the Prophet's aunt, Lady Safiyyah bint Abdul-Muttalib. Born in Mecca, Al-Zubair grew up in a strong, strict family and was deeply influenced by the bravery of his mother, Safiyyah, who played a pivotal role in his upbringing.

The Role of His Mother Safiyyah in His Upbringing

Safiyyah bint Abdul-Muttalib was a woman of strong character, firmness, and deep faith. After Al-Zubair's father passed away, she raised him herself, instilling in him courage, self-reliance, and resilience in the face of hardship. Even when he was young, Safiyyah didn't hesitate to teach him endurance, encouraging him to be steadfast through difficulties. It is said that she was sometimes strict with him to toughen his resolve, even once breaking his arm, which drew criticism from her family. She defended her actions, saying, "I am only disciplining him so he may grow to lead armies." This upbringing forged Al-Zubair into a courageous fighter, defending Islam from the moment he accepted the Prophet's message.

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His Acceptance of Islam

Al-Zubair accepted Islam at the young age of 16, showing his deep faith and bravery. He faced much persecution and suffering from his people for the sake of Allah, but he remained steadfast. According to biographies, his uncle would torture him, saying, "Deny the Lord of Muhammad, and I will stop punishing you." Yet, Al-Zubair remained resolute in his faith. His uncle would wrap him in a mat, smoking under it until he nearly suffocated, but Allah granted him a way out of this trial. One day, he heard a rumor that the Prophet (peace be upon him) had been killed, so he drew his sword and searched the streets of Mecca. The Prophet met him and asked, "What are you doing, O Zubair?" He replied, "I heard you were killed, and I came to avenge you." The Prophet then prayed for him and his sword.

His Bravery and Heroism in Battles

Al-Zubair was renowned for his courage and valor, qualities that were prominently displayed in the battles he fought alongside the Prophet (peace be upon him).

- **Battle of Badr:** Al-Zubair took part in this decisive battle, wearing a yellow turban; it is said that the angels who descended to assist the Muslims appeared in his likeness. He fought with tremendous bravery, contributing significantly to the Muslims' victory.

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- **Battle of Uhud:** Al-Zubair was among the companions who stayed with the Prophet, standing by his side as others retreated. He defended the Prophet with all his might, fighting so courageously that the Prophet praised him. During this battle, a Meccan leader, Talha ibn Abi Talha, challenged the Muslims to single combat. When others hesitated, Al-Zubair leaped up, mounted Talha's camel, threw him off, and killed him with his sword. The Prophet, witnessing this, praised Al-Zubair and said, "Every prophet has a disciple, and my disciple is Al-Zubair."
- **Battle of the Trench:** When the allied forces surrounded Medina, the Prophet sent Al-Zubair to gather intelligence on the enemy. Al-Zubair executed this challenging mission with bravery, gathering crucial information that contributed to the Muslims' victory.
- **During the Battle of Yarmouk,** some companions said to Al-Zubair, "Why don't you charge so we can charge with you?" He replied, "If I charge, you will fall back." They insisted, so he charged through the enemy ranks alone, breaking through. They caught up with him as he was struck twice on his shoulder, adding to an old wound from Badr, yet he fought on fiercely.

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His Stance in the Major Conflict

Following the killing of Caliph Uthman ibn Affan, conflict erupted among the Muslims. Al-Zubair, along with Talha and Aisha, sought to prevent further bloodshed. However, the disputes escalated to fighting. Al-Zubair found himself in a difficult position and remembered the Prophet's advice not to fight Ali ibn Abi Talib. He then withdrew from the battle. According to reports, he wept when he recalled the Prophet's words and decided to leave.

His Martyrdom

After withdrawing from the Battle of the Camel, as Al-Zubair was returning, a man named Amr ibn Jurmuz tracked him down and treacherously killed him, leading to Al-Zubair's martyrdom in 36 AH at the age of about sixty. His death was a great loss to the Muslims. When Ali heard of Al-Zubair's death, he wept and said, "Give the news of hellfire to the one who killed Safiyah's son."

His Legacy

Al-Zubair's martyrdom was a tremendous loss, as he was one of the most loyal and brave companions. His legacy lives on in Islamic history, and he left descendants who continued to serve Islam, such as his son Abdullah ibn Al-Zubair, who became a leader of the believers and a fearless warrior like his father.

TRUE OR FALSE

- 1- Al-Zubair ibn Al-Awwam was one of the ten companions promised Paradise.
- 2- Al-Zubair's mother, Safiyyah, was the sister of the Prophet Muhammad.
- 3- Al-Zubair was the first person to draw a sword in defense of Islam.
- 4- Al-Zubair was killed in a one-on-one duel.
- 5- Al-Zubair ibn Al-Awwam was present in the Battle of Badr, where he showed great bravery.
- 6- Al-Zubair was tortured by his uncle because he converted to Islam.
- 7- Al-Zubair's son, Abdullah, went on to become a prominent figure in Islamic history.
- 8- Al-Zubair was killed in year 40A.H.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE

What was Al-Zubair known for in early Islamic history?

- A) Being the first Muslim to call the Adhan (call to prayer)
- B) Being the first to draw a sword in defense of Islam
- C) Being the youngest companion of the Prophet
- D) Writing down the Quran

Al-Zubair was related to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as:

- A) His cousin
- B) His nephew
- C) His son-in-law
- D) His uncle

Who was Al-Zubair's mother?

- A) Khadijah bint Khuwaylid
- B) Safiyya bint Abdul-Muttalib
- C) Fatimah bint Muhammad
- D) Umm Salamah

Al-Zubair was a part of which notable group among the Prophet's companions?

- A) The scribes of the Quran
- B) The ten promised Paradise
- C) The Ashab al-Suffah
- D) The Badr Martyrs

In which battle did Al-Zubair wear a yellow turban, with angels descending in his likeness?

- A) Battle of Uhud
- B) Battle of Khaybar
- C) Battle of Badr
- D) Battle of Tabuk

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

- 1- What is Al-Zubair best known for in Islamic history?
- 2- At what age did Al-Zubair ibn Al-Awwam accept Islam?
- 3- Who was Al-Zubair's mother, and how did she influence his character?
- 4- In which battles did Al-Zubair demonstrate exceptional bravery?
- 5- How did Al-Zubair die, and who was responsible for his death?
- 6- What were the major events that shaped Al-Zubair's life?
- 7- What are some of the main qualities that made Al-Zubair ibn Al-Awwam a significant figure in Islam?
- 8- What are practical ways that Muslims today can learn from Al-Zubair's dedication to the Prophet?