

HEROES OF ISLAM

Prof. Mahmoud Esma'il Sieny

King Saud University
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Supervised by :
ABDUL MALIK MUJAHID

Headquarters:

P.O. Box: 22743, Riyadh 11416, KSA
Tel: 4033962/4043432
Fax: 4021659
E-mail: darussalam@naseej.com.sa
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All praise is due to Allāh, the Lord of all that exists. May Allah's peace and blessings be upon the greatest of the Prophets and Messengers - our Prophet Muhammad - and upon his Family and all of his Companions.

One of the important factors in the development and behaviors of the societies of the world today is the impact of role models. Now, more than ever, role models are affecting the lives of all races and classes of people around the world. Because of mediums such as television, radio, telephone and the internet, many role models, such as movie stars, athletes, musicians and politicians, have become quite popular around the world.

However, such role models do not necessarily represent the ideal style of life, practices and beliefs that are wanted for the Muslim. When Muslims look up to sinful or disbelieving people who have been portrayed in the media to be successful and famous, they began to feel inferior to them. Satan may even deceive them into feeling that the reason for the non-Muslims' worldly success is their following of ways other than Islam.

For this reason, *Darussalam* has brought to life in this work the stories of some of the greatest heroes and role models of Islam. In this way we serve the cause of increasing the Muslims' conviction to their faith. The efforts and sacrifices of these people for the sake of Allāh's religion will show us who we are and what we really are capable of when we have strong belief in Allāh.

We thank Mr. Sidheeque M.A. Veliankode, a member of the Research Division of *Darussalam* for his diligent effort in publishing this work.

Abdul Malik Mujahid

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**In the Name of Allāh,
The Most Gracious, the Most Merciful**

INTRODUCTION

In the Name of Allāh, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Peace and blessings of Allāh be upon His Prophet and Messenger Muhammad.

Heroes and Heroism

Every nation has its own heroes. Some are real while others are mythical. These heroes are sources of admiration, and even adoration by certain communities. In enlightened societies real heroes may be models for emulation. But who is a real hero? He is a person usually admired or respected for special qualities he is endowed with or for certain acts of bravery and chivalry.

Heroes of Islām

Muslims have no need to look for fictitious or mythical heroes, because their history is abundant with heroes of real flesh and blood, whose acts were heroic because of their faith, and a consequence of their attitude to life and the world. For all the heroes of Islām share two very special traits: full conviction and dedication to their pristine faith and constant attempt to seek the Pleasure of their Creator, Allāh, alone, regardless of the circumstances and times they live in. For a Muslim hero, be he a military genius, a scholar-teacher, or a devout common person, knows that the transient life in this world is a means to the eternal life in the Hereafter, and that ephemeral pains and pleasures are nothing compared to the everlasting pains and pleasures of Hell and Heaven. To this hero, the key to the whole thing is Divine Pleasure. Through it alone can a person enjoy peace and tranquility in this world and attain real happiness in the life Hereafter.

The Prophet (salla-Llaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam) is reported to

have said: "Strange is the case of the believer. Everything turns to his advantage only. If adversity befalls him he patiently accepts it, and is rewarded for it. If prosperity happens to him he shows gratitude to his Lord (in word and action), and is rewarded for it." So a hero of Islām faces both prosperity and adversity with the right attitude and action. His goal is not worldly pleasures and gains, but rather the Pleasure of Allāh.

Purpose of this Book

In this book we will try to present glimpses of the lives of a few heroes of Islām. But they all exhibit that special quality and trait of a **Muslim** hero. It is my hope that the reader will find actual examples of qualities we all need to instill in ourselves and our dear ones so that Muslims may once again take their proper place and play their vital role in human civilization and history.

Mahmoud Esma'il Sieny, Ph.D.,
Professor of Applied Linguistics

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'UMAR IBN AL-KHATTĀB
(*radīy-Allāhu 'anhu*)

**Al-Farooq (The one who distinguishes between
Truth and Falsehood.)**

(d. 23 A.H.)

"O Allāh! Bring support to Islām through the conversion to Islām either one of the two 'Umar, 'Umar ibn Al-Khattāb or 'Amr ibn Hisham."

The Prophet (*salla-Llaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*) "Taa Haa. We have not sent down the Qur'an to you (O Muhammad) to cause you distress. But only as reminder to those who fear Allāh—. A revelation from Him (Allāh) Who created the earth and the high heavens. The Most Gracious (Allāh) rose over the Throne (in a manner that suits His Majesty). Whatever is in the heavens and the earth and in between them, belongs to Him, as whatever lies under the earth..." The Qur'an 20:1-6.

The above verses were the key of the light of Islām to our hero, 'Umar ibn Al-Khattāb, whose nick-name was Al-Farooq. The Qur'an, being the inimitable Words of Allāh, with its superb style and language and its miraculous content, was responsible for the guidance of many a discriminating Arab in the early days of Islām. For the Arabs were at the time very fond of linguistic excellence and their appreciation of superior style was at its peak, its being one of the main fields of rivalry and competition. 'Umar ibn Al-Khattāb (*radīy-Allāhu 'anhu*) was one of those Arabs who was enchanted by the Qur'an, especially the verses mentioned earlier.

The story runs as follows. One day while 'Umar ibn Al-Khattāb was attacking some followers of Islām in Makkah, he was chided for so doing while his own sister and her husband were among the followers of Muhammad. 'Umar was furious. So he drew his sword out of its sheath, and rushed to his sister's house. To his luck, his sister and brother-in-law were studying the Qur'an. Their teacher, Khabbab ibn Al-Aratt, was reciting to them the beginning of Chapter 20 (Taa Haa). Upon approaching the house, 'Umar was mesmerized at hearing those few verses. When his sister saw him she swiftly hid the sheet from which they were studying. 'Umar insisted on looking at that sheet, but his sister would not for fear that he might do something bad to it out of disrespect. She was hurt in the process, and our hero calmed down. When the sister felt secure, she told him that he is a pagan and has impurity and could not, therefore, touch the Qur'an. If he wanted to see the sheet that contained Qur'anic verses he had to take a bath and to purify himself first and then to announce his declaration of the Faith. Our hero did what he was asked to, and said the declaration of the Faith: "I bear witness that there is no deity except Allāh and I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allāh." Immediately he went to the Prophet (*salla-Llaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*) to announce his conversion to Islām in his presence. The Prophet (*salla-Llaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*) was heard earlier praying to Allāh to increase the glory of Islām with the conversion of either 'Umar ibn Al-Khattāb or Amr ibn Hisham (Abū Jahl). The Muslims were excited and very happy to learn of this great event. For our hero was known as a tough man, feared by many people in Makkah.

With the conversion of our hero to Islām the Muslims gained a very strong ally and protector, a man of strength and courage, and they felt more secure. We are told that when our hero decided to migrate to Madina, he announced