

SA'D IBN ABI WAQQAS (RA)

Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas (may Allah be pleased with him) was one of the ten Companions promised Paradise and one of the prominent leaders in early Islam. Known for his strong faith, exceptional bravery, and extraordinary skill with the bow, Sa'd's life was filled with sacrifice and remarkable moments that reflected his devotion to Islam, strength of character, and noble aims.

His Embrace of Islam: Among the First to Accept the Faith

Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas accepted Islam at a young age, becoming one of the earliest converts at the age of 17. It is said that he embraced Islam after a profound dream in which he found himself in deep darkness, then saw a light guiding him out. When he woke up, he heard that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was calling people to Islam. Sa'd felt that this dream was a sign for him to embrace the faith, so he immediately went and declared his belief.

From the beginning, Sa'd was close to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and shared in the hardships of the early days of the message. His conversion was itself a challenge, as he faced intense opposition from his family, particularly his mother, who deeply loved him and strongly opposed his new path.

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His Stance with His Mother: A Difficult Test and Unyielding Faith

When Sa'd's mother learned of his conversion, she was deeply pained and angered, deciding to pressure him into abandoning his faith by cutting off communication. She went so far as to undertake a hunger strike, declaring she would neither eat nor drink until Sa'd returned to the religion of his ancestors. This was a harsh test for Sa'd, as he was a devoted son who loved his mother dearly.

However, Sa'd's faith remained unshaken. He approached his mother and said firmly, "O mother, if you had a hundred souls, and they left one by one, I would not abandon this religion for anything. So if you wish, eat, and if you wish, do not eat." This statement highlighted the strength and clarity of his faith, ultimately convincing his mother to end her hunger strike. An essential verse was revealed concerning his situation, instructing him to maintain kindness to his parents but not to obey them if they called him to disbelief:

"But if they pressure you to associate with Me that of which you have no knowledge, do not obey them, but accompany them in this world with appropriate kindness." (Quran 31:15)

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His Valor and Heroism in Battle: The Model Soldier

From the moment he accepted Islam, Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas was a skillful fighter and among the first to participate in the Prophet's battles. He showed exceptional courage in the Battle of Badr, where he was among the Companions who bravely defended the Prophet and Islam. In this pivotal battle, Sa'd fought with notable courage, demonstrating mastery in close combat against Quraysh's well-armed army.

His Skill with the Bow: The Prophet's Praise and Unique Blessing

Sa'd was one of Islam's most skilled archers, renowned for his precise marksmanship. His mastery of archery became so esteemed that he was among the few Muslims whom other Companions admired on the battlefield. In the Battle of Uhud, when some Muslims began to retreat, Sa'd stood steadfast beside the Prophet (peace be upon him), valiantly defending him. The Prophet encouraged him, saying, "Shoot, Sa'd, may my father and mother be your ransom." This unique blessing, not granted to any other Companion, underscored the Prophet's admiration for Sa'd's skill and devotion.

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Leading the Army in the Battle of Qadisiyyah

During the caliphate of Umar ibn al-Khattab, Sa'd's talents as a military commander shone, particularly in the famous Battle of Qadisiyyah. Caliph Umar chose him to lead the Muslim army against the Persian Empire—a decision that proved highly successful, as Sa'd achieved a resounding victory despite the Persians' superior numbers and weaponry. Sa'd displayed patience and strategic brilliance in guiding the Muslim forces to victory. Following this battle, Sa'd founded the city of Kufa, establishing it as a base for the Muslim army in Persian lands. He cared deeply for managing the affairs of Muslims, striving to uphold justice and spread Islam in these new territories.

His Passing: The End of a Life of Faith and Courage

Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas passed away in 55 AH in Medina, the last of the ten Companions promised Paradise to pass away. He had led a long life filled with sacrifice, leaving behind a legacy of bravery and unwavering faith. Sa'd is remembered as one of those Companions who left a lasting mark on Islamic history.

Conclusion

Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas was a model of the courageous soldier, the devoted son, and the steadfast believer who did not falter in his faith, no matter the challenges. His qualities as a seasoned leader, loyal soldier, and patient man earned him a distinguished place in Islam. His excellence in archery, and his military leadership make him an enduring figure in the hearts of Muslims and in the legacy of Islam.

TRUE OR FALSE

1- Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas was the only Companion whom the Prophet (peace be upon him) blessed by saying, "May my father and mother be your ransom."

2- Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas was 25 years old when he accepted Islam.

3- Sa'd founded the city of Kufa as a military base after the Battle of Qadisiyyah.

4- Sa'd's mother tried to pressure him to leave Islam by offering him gifts and wealth.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

What age was Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas when he accepted Islam?

- a) 15 years old
- b) 17 years old
- c) 20 years old
- d) 25 years old

In which battle did the Prophet (peace be upon him) say to Sa'd, "May my father and mother be your ransom"?

- a) Battle of Badr
- b) Battle of Uhud
- c) Battle of Khaybar
- d) Battle of Hunayn

During the caliphate of which leader did Sa'd lead the Muslims in the Battle of Qadisiyyah?

- a) Abu Bakr
- b) Umar ibn al-Khattab
- c) Uthman ibn Affan
- d) Ali ibn Abi Talib

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

1- Describe Sa'd's relationship with his mother and how he responded to her protest against his Islam.

2- What skills or qualities did Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas excel in that made him stand out among the Companions?

3- Discuss the significance of Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas in early Islamic history and his impact on the spread of Islam in Persia.

4- How does Sa'd's response to his mother's protest demonstrate the Islamic principles of respect for parents balanced with devotion to faith?

5- Analyze the role of Sa'd's skills in archery in his contributions to major battles, particularly the Battle of Uhud.