

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Biography of Venerable Companion and Prophet's Muezzin¹, Bilal Ibn Rabah

Muezzin of Islam and Irritator of Idols.

Bilal says: "I am merely an Abyssinian² who was a slave yesterday"

Bilal Ibn Rabah is the Abyssinian "Abu Abdullah". He is ebony, slim, extremely long and shaggy haired man. Every time he hears praise and high speech of him, he bows his head down and lowers his glance saying with tears running on his cheeks, "I am merely an Abyssinian who was a slave yesterday".

Once upon a time he (May Allah be pleased with him) proposed for himself and his brother to marry two girls. He said to their father, "I am Bilal and this is my brother; two slaves from Abyssinia, we were astray and Allah has guided us; we were slaves and Allah set us free, if you accept us our proposal for marriage, praise is to Allah and if you prevented us, Allah is the greatest."

Story of Conversion to Islam:

He is an Abyssinian, a son of a black bondwoman, and a servant of people from Jamh clan in Mecca, as his mother was one of their slaves and bondmaids. He started to hear the news of Muhammad (PBUH)³ as people in Mecca started to pass from mouth to mouth, and he used to listen to the conversations of his masters and their guests.

On the day of his conversion, the Prophet (PBUH) and Abu Bakr were in seclusion in a cave, and Bilal passed them by in his work as a shepherd of the sheep of Abd Ibn Jud'an, and the Prophet (PBUH) emerged his head from the cave and said, "Oh shepherd, do you have some milk, Bilal said, "I only have one sheep that I eat from, if you like I prefer you on me today with its milk".

The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Bring it". Bilal brought it, the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) supplicated on his container, held the sheep and milked it in the container until it is full, so he drank until he quenched his thirst, then he milked it until it is full again, gave it to Abu Bakr, he, in turn, drank until he quenched his thirst, again, he milked it until it is full, and gave it to Bilal, he drank until he quenched his thirst. Then he released it better than before, then he said, "Oh, boy, do you accept Islam; I am the Messenger of Allah, embrace Islam" He embraced Islam and said, "Hide your conversion to Islam". He did so and departed with his sheep.

Torture:

They started to torture him. They used to take him out at midday during which desert turns to a fatal hellfire, and lay him bare on its inflaming gravel, and then they used to bring an

¹ Caller for Prayer in Mosque.

² Former name of Ethiopian

³ Peace and blessing be upon him

extremely blazing stone carried by some men and put it on him, and his lashers used to cry at him saying, "Say al-Lat and al-Uzzah"⁴, he used to respond, "*Ahad Ahad*"⁵ (One One).

Abu Bakr used to go to them during torture and say, "You torture a man just for saying my Lord is Allah", then he said to Umayya, "Take more than his price and leave him alone, and they sold him to Abu Bakr who set him free immediately, and Bilal became one of the free men. He has chosen Bilal (May Allah be pleased with him) to be the first Muezzin in Islam. In Badr Battle, Bilal killed Umayya Ibn Khalaf.

Death:

Bilal died in Greater Syria while garrisoned in the path of Allah as he wished and he was probably buried in the soil of Damascus in 20AH.

Send your peace and blessings to our master and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his companions, wives (mothers of the believers), followers and those who followed them perfectly until the Day of Judgment.

Our master Bilal has three tombs in Damascus: in Darya, in "Sayedina Bilal" Mosque in eastern Damascus and in the graveyard of "Bab Sagher".. The author of "al-Rawda al-Bahiya" book in page 215 considered the veracity of the tomb in "Bab Sagher" likelier.

⁴ Idols worshiped in pre-Islamic era

⁵ The One: one of the attributes of Allah.