

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

They Raised Pens in Defense of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)

By Abū al-Ḥasan Mālik Ādam al-Akhḍar

Al-‘Allāmah Shaykh Ṣāliḥ al-Fawzān (حفظه الله) said:

The companions used to defend the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) with their poetry, the likes of Ḥassān b. Thābit, Ka‘b b. Mālik and ‘Abd Allāh b. Rawwāḥah (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ). The poets from among the Companions would defend the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and respond to poets from the disbelievers, and the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) would command them to do so.¹ He said to Ḥassān²: “Answer them; and the Holy Spirit (i.e. Jibrīl) (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام) is with you. Ḥassān recited:

*Verily, my honor and my mother's and father's honor
are a protection from you (i.e. Quraysh) for the Prophet's honor*

So he (i.e. Ḥassān b. Thābit) offered up his honor on behalf of the Prophet’s (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) honor; offered up his honor and that of his mother and father. This was the extent of [their] defense of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ).³

The *Shaykh* is alluding to the narration of A‘ishah (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا): “The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) used to place a *minbar* in the masjid for Ḥassān to stand upon and defend him; and Allāh’s Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) would say: “Verily, Allāh aids Ḥassān with the Holy Spirit (i.e. Jibrīl) in his defense of the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ).”⁴

Also, A‘ishah related: “Once Ḥassān b. Thābit asked the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) permission to lampoon (i.e. compose satirical verse defaming) the polytheists. The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: ‘What about our common descent?’ Ḥassān replied: ‘I shall remove you from them as a hair is removed from dough.’”

‘Urwah stated: I started abusing Ḥassān in front of A‘ishah, whereupon she said. “Do not abuse him, for he used to defend the Prophet [with his poetry].”⁵

¹ The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) stated: “Indeed some poetry contains wisdom.” It is collected by al-Bukhārī in his *Ṣaḥīḥ* (no. 6145), on the authority of Ubay b. Ka‘b (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ).

² Al-Dhahabī mentions in his biography: “Ḥassān b. Thābit...the Prophet’s poet and companion.” (2/515)

³ Taken from a recording entitled “*Ima Kafaynaka al-Mustahzi‘in*”

⁴ Collected by al-Tirmidhī in his *Jāmi‘* (no. 2846) and graded *Ḥasan* by al-Albānī in *Silsilah al-Ṣaḥīḥah* (no. 1657)

⁵ Collected by al-Bukhārī in his *Ṣaḥīḥ* (no. 3531)

In another narration, A‘ishah related that the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said to his poets: “Satirize Quraysh [with your poetry], for indeed it is more severe upon them than the arrow.”⁶

These narrations refer to incidents where the poets of the disbelievers would mock and satirize the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) in their verse. He, in turn, would command his noble Companions to refute them, and Allāh (عَزَّوَجَلَّ) aided them with the Holy Spirit. The poetry of the disbelievers was derisive and mocking, but the tongues of the Companions shred them apart: full of wisdom, belief and eloquence. Until Ḥassān himself told the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ): “By the One Who sent you with the truth, I will mince them to pieces with this tongue of mine.”⁷ May Allah bless us with wisdom, faith and eloquence in our defense of Allāh’s Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ).



⁶ Collected by Muslim in his *Ṣaḥīḥ* (no. 157). Let this narration be a lesson to those who think the Muslims do not possess the capabilities of responding scholastically to those who would mock and satirize the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), as it was our Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) who taught us that these refutations are much harder on the mockers than the arrow—or the bullet. Let those impulsive extremists who know only bloodletting and destruction take heed as well; the pens of the noble scholars of the Religion do more to defend the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) than anything they fire from their weapons.

⁷ See *Siyar ‘Alām al-Nubala* (2/515)