

# I



## Origins

The division of spoils– A man from Banū Tamīm – Arrow through game –  
No trace of blood – Leaves the Religion – A dark-skinned man – Sitting in circles – Awaiting  
Ibn Mas‘ūd – Here is his bowl – Alongside the *Khawārij*

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**A**lī b. Abū Ṭālib sent a portion of gold ore to Allāh’s Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) from the spoils of Yemen. The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) sat amongst his companions, and divided it between four: Al-Aqra’ b. Ḥābis al-Ḥanzalī, ‘Uyanah b. Badr al-Fazārī, Zayd al-Ṭā’ī and ‘Alqamah b. ‘Ulāthah al-‘Āmirī. This angered some of the people. Someone called out: “You give to the leaders of the people of *Najd*, but not us?” [‘Abd Allāh] Dhū al-Khuwayṣarah, a man from Banū Tamīm, came to the Allāh’s Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). He had sunken eyes, raised cheek bones, a jutting forehead, a thick beard and shaved head.

“Be just, O Messenger of Allāh,” he said.

“Woe to you. If I am not just, who will be?”

‘Umar b. Khaṭṭāb spoke up. “O Messenger of Allāh, allow me to strike his neck.”

“Leave him. For there will come from the loins of this man those who one of you will look down on his prayer beside their prayer, his fast beside theirs. They will recite the Qur’ān, but it will not reach below their throats. They will exit the Religion faster than the arrow passes through game, and you find no traces of blood on the arrowhead when you examine it. Similarly, you find no traces of blood on the shaft or the feathers, for the arrow traveled too fast for the blood to stain it. One of their signs will be a dark-skinned man whose limb will hang like a woman’s breast or like loose skin. They will appear when there is discord among the people,” the Messenger of Allāh (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said.

After relating this, Abū Sa‘īd al-Khudrī said: “I testify that I heard this narration from Allāh’s Messenger, and I testify that ‘Alī b. Abū Ṭālib fought them, and I was alongside him. He commanded that the man [described by the Prophet] be found and brought to him. He was presented, and I looked upon him and noticed that he looked exactly as the Messenger of Allāh had described him.”

In another wording, the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said of the *Khawārij*: “They will kill the people of Islām and not bother with the idolaters. If I met up with them, I would kill them like the killing of ‘Ād.”



ABŪ MŪSA AL-‘ASH‘ARĪ went to the house of ‘Abd Allāh b. Mas‘ūd. He found there a group of his companions waiting by his door before the *Fajr* prayer.

“Has he come out?” Abū Mūsa asked.

“No,” they replied.

He sat alongside them until Ibn Ma‘ūd exited his home. When he came out, Abū Mūsa informed him that he had witnessed a thing in the *masjid*.

“O Abū ‘Abd al-Raḥmān, I saw something in the *masjid* I deemed evil, but all praise are for Allāh; I only saw good.”

“What was it?”

“If you live, you will see it. I witnessed a people in the *masjid* sitting in circles awaiting the prayer. There sat a person at the head of each circle, and they were holding pebbles in their hands. The persons at the head of each circle told them to repeat *Allāhu Akbar* one-hundred times, and they repeated it one-hundred times; then they would tell them to repeat *La ilaha illallah* one-hundred times, and they repeated it one-hundred times; then they would tell them to repeat *Subhanallah* one-hundred times, and they repeated it.”

“What did you say to them?” Ibn Mas‘ūd said.

“Not a word. Waiting to hear your thoughts.”

“If only you had ordered them to count the evil deeds [they are acquiring] and assured them that they would not lose any of their good deeds.

They moved on. Upon arriving at one of the circles.

“What is this?” Ibn Mas‘ūd asked them.

We are counting supplications using these pebbles,” they said.

“Count your evil deeds [instead], for I promise that you will not lose anything from your good acts. Woe to you, O *Ummah* of Muḥammad. How quickly you head to destruction. Here are the Prophet’s Companions in great numbers. Here are his clothes, not yet tattered. His bowl unbroken. By the One Whom my soul is in His Hand, you are either on a path more guided than the path of Muḥammad, or you are opening the door of misguidance.”

“By Allāh, O Abū ‘Abd al-Raḥmān, we only intend good,” they said.

“How many people intend good but never achieve it?” he replied. He went on to relate that the Prophet (ﷺ) said there would arise a people who would recite the *Qur‘ān*, but its recitation would not go below their throats. Allāh knows best, perhaps many of them will be from among you.”

‘Amr b. Salamah stated, “We saw most of [the people in those circles] fighting against us on the day of *Nahrawān*, alongside the *Khawārij*.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This is an excerpt from the forthcoming publication *From Ibn Muljam to Ibn Laden: A Narrative History of the Khawarij*. May Allāh facilitate its completion.