

Hadith of the ten promised paradise

Muhammad, in a Hadith accepted by Sunni Muslims, specified ten of his companions who were promised paradise. Those companions named in this Hadith are referred to by Sunnis as **The Ten Promised Paradise** (Arabic: *عشرة من الجنة*; *al-ʿAshara al-Mubasharîn bi-l-Janna*). The authenticity of this Hadith is rejected by Shia Muslims.

Overview

The ten companions are known as *Ashrah Mubash-sharah* which means the companions that Muhammad had given information about *Jannah*, the Islamic conception of paradise.^[1]

Based on the narration, Sunnis have listed ten people whom they believe were promised paradise while living. The list is written in the order in which Muhammad said them. The first four of them are known by Sunnis as the Righteously Guided Caliphs.

Names	Arabic names	Birth B.H.	Death A.H.	Birth C.E.	Death C.E.
Abu Bakr	أبو بكر	c. 51	13	c. 573	634
Umar	أبو الخطاب بن رمح	40	23	584	644
Uthman ibn Affan	أبو العاص بن ميثم	c. 45	35	c. 579	656
Ali	أبي طالب بن أبي طالب	c. 24	40	c. 599	661
Talhah	أبو طالب بن عبد المطلب	c. 27	36	c. 597	656
Zubayr ibn al-Awam	أبو ذر بن عبد المطلب	30	36	594	656
Abdur Rahman bin Awf	أبو العاص بن ميثم	?	c. 31	?	c. 652
Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas	أبو وقاص بن ميثم	29	44	595	664
Abu Ubaidah ibn al Jarrah	أبو عبيدة بن الجراح	40	18	584	640
Saeed bin Zaid	أبو سعيد بن زيد	c. 30	51	c. 594	673

The Hadith

Narrated Sa'id ibn Zayd:

AbdurRahman ibn al-Akhnas said that when he was in the mosque, a man mentioned Ali (may Allah be pleased with him). So Sa'id ibn Zayd got up and said: I bear witness to the Apostle of Allah (peace be upon him) that I heard him say: Ten persons will go to Paradise: The Prophet (peace be upon him) will go to Paradise, AbuBakr will go to Paradise, Umar will go to Paradise, Uthman will go to Paradise, Ali will go to Paradise, Talhah will go to Paradise: az-Zubayr ibn al-Awwam will go to paradise, Sa'd ibn Malik will go to Paradise, and AbdurRahman ibn Awf will go to Paradise. If I wish, I can mention the tenth. The People asked: Who is he: So he kept silence. The again asked: Who is he: He replied: He is Sa'id ibn Zayd.

—Collected by Abu Dawood, *Sunan Abu Dawood*^[2]

Abdul Rahman bin `Awf said: The prophet (s) said: Abu Bakr in Paradise, Omar in Paradise, 'Uthman in Paradise, Ali in Paradise, Talha in Paradise, al- Zubair (bin al-'Awwam) in Paradise, AbdurRahman bin `Awf in Paradise, Saad (bin Abi Waqqass) in Paradise, Saeed (bin Zaid), and abu 'Ubaida bin al- Jarrah in Paradise."

—Tirmidhi^[3]

Muslim view

Muslims put different weight on this Hadith, the majority, the Sunnis, viewing it as very favourable.

Sunni view

This Hadith was narrated in three collections by Tirmidhi, Abu Dawood, and Ibn Majah.

The Sunni canon of Hadith, called the Six major Hadith collections, includes: Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim, Sunan Abu Dawood, Al-Sunan al-Sughra, Sunan al-Tirmidhi and Sunan ibn Majah. Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim are considered the most reliable of these collections.^[4]

Sunnis say that Muhammad's companions were sorted into twelve groups and of these the ten promised paradise were ranked first.^[5]

Shia view

Shia Muslims do not believe in the concept and have concluded that the idea is built on Hadith that were fabricated during Umayyad reign, forged for political reasons to elevate the adversaries of the Shia Imam, Ali, and the Ahl al-Bayt. They also note that Ali is put together with nine other Sahaba who never supported him in his conflicts: Talha and Zubair were generals in the armies against him in the Battle of the Camel and Umar and Abu Bakr were in opposition to Ali during the succession to Muhammad. In contrast, companions like Ammar ibn Yasir, Muhammad ibn Abi Bakr and Malik al-Ashtar, who staunchly defended Ali, are not included in the list.

Shia mention that the Hadith was not even included in neither Sahih Bukhari nor Sahih Muslim, implying that not even the top Sunni scholars could consider it completely authentic.

Shias often raise the differences in narration of certain hadith found in Sunni collections as a legitimate reason to disavow their authenticity. Sunnis have argued that slight differences in the narration of a hadith do not dismantle its credibility. Most Hadith have more than one version which tend to be more trustworthy, as the ones with only a single narration are usually found only transmitted through a single isnad. Also, when one considers the fact that these ten were not always on the same side, in some cases fought each other, went to war against each other and killed each other, it becomes logically difficult to resolve.

References

- [1] *Kitaabul Imaan, The Book of Islamic Faith*, 1996, prepared by Majlisul Ulama of South Africa, pub. By Idara Isha'at-e-Diniyat, New Delhi, page 62; Abu Da'wud, *Sunan Abu Da'wud*, Mustafa al-Babi al-Halabi, Cairo, 1310 AH/1952 CE; Abu Da'wud, *Sunan Abu Da'wud*, Sh. Muhammad ashraf, Lahore, 1984.
 - [2] Sunnan Abu Dawud, 40:4632 (<http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/fundamentals/hadithsunnah/abudawud/040.sat.html#040.4632>)
 - [3] Tirmidhi, Hadith 3747
 - [4] Muqaddimah Ibn al-Salah, pg. 160 Dar al-Ma'aarif edition; al-Tirmithi, under #3748; al-Tirmithi, Volume 5, Page 605, Hadith 3748; Abu Daoud, #4649 and #4650
 - [5] Twelve Ranks of the Companions (<http://www.caliphtv.com/files/khalid.bin.waleed/khalid/companions.html>)
- Dr. Zakir Naik (<http://www.islam101.com/religions/hinduism/Mhs.htm>)

External links

- presenting Abu Bakr as the first of "ten promised paradise" (http://www.sunnah.org/publication/khulafa_rashideen/caliph1.htm)
 - Great Muslims Of All Times (<http://www.iqra.net/articles/muslims/family6.php>)
 - Sahaba (http://www.livingislam.org/n/shb_e.html)
 - Al-asharatu mubashshirun (<http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/reference/glossary/term.MUBASHIR.html>)
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