

by GF Haddad

Qasyoun@ziplip.com

Imām al-Bayhaqī narrated in his *Dalā'il al-Nubuwwa* ("The Marks of Prophethood") through Mūsā ibn `Uqba and `Abd al-Raḥmān ibn Khālid ibn Musāfir, from Ibn Shihāb, from Sa`īd ibn al-Musayyab:

Ubay ibn Khalaf [the Meccan] swore, when he paid his ransom [after being captured at Badr]: "By Allāh! I have a steed which I am feeding every day a portion of corn, and I shall kill Muḥammad riding it!" News of this reached the Messenger of Allāh – Allah bless and greet him – who said: "Nay, I shall kill him if Allāh wills." [At Uḥud] Ubay came dressed in his armor on top of his horse, shouting, "May I not survive if Muḥammad survives!" He charged the Messenger of Allāh – Allah bless and greet him –, intent on killing him. Mūsā ibn `Uqba said that Sa`īd ibn al-Musayyab said that several men among the Believers intercepted him. Then the Messenger of Allāh – Allah bless and greet him – ordered them to clear the way. <They said: 'Messenger of Allāh! Shall one of us turn to face him?' He said: 'Leave him!' When he approached, the Prophet – Allah bless and greet him – took the spear from al-Ḥārith ibn al-Ṣimma [al-Badrī]. One of the witnesses said – as was related to me [Ka`b ibn Mālik] – that the Prophet – Allah bless and greet him – jumped up with a motion that sent us scampering away from him like gadflies off the back of a camel.> The Messenger of Allāh – Allah bless and greet him – sighted the clavicle (*tarquwa*) of Ubay ibn Khalaf showing through a gap between the helmet and the breastplate. He speared him there. Ubay fell off his horse but no blood came out of his wound. Sa`īd said he broke a rib. Thereupon was revealed the verse **«You threw not when you did throw, but Allāh threw»** (8:17). His friends came and found him drooping like a tired bull. They said: "What is ailing you? It is only a scratch!" But he reminded them of what the Messenger of Allāh – Allah bless and greet him – had said – "I shall kill Ubay" – crying, "<By Allāh! If he hit me only with his spittle he would kill me! Did he not say 'I shall kill him'?'> By the One in Whose Hand is my soul! If the wound I just received were in the people of Dhūl-Majāz they would all die!" He died on his way to Makka.

Narrated – except for the bracketed segments – from the Companion al-Musayyab ibn Ḥazn by al-Ḥākīm in the *Mustadrak* (2:327=1990 ed. 2:357) with a sound chain per al-Bukhārī's criterion; *mursal* from his son Sa`īd ibn al-Musayyab by Ibn Sa`d in the *Ṭabaqāt al-Kubrā* (2:46); and – in part – by al-Wāqidī in his *Maghāzī* (1:250); also, without mention of the broken rib and the verse, *mursal* from `Urwa ibn al-Zubayr by Abū Nu`aym in his *Dalā'il al-Nubuwwa* (p. 483 #415). Cf. al-Suyūṭī, *al-Khaṣā'is al-Kubrā* (1:352-353), al-Qurṭubī's (7:385) and Ibn Kathīr's *Tafsīr* (1:416), his *Bidāya* (4:32), Ibn al-Qayyim's *Zād al-Ma`ād* (3:178, 188), and the *Sīra Ḥalabiyya* (2:511).

The first bracketed segment is narrated from Ka`b ibn Mālik by al-Wāqidī in his *Maghāzī* (1:251-252), Ibn Ishāq in his *Maghāzī* (#511), and through the latter Ibn Hishām in his *Sīra* (4:33), Ibn Abī `Āṣim in *al-Jihād* (2:601-602 #253), al-Ṭabarī in his *Tārīkh* (2:67), and Abū Nu`aym in his *Dalā'il* (p. 482 #414) cf. Ibn Ḥibbān, *al-Thiqāt* (1:229), al-Kilā'ī, *al-Iktifā'* (2:77), and Ibn Kathīr, *Tafsīr* (1:416-417) and *Bidāya* (4:32).

The second bracketed segment is narrated *mursal* from Miqṣam ibn Bujra the freedman of Ibn `Abbās by `Abd al-Razzāq (5:355-357 #9731) through his Shaykh Ma`mar ibn Rāshid cf. *Khaṣā'is* (1:353) and by Ibn Hishām (4:33) through Ibn Ishāq.

Dhūl-Majāz is an oasis of Hudhayl behind `Arafa where a market was held in pre-Islamic times cf. Yāqūt, *Mu`jam al-Buldān* (5:55 and 5:58). After this encounter the Prophet – Allah bless and greet him – bugled to head for Ḥamrā' al-Asad. Al-Dhahabī, *Siyar* (3:521).

Among those who stood their ground around the Prophet – Allah bless and greet him – and intercepted Ubay ibn Khalaf as he was charging him were Muṣ`ab ibn `Umayr who got killed and UMM `UMĀRA NASĪBA BINT KA`B al-Anṣāriyya al-Khazrajiyya al-Najjāriyya al-Māziniyya, together with her husband Ghaziyya ibn `Amr and her two sons Khubayb ibn Zayd ibn `Āṣim – whom Musaylima later cut to pieces – and `Abd Allāh ibn Zayd al-Māzinī who killed Musaylima at al-Yamāma and got killed at al-Ḥarra in 63. She got gashed in her shoulder, among the twelve wounds she suffered in that battle. The Prophet – Allah bless and greet him – praised her during battle and later. She nursed her shoulder-wound for a full year. In recounting the battle, she referred to Ubay ibn Khalaf as Ibn Qami'a – "Son of Trash." She also saw the battle of Ḥunayn and her hand got cut off at the bloodiest battle of al-Yamāma. Her brother `Abd Allāh ibn Ka`b al-Māzinī fought at Badr. Al-Dhahabī documents all of this in the chapter devoted to her in his *Siyar A'lām al-Nubalā'* ("Lives of the Standard-Bearers of the Nobility") (3:520-523 #146).
