

THE AUTHENTIC STATEMENT OF ABDULLAH IBN MASUD

عَنْ عمرو بن سلمة ، قَالَ : كُنَّا نَجْلِسُ عَلَى بَابِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ مَسْعُودٍ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - قَبْلَ صَلَاةِ الْغَدَاةِ، فَإِذَا خَرَجَ، مَشِينَا مَعَهُ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ ، فَجَاءَنَا أَبُو مُوسَى الْأَشْعَرِيُّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ، فَقَالَ: أَخْرَجَ إِلَيْكُمْ أَبُو عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ بَعْدُ؟، قُلْنَا: لَا ، فَجَلَسَ مَعَنَا حَتَّى خَرَجَ، فَلَمَّا خَرَجَ، قُمْنَا إِلَيْهِ جَمِيعًا ، فَقَالَ لَهُ أَبُو مُوسَى : يَا أَبَا عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ، إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ فِي الْمَسْجِدِ آيَةً أَمْرًا أَنْكَرْتُهُ وَلَمْ أَرَ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ إِلَّا خَيْرًا ، قَالَ : فَمَا هُوَ ؟، فَقَالَ : إِنَّ عِشْتَ فَسْتَرَاهُ، قَالَ : رَأَيْتُ فِي الْمَسْجِدِ قَوْمًا حَلَقًا جُلُوسًا يَنْتَظِرُونَ الصَّلَاةَ فِي كُلِّ حَلَقَةٍ رَجُلٌ، وَفِي أَيْدِيهِمْ حَصَا، فَيَقُولُ: كَبَّرُوا مِائَةً، فَيَكْبُرُونَ مِائَةً ، فَيَقُولُ: هَلَّلُوا مِائَةً ، فَيَهْلَلُونَ مِائَةً ، وَيَقُولُ: سَبَّحُوا مِائَةً، فَيَسْبَحُونَ مِائَةً ، قَالَ : فَمَاذَا قُلْتُمْ لَهُمْ؟، قَالَ : مَا قُلْتُمْ لَهُمْ شَيْئًا أَنْتَظَرُ رَأْيِكَ أَوْ أَنْتَظَرُ أَمْرِكَ ، قَالَ : أَفَلَا أَمَرْتَهُمْ أَنْ يَعُدُّوا سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ، وَضَمِنْتَ لَهُمْ أَنْ لَا يَضِيعَ مِنْ حَسَنَاتِهِمْ؟ ثُمَّ مَضَى وَمَضِينَا مَعَهُ حَتَّى أَتَى حَلَقَةً مِنْ تِلْكَ الْحَلَقِ، فَوَقَفَ عَلَيْهِمْ، فَقَالَ : مَا هَذَا الَّذِي أَرَاكُمْ تَصْنَعُونَ؟، قَالُوا : يَا أَبَا عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ حَصَا نَعُدُّ بِهِ التَّكْبِيرَ، وَالتَّهْلِيلَ ، وَالتَّسْبِيحَ، قَالَ: “فَعُدُّوا سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ، فَأَنَا ضَامِنٌ أَنْ لَا يَضِيعَ مِنْ حَسَنَاتِكُمْ شَيْءٌ، وَيُحْكَمُ يَا أُمَّةَ مُحَمَّدٍ، مَا أَسْرَعَ هَلَكَتِكُمْ! هُوَ لِأَصْحَابِهِ نَبِيِّكُمْ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - مُتَوَافِرُونَ، وَهَذِهِ ثِيَابُهُ لَمْ تَبَلْ ، وَأَنْبِيئُهُ لَمْ تُكْسَرْ ، وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ ، إِنَّكُمْ لَعَلَّ مِلَّةً هِيَ أَهْدَى مِنْ مِلَّةِ مُحَمَّدٍ ، أَوْ مُفْتَتِحُو بَابِ ضَلَالَةٍ“، قَالُوا : وَاللَّهِ يَا أَبَا عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ ، مَا أَرَدْنَا إِلَّا الْخَيْرَ، قَالَ: “ وَكَمْ مِنْ مُرِيدٍ لِلْخَيْرِ لَنْ يُصِيبَهُ ، إِنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ حَدَّثَنَا أَنَّ قَوْمًا يَقْرَأُونَ الْقُرْآنَ لَا يُجَاوِزُ تَرَاقِيهِمْ ، وَإِنَّمَا اللَّهُ مَا أَدْرِي لَعَلَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ مِنْكُمْ“ ، ثُمَّ تَوَلَّى عَنْهُمْ ، فَقَالَ عَمْرُو بْنُ سَلَمَةَ: رَأَيْنَا عَامَّةَ أَوْلِيكَ الْحَلَقِ يُطَاعُونَا يَوْمَ النَّهْرِ وَإِن مَعَ الْخَوَارِجِ.

'Amr ibn Salamah (may Allah have mercy on him) said: We used to sit at the door of Abdullah ibn Mas'ood (may Allah be pleased with him) before Fajr prayer, so that when he comes out, we would walk with him to the masjid, then Abu Moosa al-Ash'ari (may Allah be pleased with him) came to us and said: Has Abu 'Abd al-Rahmaan come out to you yet? We said: No. So he sat with us until he came out, and when he came out we all stood up.

Abu Moosa said to him: O Abu 'Abd al-Rahmaan (Ibn Mas'ud), just now I saw something in the masjid that I have never seen before, and I did not see except (that which is) good.

Ibn Mas'ud said: What was it?

Abu Musa said: If you live, you will see it. In the masjid I saw some people sitting in circles waiting for the prayer. In every circle there was a man, and in their hands they had pebbles. That man would say: Say Allahu akbar (Allaah is Most Great) one hundred times, and they would say Allahu akbar one hundred times. The man would say: Say Laa ilaaha ill-Allah (there is no god but Allah) one hundred times, and they would say Laa ilaaha ill-Allah one hundred times. The man would say: Say Subhan-Allah (Glory be to Allah) one hundred times, and they would say Subhan-Allah one hundred times.

Ibn Mas'ud said: What did you say to them?

Abu Musa said: I did not say anything to them; I was waiting to see what you think and I waited for your command.

Ibn Mas'ud said: Why did you not tell them to count their bad deeds and guarantee to them that their good deeds would not go to waste?

Then Ibn Mas'ud moved on and we moved on with him until he came to one of those circles, and he stood over them and said: What is this that I see you doing? They said: O Abu 'Abd al-Rahmaan, these are stones with which we count the takbeers ('Allaahu akbar'), tahleel ('Laa ilaaha illa-Allaah') and tasbeeh ('Subhaan-Allaah').

Ibn Mas'ud said: Count your bad deeds, for I guarantee to you that none of your good deeds will be lost. Woe to you, O ummah of Muhammad! How quickly you have become doomed! There are the Companions of your Prophet (peace be upon him) still alive and numerous, and his cloak has not worn out, and his vessel is not yet broken (meaning it wasn't too long ago when the Prophet peace be upon him had passed away). By the One in Whose hand is my soul, you are

either following a way that is more guided than the way of Muhammad or you are opening a door to misguidance.

They said: By Allah, O Abu 'Abd al-Rahmaan, we intended nothing but good.

Ibn Mas'ud said: How many of those who intend good do not achieve it. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) told us that some people would recite the Qur'an and it would not go any further than their collarbones. **By Allah, I do not know, perhaps most of them are from among you.**

Then Ibn Mas'ud turned away from them (and left).

'Amr ibn Salamah said: We saw most of those (people in these) circles on the side of the Khawaarij fighting us on the day of Al-Nahrawan.