




Al-Faatih
Publishing

Bilāl ibn Rabāh

Muadhdhin of the Messenger 



Part of: **The Sahābah Series**



These thoughts would hound Bilāl before he slept at night and so he would travel to the edge of the Sahara with excuses, just to be alone. When the night drew in like a curtain over Makkah, it was as if it would bury his sorrow and sadness in the desert and wipe his tears with its' darkness.

One night Bilāl travelled to the outskirts of the Sahārah, as was his usual habit when he wanted to be alone. There he sat by himself contemplating his future and let out a very deep sigh.

Almost as if in response to him and mirroring his feelings, the nocturnal birds nearby made tearful calls of sorrow. Slavery was like being in prison for the rest of your life.

Could slaves ever truly be free?

Bilāl rose early in order to begin his usual chores in Umayyah's house.



He was silent the whole day and Umayyah began to notice. Umayyah suspiciously asked, "Bilāl, what's wrong with you?!" Bilāl grew nervous, "Sorry master!... Forgive me... I didn't sleep much last night.." He quickly used this excuse for permission to go to bed early, and snuck out before Umayyah could question him further. In reality, Bilāl had other plans for tonight...

Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه replied, "I haven't come to argue on this matter O Son of Khalaf. I did however, come to offer you an excellent business deal, if you will accept it."

Umayyah approached Bilāl رضي الله عنه who was lying on the floor. He kicked him harshly, and cracking his whip said, "Do you want to purchase this slave? Well that's just not possible, I'd kill him before I sold his dead body. I won't allow you to save him from this torture, and I'll tear him apart with my whip to make an example of him for the other slaves who even THINK about following his path!"

Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه smiled and said calmly, "Wait Umayyah. What will you gain from his death? Nothing! Killing him will not stop others embracing Islām will it?"

Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه paused to observe Umayyah's reaction and then said, "I know he is of little value to you, but if I buy him from you, you'll benefit from his sale." Umayyah hesitated and one of his men whispered to him, "Sell him O master, he isn't even worth the rope he's bound with, and if you ask for a high price for him, he'll probably pay as well!"

Umayyah thought about it. He knew he was tired of beating Bilāl up, but decided to make a ridiculous offer that Abu Bakr couldn't afford, for fun, to embarrass him. He sneered, "Fine, I'll sell him... but not for less than **five** ounces of silver."