



How The Salaf Would Deal With The *Fitnah* of Strange Women

Al-Imaam Al-Haafidh Ahmad bin 'Abdillaah bin Saalih Abil-Hasan Al-'Ijlee (d.261H)
Taken from: Ta'reekh Ath-Thiqaat of Al-'Ijlee (Daar ul kutub al-'ilmiyyah) p.321-323
Trans Aboo Haatim Muhammad Farooq

Al-Imaam Al-'Ijlee (*rahimahullaah*) said:

There was once a beautiful married woman who resided in Makkah. So one day she looked at her face in the mirror and said to her husband:

'Do you see that there is anyone who would look at this face and not be put to trial due to it?'

So he replied:

'Yes.'

So she said:

'Who?'

He said:

'Ubaid bin 'Umayr.'¹

¹ He was 'Ubaid bin 'Umayr Ibn Qataadah bin Sa'eed bin 'Aamir bin Junda' bin Laith Al-Laithee Al-Junda'ee Al-Makee - Aboo 'Aasim the judge of the people of Makkah; the admonisher; the Mufasssir (Scholar of Tafseer) the possessor of great dignity. He was born in the lifetime of Allaah's Messenger (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) and was from the *Thiqaat* (trustworthy ones) of the Taabi'een and from amongst their Imaams in Makkah. He narrated from: his father* (who was a companion) and from: 'Umar ibn Al-Khattaab, 'Alee, Ubayy bin Ka'ab, Abee Dharr, 'Aa'ishah, Umm Salamah, Abee Moosaa Al-Ash'aree, Abee Hurairah, Abee Sa'eed (Al-Khudree), Ibn 'Abbaas and others.

Those that narrate from him include: his son 'Abdullaah bin 'Ubaid*, 'Ataa bin Abee Rabaah, Mujaahid, Ibn Abee Mulaikah, 'Amr bin Deenaar, 'Abdul-'Azeez bin Rufai', Abuz-Zubair and a great many others.

Yahyaa bin Ma'een and Aboo Zur'ah declared him to be *thiqah* (trustworthy), Al-'Ijlee said: The Makee; the Taabi'ee - *thiqah*. 'Abdullaah ibn 'Umar would sit in his gatherings and say: 'To Allaah is attributed the goodness of Ibn Qataadah; for that which he comes with'.

Ibn Sa'ad mentions: Al-Fadl bin Dukain informed us saying: Aboo Bakr bin 'Iyyaash narrated to us from 'Abdil-Maalik from 'Ataa who said: Myself and 'Ubaid bin 'Umayr entered upon 'Aa'ishah, so she said: 'who is this?' he replied: 'I am 'Ubaid bin 'Umayr'. So she said: 'The admonisher of the people of Makkah?' so he said: 'yes' so she replied: 'be light/gentle; for indeed the reminder is heavy.' (Meaning: if you admonish).

Abee Na'eem Al-Asbahaanee said: Aboo Haamid bin Jablah narrated to us that Muhammad bin Ishaq Ath-Thaqafee narrated to us that Yoosuf bin Moosaa narrated to us that Jareer narrated to us from Al-A'mash from Abee Sufyaan who said: 'Abdullaah bin Az-Zubair once met 'Ubaid bin 'Umayr, so he said: 'Your affair/prestige is not small O Abaa 'Aasim'.

It is reported from Mujaahid that he said: 'We are honoured to have amongst the Taabi'een four people: (our reciter) 'Abdullaah bin Saa'ib, (our Muftee) Ibn 'Abbaas, (our mu'adhin) Aboo Mahdhoorah, (and our judge) 'Ubaid bin 'Umayr' - meaning from the people of Makkah.

So she said:

'So give me permission then to approach him – such that I may put him to trial.'

So he said:

'I grant you permission!'

So she came to him in the guise of a woman seeking a *fatwa* (religious verdict). So he went with her to a corner in the Masjid Al-Haraam. So she disclosed (unveiled) a part of herself like that of a half a moon. So he said to her:

'O Amatullaah!'²

So she said:

'Indeed I have been put to trial because of you; so look into my affair.'

So he replied:

'Indeed I am going to ask you something; so if you are truthful in it – then I shall look into your affair.'

She said:

'You will not ask me anything except that I shall be truthful to you.'

So he said:

'Tell me; if the Angel of Death came to you in order to take your soul. Would it then please you that I had fulfilled for you this request?'

She said:

'By Allaah; no.'

So he said:

'You have spoken the truth.'

He then said:

'If when you are entered into your grave; and you are sat up for questioning. Would it then please you that I had indeed fulfilled for you this request?'

She said:

'By Allaah; no.'

So he said:

'You have spoken the truth.'

He then said:

'When the people are given their books; and you do not yet know whether you are to be given your book in your right hand or in your left. Would it then please you that I had fulfilled for you this request?'

She said:

'By Allaah; no.'

So he said:

'You have spoken the truth.'

He then said:

From his speech: 'were the grave to be given a tongue it would say: 'O son of Aadam; how could you forget me? Did you not know that I am the abode of decay! And the abode of worms! And the abode of desolation and the abode of loneliness!'

He passed away a little while before the passing away of Ibn 'Umar – as was mentioned by Al-Bukhaaree, Ibn Hibbaan said in 'Ath-Thiqaat': 'he died in the year 68H' as did Ibn Qutaibah in 'Al-Ma'aarif'.

*It has been said that he did not hear (narrate) from his father (See: Tahdheeb ut Tahdheeb 7/71). (Taken from: Siyar 4/156-157, Tahdheeb ut Tahdheeb 7/71, Tadhkiratul Huffaadh1/50, Tabaqaat Al-Kubraa5/463-464, Al-'Iqd Ath-Thameen 5/543-544, Al-Hilyah 3/266-271).

² Feminine for: Slave of Allaah. (Translators note).

'When you would want to cross The Bridge (in the Hereafter); and you do not know whether you will advance (upon it) or that you will not advance. Would it then please you that I had fulfilled for you this request?'

She said:

'By Allaah; no.'

So he said:

'You have spoken the truth.'

He then said:

'If then when The Scales are bought forth; and you likewise are bought forth – and you do not know whether they are going to be light or heavy. Would it then please you that I had fulfilled for you this request?'

She said:

'By Allaah; no.'

So he said:

'You have spoken the truth.'

He then said:

'If when you are standing before Allaah for questioning. Would it then please you that I had fulfilled for you this request?'

She said:

'By Allaah; no.'

So he said:

'You have spoken the truth.'

He then said:

'Fear Allaah O Amatullaah, for indeed Allaah has endowed blessing upon you – and has shown you excellence.'

Then the woman returned to her husband, so he asked her:

'What did you do?'

She said:

'You are idle (inactive) – and we are idle, so I have instead turned to praying and fasting and worshipping.'

Thereafter her husband would say:

'What's with me and 'Ubaid bin 'Umayr – he's corrupted my wife. Every night she used to be like a newlywed; but now he's turned her into a Nun.'