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Seekers of Knowledge Essay Submission
Prompt #3

More than 2 million people go to hajj every year. Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) went to hajj in the year 632 CE and was accompanied by trusted companions. There were many companions that were narrated to accompany Prophet Muhammed and of those I have chosen three. Bishr Al-Hafi better known as Bishr the barefoot, Ikrimah Ibn Abi Jahl Abu Jahl's son, and Salim Mawla Abu Hudhayfah who didn't know his father.

Bishr Al-Hafi was an alcoholic who would drink day and night. He was born in Persia, Iran and later settled in Baghdad, Iraq. Bishr Al-Hafi was born into Islam but got into partying and alcoholics. One night he held a party consisting of loud noise, music and alcohol. Imam Musa Al-Kazim walked by Bishr's house as a servant came out carrying sweepings and junk from the party, Imam Musa Al-Kazim asked the servant "Is the resident of this house a freeman or a slave?" "Of course he is a freeman!" she replied "You're right because if he was a slave he would fear his lord." She went back into the house where Bishr was waiting at the table drinking wine and when he said "What delayed you?" She told Bishr about her encounter with Imam Musa Al-Kazim and how he had said that Bishr couldn't be a slave because he was disobedient to his master. So Bishr decided that he should catch up to this man and told him he desired to be a slave of Allah. One day when Bishr was walking home from a bar he was thinking about his conversation with Imam Musa Al-Kazim and he decided to stop drinking, as he was walking on the road he came across a slip of paper that had Allah's name written on it. He dusted it off and decided to take it home to clean it. He had 2 dirhams in his pocket, so he decided he would go to the finest itr (Perfume) store he could find and buy the finest itr he could get with 2 dirhams. When he got home he hung it in a high place as you're supposed to do with Allah's name. Allah says in the quran "Remember me and I will remember you" Surat al baqarah verse 152. The next day Bishr had a dream that Allah was saying to him "Oh Bishr, we will elevate your name in the dunyah as well as the hereafter just like you took care of my name in the dunyah". So Allah elevated his name and he became so worthy and blessed that he would walk barefoot. Thus came the name Bishr hafi. Hafi in english means barefoot. Allah placed his rankings so high that wherever he would walk the dirt was eaten by the earth before he stepped in it. From this you can take away that his personality was valiant. He was determined to be a slave of Allah and Imam Musa Al-Kazim told him he was too disobedient, causing him to have a dramatic personality change. This is showing that no matter how far away from your deen you are you can still get back to it. Also if you do an act of kindness for the sake of Allah, he will repay you with even more kindness and blessings.

Ikrimah Ibn Abi Jahl was the son of Abu Jahl and was highly respected by the Quraysh because of his wealth and his noble image. When he saw Prophet Muhammed (SAW) giving a

speech he saw plenty of believers gathering around him. He knew he would've been like them if it weren't for his father Abu Jahl. Abu Jahl tortured Muslims to see if they could withstand the pressure. All the Muslims prevailed and Abu Jahl wasn't happy. He conflicted a war upon them and it lasted for a long time. After the war only Ikrimah Ibn Abi Jahl knew Khalid Ibn Al-Waleed's intentions of becoming Muslim. Once Abu Sufyan found out he tortured Khalid until Ikrimah overpowered him and Khalid was let go. Ikrimah Ibn Abi Jahl eventually got married to a woman named Umm Hakim after the war had stopped and the Muslims conquered Makkah in 630 CE. Umm Hakim turned to Islam not that long after they got married and she convinced Ikrimah that he should convert to Islam. He had a courageous personality because he fought in the military and he was loyal to his father. Something you can take away from this is that you have a choice in everything and you have the chance to make the right choice no matter what.

Salim Mawla Ibn Abu Hudhayfah was a young slave when he accepted Islam and he was adopted by a man named Abu Hudhayfah. At that time adoption was banned so Abu Hudhayfah dedicated himself to work around it and made Salim his brother. This attitude was persevering yet biddable because they persevered and worked around the fact that adopting was banned yet they followed the rules like they were supposed to. What I learned about this was that there is always a way to reach your goal and follow the rules at the same time even when it's tough.

All three of these examples show perseverance and the fact that there always a way to do something in a halal and muslim manner. None of these people took the easy way out of the problem. For example Bishr stopped drinking which is something hard for an alcohol addict instead of continuously drinking day and night. Ikrimah was a leader of a war and ended up turning muslim instead of being a Qurayshi and Salima and Abu Hudhayfah worked around the adoption ban rather than leaving Salim as a slave.

Citations

- Story of Bishr Hafi - The Barefooted Saint ^{HD}
- <https://almadainstitute.org/blog/muslims-and-the-problem-of->
- <https://www.redmondmosque.org/story-of-ikrimah-ibn-abi-jahl/>
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