The Gardens of Paradise: Hakim bin Hizam (ra)

(Translated)

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The Messenger of Allah (saw) said, **«إن بمكة لأربعة نفر أربأ بهم عن الشرك، وأرغب لهم في الإسلام»** **"Indeed, in Makkah there are four men who are averse to Shirk and are favorably inclined towards Islam,"** and he mentioned among them Hakim ibn Hizam. And the Messenger of Allah (saw) said, **«يا حكيم، إن هذا المال خضرة حلوة، فمن أخذه بسخاوة نفس بورك له فيه، ومن أخذه بإشراف نفس لم يبارك له فيه، كالذي يأكل ولا يشبع، واليد العليا خير من اليد السفلى»** **"O Hakim, this wealth is sweet and verdant. So whoever takes it with a contented soul will be blessed in it, and whoever takes it with a covetous soul will not be blessed in it; he is like one who eats but is never satisfied. And the upper hand is better than the lower hand."**

Hakim ibn Hizam ibn Khuwaylid ibn Asad ibn Abd al-Uzza (ra) was a noble Companion. He was born inside the Kaaba because his mother entered it while pregnant with him, and she went into labor and gave birth to him there upon a leather mat. He (ra) was the nephew of Khadijah bint Khuwaylid (ra), the Mother of the Believers.

He was born in Makkah al-Mukarramah, witnessed the War of Fijar, and was a close friend of the Prophet Muhammad (saw) before and after the Prophethood; they traded together at the market of Hubashah during the pre-Islamic era (Jahilliya). It is said he lived approximately 120 years.

Hakim said: I was a merchant who would travel to Yemen and come to Ash-Sham, and I would earn great profits, so I would return to provide for the poor among my people. And I purchased Zayd ibn Harithah at the market of 'Ukaz for my aunt for six hundred dirhams, so when the Messenger of Allah (saw) married her, he gave him Zayd as a gift, and he (saw) set him free.

And when Mu'awiyah performed Hajj, he took my house in Makkah from me for forty thousand dinars. I was informed that Ibn Az-Zubayr said, "This old man doesn't know what he sold!" So I said, "By Allah, I only bought it for a wineskin." And no one would come to him asking to be provided with a mount for the journey except that he would provide it.

Mus'ab bin 'Uthman informed us: I heard them saying, "No one entered Dar an-Nadwah for consultation until they reached forty years of age, except Hakim bin Hizam, for he entered for consultation when he was fifteen years old." And he was part of the group who buried 'Uthman (ra) at night.

He (ra) embraced Islam very late, only after the Messenger of Allah (saw) entered Makkah as a conqueror, for Hakim had remained in polytheism for sixty years. Then he declared his Islam, and he would bite his fingers in regret over his delayed acceptance of Islam, wishing he had embraced it earlier so he could have preceded others to the good of Islam and the honor of jihad.

And indeed, the Prophet (saw) was keen to honor him and protect him for his intellect and his nobility, saying on the day of the Conquest of Makkah, **«مَنْ دَخَلَ دَارَ حَكِيمٍ فَهُوَ آمِنٌ»** **"Whoever enters the house of Hakim will be safe."**

He was known for his abundant wealth and generosity. He would load one hundred camels on the Day of 'Arafah and distribute them in charity, and he freed one hundred slaves in the path of Allah.

Nobility of Soul:

He (ra) refrained from accepting any gifts or money from the Diwan of the Khulafaa' after Islam, and he held the view that wealth is a sweet, green plant that should only be taken with good intention and without the soul coveting it.

And Hakim bin Hizam asked the Messenger of Allah (saw) about the good deeds he had performed during the pre-Islamic era, such as maintaining kinship ties, giving charity, and freeing slaves, and whether he would receive any reward for them. The Prophet (saw) said to him: **«أسلمتَ على ما سَلَفَ من خير»** **"You have embraced Islam upon the good that you had done."**

He fought in the way of Allah (swt) in the two Battles of Hunayn and Ta'if alongside the Messenger of Allah (saw). It has been narrated that the Messenger of Allah (saw) gave Hakim a portion of spoils on the Day of Hunayn, but he considered it insufficient, so he increased it for him. Hakim then said: "O Messenger of Allah, which of your gifts is better?" He replied: **«الأولى»** "The first one." And he said: **«يا حكيم إن هذا المال خضرة حلوة، فمن أخذه بسخاوة نفس وحسن أكلة، بورك له فيه، ومن أخذه باستشراف نفس وسوء أكلة، لم يبارك له فيه، وكان كالذي يأكل ولا يشبع»** "O Hakim, this wealth is verdant and sweet. So whoever takes it with a generous soul and good intention, it will be blessed for him. But whoever takes it with covetousness and ill-intent, it will not be blessed for him, and he will be like one who eats but is never satisfied." Hakim asked: "Even from you, O Messenger of Allah?" He replied: **«ومني»** **"Even from me."** Thereupon Hakim said: **"By the One who sent you with the truth, I will not accept anything from anyone after you."** And so he did not accept any stipend from the Diwan nor any gift until he died.

So Umar (ra) would say: "O Allah, I call upon You to witness that I call Hakim to his right, but he refuses." He died as he was, and he was among the wealthiest of the Quraysh.

The noble Companion Hakim ibn Hizam (ra) passed away in Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah in the year 54 AH, though it is also said it was in 60 AH, at an age approaching 120 years.