



"HAZRAT AWAIS QARNI (RTA)"

The Biography of Hazrat Awais Qarni (rta) -- A Zealous Companion of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) -- A Perfect Manifestation of the Love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad [pbuh]:

Long ago, before the postal service and telephones had been invented a young man was looking after his brother's camels in the woods of Karn (Saudi Arabia). As he stood alone, Hazrat Awais (rta) received a message about the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), who was, at the time, fighting in the battle of Uhad. Awais (rta) learned that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had lost a tooth in the battle. How he heard this news, he did not know. However, as soon as he knew about the tooth, he pulled one of his own out. Thinking that he might not have pulled out the right tooth, and because he loved the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) more than he loved himself, he pulled out everyone of his teeth to make sure that he had lost the same tooth as the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

Awais (rta) had only been to see the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) once, and on that occasion the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had been out. Awais (rta) not only looked after his brother's camels, but had to care for his mother and so had not been able to visit the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) again. However, Awais (rta) had left a message with the Holy Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) wife telling him that he had been to see him. When the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) returned he asked if someone had been to see him. He was given Awais' (rta) message. "Did anyone see his face?" he said. Ayesha (rta), his wife, Abu Bakr's (rta) daughter said, "I saw his back." The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) replied, "You will go to Heaven for that."

On his death bed, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) asked for his shirt to be taken to Awais (rta). Hazrat Umar (rta) and Hazrat Ali (rta) asked the people if there was anyone from Karn. One man came forward and told them how to find the place. They set out for Karn. When they arrived, they asked the people where Awais (rta) was. The villagers answered their questions, but were very surprised to see the two prominent Companions (rta) asking for an unknown camel shepherd.

When Hazrat Umar (rta) and Hazrat Ali (rta) reached the woods they saw Awais (rta) saying his prayers. As he finished his prayers, he said, "It is the first time anyone has ever seen me praying. The two men passed on to him Holy Prophet Muhammad's (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) message asking Awais (rta) to pray for the forgiveness of the followers of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). This he did. After a while he said, "Allah has forgiven and rewarded as many of Muhammad's (pbuh) followers as the hair of the sheep of the Rabia tribe."

They asked Awais (rta), "If you loved Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) so much, why didn't you visit him more often during his life time?" He did not answer, but asked if they took part in the battle of Uhad and if so which tooth had Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) lost there. Hazrat Umar (rta) was greatly impressed by this simple person and asked Awais (rta) to pray for him. Awais (rta) replied, "I pray for the forgiveness of everyone at the end of every prayer. If you keep your faith in Allah and Muhammad, His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), you will receive my prayers in your graves."

The two great men went away very happy to have met a man so greatly in love with their Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the word of Allah.