

Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu

One of the Greatest Rulers history has ever seen (23 of his narrated virtues)

1. Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu was amongst those Sahâbah Radiyallahu Anhum who took part in the battle of Hunain, regarding whom Almighty Allâh declared:

ثُمَّ أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ سَكِينَتَهُ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ وَعَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ (التوبة - ٢٦)

'Then Allâh sent down His special mercies upon His messenger and upon the believers!'

2. Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu was amongst those Sahâbah Radiyallahu Anhu who took part in the battle of Tabuk, regarding whom Almighty Allâh declared:

لَقَدْ تَابَ اللَّهُ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ وَالْمُهَاجِرِينَ وَالْأَنْصَارِ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُ فِي سَاعَةِ الْعُسْرَةِ

'Verily Almighty Allâh turned His attention of mercy upon His messenger, the Muhaajireen and the Ansaar, those who followed His messenger during the hour of difficulty (i.e. The Battle of Tabuk)'

3. Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu, besides being a close relative of Rasulullâh Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam, was also blessed with the honour of being amongst the scribes of revelation.¹

4. Qâdhi Iyâdh has quoted² that Muaafa ibn Imraan³ was once asked whether Muâwiyah ibn Sufyaan Radiyallahu Anhu was greater or Umar ibn Abdul Aziz. Hadhrat Muaaz became angry and retorted,

"A non-Sahâbi (i.e. Umar ibn Abdul Aziz or anyone else like him) can never be compared to a Sahâbi Radiyallahu Anhu (i.e. A non-Sahâbi can never reach the mantle and status of a Sahâbi).

Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu was a Sahâbi of Rasulullâh Radiyallahu Anhu, his sister was the wife of Rasulullâh, he was the scribe of Rasulullâh, and one who Rasulullâh trusted with revelation."

5. When Abdullâh ibn Mubarak (the world-renowned scholar of hadith and fiqh, famous for his bravery, generosity, and deep knowledge in literature, nahw, language, poetry, and all other Islâmic branches) was asked as to who was greater, Umar ibn Abdul Aziz or Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu, he issued such a reply which brought an end to the entire discussion. He said:

"The dust that settled on the nose of the horse of Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu, whilst he rode alongside Rasulullâh Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam, that dust alone is a thousand times superior to Umar ibn Abdul Aziz!"⁴

¹ وعن عبد الله بن عمرو بن العاص رضي الله عنهما قال: إن معاوية كان يكتب بين يدي رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم. رواه أبو عوانة والبخاري والأجزي من طريق الأعمش، عن عمرو بن مرة، عن عبد الله بن الحارث، عن أبي كثير الزبيدي، عن عبد الله بن. قال الهيثمي في المجمع: "رواه الطبراني، وإسناده حسن

وقال شيخ الإسلام ابن تيمية في منهاج السنة "استكتبه النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم لخبرته وأمانته

² وَقَالَ رَجُلٌ لِلْمُعَاوِيَةِ بْنِ عُمَرَ: أَيُّ عُمَرَ بْنِ عَبْدِ الْعَزِيزِ مِنْ مُعَاوِيَةَ؟! .. فَقَضِبَ وَقَالَ: لَا يُقَاسُ بِأَصْحَابِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَحَدٌ... مُعَاوِيَةُ صَاحِبُهُ وَصِهُرُهُ «٨» وَكَاتِبُهُ وَأَمِينُهُ عَلَى وَحْيِ اللَّهِ (الشفاء)

³ المعافي بن عمران: ابو مسعود الأزدي الموصللي أحد الاعلام، يروي عنه بشر الحافي وغيره. قال شيخه الثوري رحمه الله: هو ياقوتة العلماء. أخرج له البخاري وغيره توفي سنة خمس وثمانين ومئة

6. Abdur Rahman ibn Abi Umairah Radiyallahu Anhu has narrated that Rasulullâh Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam made the following dua for Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu:

اللهم اجعله هادياً مهدياً واهد به (الترمذي)⁵

"O Allâh, make him a guide, guide him, and guide others through him!"

Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu was blessed with the trait that his every judgement found success. One who will ponder slightly over his twenty-year rule, in which he pulled the entire Ummah out of years of infighting and united them under one flag, in which he sorted out the differences between all the disputing parties and brought stability back for the Ummah, in which he reopened the doors of Jihâd against the enemies of Islâm, and in which he extinguished much of the *fitnah* (evil) that the Khawârij had ignited. If one were to ponder over these feats, achieved in such a short span, one shall surely admit that Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu was indeed one of the greatest rulers the world had ever seen. If one were to ask as to where did Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu learn such remarkable governing principles, the answer would be nothing else but that he had been blessed with the duas of Rasulullâh Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam.

The results of this most blessed dua were visible throughout the life of Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu, and through the blessings of this dua he was able to establish such an empire, that made a senior member of the Tâbi'een, Al-A'mash, exclaim,

*'If you had seen Muâwiyah, you would have thought him to be Al-Mahdi!'*⁶

7. Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam made the following dua for his knowledge:

"اللَّهُمَّ عَلِّمْ معاوية الكتاب والحساب ووقه العذاب (صحيح ابن حبان)

'O Allah, endow Muawiyah with special knowledge of the Quraan and save him from afflictions.'

The result if this dua was that despite Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu being amongst those Sahâbah Radiyallahu Anhum who would only narrate from Rasulullâh Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam, after great thought and ensuring that he had heard and understood correctly, then too he was blessed with the honour of having, according to what has been counted, twenty three Sahâbah Radiyallahu Anhum narrating from him, amongst whom were: Abu Zar Ghifari, Abdullâh ibn Zubeir, Abdullâh ibn Abbaas, Abdullâh ibn Umar, Abdullâh ibn Amr ibn al-Aas, Nu'maan ibn Bashir, Wa'il ibn Hujar, Abu Darda, and Hadhrat Abu Saee'd Al-Khudri. Radiyallahu Anhum

Hafiz Ibn Hajar Al-Haithami has written, after making mention of the great luminaries from the Sahâbah Radiyallahu Anhum and Tâbi'een that had narrated from Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu:

⁵ ونقل أبو علي الغساني الجبائي أن عبد الله بن المبارك المذكور سئل: أيهما أفضل: معاوية بن أبي سفيان أم عمر بن عبد العزيز فقال: والله إن الغبار الذي دخل في أنف معاوية مع رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم أفضل من عمر بألف مرة (وفيات الاعيان)

⁶ عن عبد الرحمن بن أبي عميرة وكان من أصحاب رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم أنه قال لمعاوية اللهم اجعله هادياً مهدياً واهد به قال أبو عيسى هذا حديث حسن غريب

⁷ وعن الأعمش قال: لو رأيتم معاوية لقائتم: هذا المهدي. رواه الطبراني مرسلاً وفيه يحيى الحماني وهو ضعيف. (مجمع الزوائد)

فتأمل هؤلاء الأئمة أئمة الإسلام الذين رَووا عنه؛

تَعْلَمُ أَنَّهُ كَانَ مُجْتَهِدًا أَيَّ مُجْتَهِدٍ، وَفَقِيهًا أَيَّ فَقِيهٍ. (تطهير الجنان)

'If you were to ponder over which giants of Islām narrated from Hadhrat Mu'awiyah, you shall realise what a great jurist and Mujtahid he was!'

8. The fact that Hadhrat Mu'awiyahؓ occupied the position of governor over Shâm during the reign of Hadhrat Umar Radiyallahu Anhu is itself sufficient testimony of his high rank.

In praise of Hadhrat Mu'awiyah Radiyallahu Anhu, Hadhrat Umar Radiyallahu Anhu said:

تَذْكُرُونَ كِسْرَى وَقَيْصَرَ وَذَهَاءَهُمَا؛ وَعِنْدَكُمْ مَعَاوِيَةُ! (البلاذري بسند صحيح)

"You speak regarding the wit and intelligence of Kisrah and Caesar, whereas you have Mu'awiyah amongst you!"

9. In praise of Hadhrat Mu'awiyah Radiyallahu Anhu, Hadhrat Abdullâh ibn Abbaas Radiyallahu Anhu, who was known as the ocean of knowledge, said:

لَيْسَ أَحَدٌ مِنَّا أَعْلَمُ مِنْ مَعَاوِيَةَ (رواه الشافعي في الأم بسند جيد)

'None of us have more knowledge than Mu'awiyah!'

10. Through his noble deeds Hadhrat Muawiyah Radiyallahu Anhum was amongst those fortunate ones who received assurance of Paradise from the blessed lips of Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam.

Rasulullâh Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam praised the first Muslim army that shall wage jihâd by sea with the following words,

أَوَّلُ جَيْشٍ مِنْ أُمَّتِي يَغْزُونَ الْبَحْرَ قَدْ أَوْجَبُوا (البخاري)

'The first army of my Ummah that shall ride the seas has made Jannah compulsory⁷ for themselves'

Hadhrat Mu'awiyah Radiyallahu Anhu was blessed with the good-fortune of being the Amîr of this army.⁸ This occurred during the rule of Hadhrat Uthmaan Radiyallahu Anhu.

11. Tabrani has quoted an amazing experience of the Sahâbi, Hadhrat Auf ibn Malik Radiyallahu Anhu. He narrates that while Hadhrat Auf Radiyallahu Anhu was taking siesta, he awoke suddenly to find a lion approaching. He reached out for his sword, but the talking of the lion (by way of a miracle) caused him to stop in his tracks. The lion said, 'Do not panic! I have been sent with a message! Allâh has sent me to order you to inform Mu'awiyah that he is from the men of Jannah!' Hadhrat Auf Radiyallahu Anhu asked, 'Which Mu'awiyah?' The lion replied, 'Mu'awiyah ibn Abi Sufyaan!' (al-Mu'jam al-Kabir)

Noble traits:

⁷ قال ابن حجر وغيره: معنى أوجبوا: أي فعلوا فعلاً وجبت لهم به الجنة

⁸ وقال القرطبي: وكان أول من غزا يعني البحر معاوية في زمن عثمان بن عفان. (الشرعية للآجري) وعلى ذلك المؤرخون

12. In praise of Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu, Hadhrat Abu Dardah Radiyallahu Anhu said:

ما رأيتُ أشبهَ صلاةَ رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم من أميركم هذا،
يعني معاوية (سير اعلام النبلاء)

'I have not seen one whose Salaah resembles the Salaah of Rasulullâh Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam more than your Amîr, i.e. Hadhrat Muâwiyah!

13. Hadhrat Abdullâh ibn Umar Radiyallahu Anhu praised the generosity of Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu, saying that he had never seen a man more generous than him. When questioned as to whether he was even more generous than Hadhrat Umar Radiyallahu Anhu himself, Ibn Umar Radiyallahu Anhu replied that Hadhrat Umar Radiyallahu Anhu was greater, but Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu was more generous.⁹

14. Abu Ishaq As-Subei'ie said, 'After Muâwiyah, we found none that could match him!' ¹⁰ He would also say, 'If you had seen the era of Muâwiyah, you would have thought him to be the 'Promised Mahdi'!¹¹

15. Mujahid would say, 'Had you seen Muâwiyah, you would have said due to his great virtue that he is indeed "Al- Mahdi"!' ¹² A similar statement has been attributed to Qatadah.¹³

Jihad in his era:

16. In the 19 years of his rule the Islamic banner was hoisted at 57 000 new areas, amongst which were Kabul, Afghanistan, Russia, Cyprus, Rhodes (Greece), Cicily, Sudan, etc, taking the span that the Islamic caliphate covered to 65 000 sq km.

Love for Sayyiduna Muawiyah Radiyallahu Anhu is a demand of loving those whom Almighty Allah and his Messenger Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam love.

17. Once Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam came home and found that Hadrat Muawiyah Radiyallahu Anhu was visiting his sister, Hadrat Umme Habiba Radiyallahu Anha (the noble wife of Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam). Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam asked her if he loves him. She replied that he is her brother and thus she indeed loves him. Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam then said, 'Almighty Allah and his messenger love him as well! (Tabrani)¹⁴

⁹ وثبت من طرق عن عبد الله بن عمر رضي الله عنهما أنه قال: ما رأيت أحدا أسود من معاوية، قال الراوي: ولا عمر؟ قال: كان عمر خيرا منه، وكان معاوية أسود منه. قال الإمام أحمد: "معنى أسود:

أي أسخى، وقال: السيد: الحليم، والسيد: المعطي، أعطى معاوية أهل المدينة عطايا ما أعطها خليفة قد كان قبله"

¹⁰ قال أبو إسحاق السبيعي الكوفي: كان معاوية، وما رأينا بعده مثله. (منهاج السنة بسند صحيح)

¹¹ وقال حماد بن أسامة: حدثني الثقة عن أبي إسحاق أنه ذكر معاوية فقال: لو أدركتموه -أو: أدركتم زمانه- كان المهدي. رواه الخلال في السنة، وسنده صحيح إلى حماد، وهو مسلسل بالكوفيين

¹² عن مجاهد قال: لو رأيتم معاوية لقنتم هذا المهدي من فضله. رواه الخلال في السنة وسنده صحيح

¹³ عن قتادة، قال: لو أصبحتم في مثل عمل معاوية لقال أكثركم: هذا المهدي. رواه أبو بكر الأثرم -ومن طريقه الخلال في السنة و سنده جيد

¹⁴ وَعَنْ أَبِي مُوسَى قَالَ: «دَخَلَ النَّبِيُّ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - عَلَى أُمِّ حَبِيبَةَ وَرَأْسُ مُعَاوِيَةَ فِي حِجْرِهَا وَهِيَ تَقْبَلُهُ، فَقَالَ لَهَا: " أَتَحِبُّنِي؟ ". فَقَالَتْ: وَمَا لِي لَا أَحِبُّ أَخِي! فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ -: " فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ يُحِبَّانِي ». قال الهيثمي : رَوَاهُ الطَّبْرَانِيُّ، وَفِيهِ مَنْ لَمْ أَعْرِفْهُمْ

18. Urwah ibn Zubeir narrates that he never heard Miswar ibn Makhramah Radiyallahu Anhu making mention of Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu, except that he would make dua for him.¹⁵

19. Hadhrat Ayesha Radiyallahu Anha was so happy with the rule of Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu, and the peace and stability he had established, that she would at times say:

إني لأتمنى أن يزيد الله عز وجل معاوية من عمري في عمره.

(روى أبو عروبة الحراني في الطبقات بسند صحيح)

'At times I even wish that Almighty Allâh take from my lifespan and increase through it the lifespan of Muâwiyah.'

20. The great Sahâbi, who was placed in a fire but did not burn, Hadhrat Abu Muslim Khawlâni Radiyallahu Anhu once said to Hadhrat Muâwiyah Radiyallahu Anhu, 'By Allâh, from the time we began loving you, we have never harboured any anger towards you! From the time we began obeying you, we have never disobeyed you! From the time we united under you, we have never separated from you! From the time we pledged allegiance to you, we have never broken that allegiance! Our swords are on our necks. If you order, we shall obey! If you call, we shall immediately present ourselves! If you proceed ahead, we shall trail behind! If we proceed ahead, we shall always await your arrival!¹⁶

21. Hadhrat Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas Radhiyallahu Anhu said regarding Hadhrat Muawiyah Radhiyallahu Anhu:

ما رأيت أحداً بعد عثمان أفضى بحق من صاحب هذا الباب" يعني معاوية (البداية عن ليث بن سعد بسند وثيق¹⁷)

After Uthman I have not seen a man who fulfils what he owes more than the man of this door, i.e. Muawiyah

22. Abdullah Ibn Abbas Radhiyallahu Anhu said regarding Hadhrat Muawiyah Radhiyallahu Anhu:

مَا رَأَيْتُ رَجُلًا أَخْلَقَ لِلْمُلْكِ مِنْ مُعَاوِيَةَ (البداية¹⁸ عن عبد الرزاق الصنعاني)

I have not seen a man more fit for rule than Muawiyah.

23. The great scholar of Hadith, Imam Zuhri said regarding Hadhrat Muawiyah Radhiyallahu Anhu:

¹⁵ قال عروة: فلم أسمع المسنور ذكر معاوية إلا صلى عليه

¹⁶ وقال أبو مسلم الخولاني لمعاوية: فلا والله ما أبغضناك منذ أحببناك، ولا عصيناك بعدما أطعناك، ولا فارقناك بعدما جامعناك، ولا نكثنا بيعتنا منذ بايعناك، سؤفنا على عواتقنا، إن أمرتنا أطعناك، وإن دعوتنا أجبتناك، وإن سبقتنا أذكرتكنا، وإن سبقتنا نظرتناك. رواه أحمد في مسائل ابنه صالح وفي الزهد، ومن طريقه ابن عساكر وابن العديم بسند شامي جيد.

¹⁷ في حاشية العواصم - نقل الحافظ ابن كثير في: البداية والنهاية: ١٣٣: ٨ عن الليث بن سعد "وهو إمام مصر وعالمها ورئيسها المتوفى سنة ١٧٥" قال: حدثنا بكير، "وهو ابن عبد الله الأشج المدني المصري المتوفى سنة ١٢٧، قال عنه الإمام النسائي: ثقة ثبت" عن بسر بن سعيد المدني "المتوفى سنة ١٠٠ قال عنه ابن معين: ثقة. وقال عنه الليث بن سعد: كان من العباد المنقطعين، أهل الزهد في الدنيا والورع" أن سعد بن أبي وقاص "أحد العشرة المبشرين بالجنة" قال: "ما رأيت أحداً بعد عثمان أفضى بحق من صاحب هذا الباب" يعني معاوية

¹⁸ في حاشية العواصم - وروى ابن كثير أيضاً: ١٣٥: ٨ عن عبد الرزاق بن همام الصنعاني أحد الأئمة الأعلام الحفاظ "وكان ينسب إلى التشيع"، عن معمر بن راشد أبي عروة البصري ثم اليماني وكان أحد الأعلام، عن همام بن منبه الصنعاني وكان ثقة قال: سمعت ابن عباس يقول: "ما رأيت رجلاً أخلق بالملك من معاوية"

عَمِلَ مُعَاوِيَةُ بِسِيرَةِ عُمَرَ بْنِ الْخَطَّابِ سِنِينَ لَا يَخْرُجُ مِنْهَا شَيْئًا» (السنة للخلال)

Muawiyah threaded the path of Umar ibn Khattab for many years, and he did not divert from it in the least bit

May Almighty Allah bless us with true love for every Sahabi Radiyallahu Anhu, make us from those who defend their honour, and resurrect us in their company. Amin.