

Those who enter Fitna diminish their status
Explained by Shaykh Abdur Razzaq al-Badr

Summary translation

Abdullah ibn Awn said, 'Muslim ibn Yasār was viewed in the eyes of the people, to be above Hasan al-Basri. But when the Fitna occurred, Muslim had a slight participation in it, while Hasan avoided it completely. Thus, Muslims fell in the eyes of the people while Hasan was elevated. (Collected by ibn Abi Shayba in al-Musanif 128/11)

Abdullah ibn Awn said, Muslim ibn Yasār was from those who entered into the Fitna of ibn al-Ash'ath, but when the Fitna ended he would praise Allah by saying, 'O Abu Qilabah, indeed I, along with you, praise Allah. Indeed, I did not shoot an arrow, throw a spear, or strike a sword.'

The meaning of his speech was, I walked with them, but I did not shoot an arrow, or strike anyone with a sword. He would say this statement and praise Allah.

Abu Qilabah said to him, **How about those who saw you standing among the ranks?!** You are a scholar known amongst the people, your status is known, so how about the people who saw you standing in the ranks? They will say, this is Muslim ibn Yasār, by Allah he would not take this position except that it was the truth! Your standing in the ranks, your presence alone, will increase the Fitna.

So, people will enter this Fitna because they saw you standing with the people. As a result, some of them will fight until they are killed. So, what will you do about them?

Thus, Muslim ibn Yasār began to cry when he was alerted to this matter.

Abu Qilabah said, he cried and cried to the point that I wished the earth would have swallowed me and I had not said anything to him.

Meaning, he was himself, affected by what Muslim ibn Yasār fell into. (Collected by ibn S'ad in 'at-Tabiqat 187/7)

Summary translation by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee