

Why the pagans of Quraysh called Prophet Muhammad ‘ibn Abi Kabsha’?

**Example of pagans calling the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم ‘ibn Abi Kabsha’**

Khalid ibn Saeed said:

أسلمت قبل علي لكن كنت أفزق أبا أحيحة (يعني والده سعيد بن العاص) وكان لا يفرق أبا طالب

I embraced Islam before Ali but I was afraid of Abu Uhayha (meaning his father Saeed ibn Al As) while he (Ali) was not afraid of Abu Talib<sup>1</sup>.

When Khalid’s father Saeed became sick he (Saeed) said:

لئن رفعني الله من مرضي لا يعبد إله بن أبي كبشة ببطن مكة

“If Allah removes from me this sickness, the God of **the son Abi Kabsha** will not be worshipped in the core of Mecca.” His son Khalid said:

اللهم لا ترفعه

O Allah, do not remove it.

**Who was ‘Abu Kabsha’?**

Allah the Exalted said:

وَأَنَّهُ هُوَ رَبُّ الشَّعْرَى ﴿٤٩﴾

And that He (Allah) is the Lord of Sirius (Soorah An-Najm 53:49)

The first person to worship Sirius was a man from the nobles of Banū Khuza’ah named Abu Kabsha. He started worshipping Sirius because it is the brightest star in the sky. By doing so **he opposed the Quraysh in the worship of their idols**. Consequently his tribe; Banū Khuza’ah began to worship Sirius. It is said that Abu Kabsha is a maternal grandfather of the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم. And it was the habit of the Arabs when they wanted to insult someone they would ascribe him to an **obscure ancestor from his maternal side**. Thus when the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم appeared with a religion that opposed the Quraysh they called him the son of Abu Kabsha. Because he opposed them by calling to the worship of Allah alone without partners instead of worshipping their idols, just as Abu Kabsha had opposed the Quraysh by worshipping Sirius instead of their idols<sup>2</sup>.

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee

<sup>1</sup> الإصابة في تمييز الصحابة

<sup>2</sup> Tafsir Al-Baghawi and Al-Qurtubi