



'Umar bin Khattab went to meet the reinforcement that was coming from Yemen. Armies were coming out from Yemen, *fe Sabeelillah*, to go and fight and they would pass through Madinah on their way to Iraq and ash-Shaam. So 'Umar went to greet them and he said, "Is 'Uwais bin Aamar among you?" So they were directing him and he was getting closer until he reached to this man and he asked him "Are you 'Uwais bin Aamar?" He said, "Yes I am." "Are you from Muraad and then from Karn?" So the clan is Muraad and the tribe is Karn. He said "Yes." Umar asked, "Where you suffering from leprosy, and then Allah healed you except for the size of a coin?" "Yes." "Is your mother alive?" He said, "Yes." Umar bin Khattab said: "I heard Rasoolullah, *sallallahu 'alayhe*

wassallam, say: **'Uwais bin Aamar is going to come to you with reinforcements coming from Yemen and he is from Muraad and then from Karn. And he used to suffer from leprosy and then Allah healed him except for the size of a coin. And he is very kind towards his mother. If you ever meet him, ask him to make du'a that Allah forgives you.**" This is a man that is not a Sahabi, even though he lived in the time of Rasoolullah, but he could not meet Rasulullah because he had to stay with his mother. And to be a Sahabi, you have to see Rasoolullah, may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him, you can't just be a contemporary of Rasoolullah, you have to see Rasoolullah. So he lost the opportunity of being a Sahabi. Why? Because

of his mother. He wanted to stay with his mother. He lost the opportunity of fighting *fe Sabeelillah* because he stayed behind with his mother. And this is a Hukm only with fighting that is offensive, not the defensive one obviously. So it is quite strange to hear such a statement: Rasoolullah, *sallallahu 'alayhe wassallam*, asking the Sahaba to ask somebody that is not a Sahabi to make *du'a* for them; to ask Allah to forgive them. This narration is in Sahih Muslim.

So 'Umar bin Khattab, the *Khalifah*, the *Ameer al-Mu'mineen*, is telling Uwais bin Aamar "*Istaghfirlee*." Ask Allah to forgive me. *Subhan'Allah*. 'Umar bin Khattab is asking 'Uwais bin Aamar to make *du'a* for him that Allah forgives him. 'Uwais bin Aamar is one of the *Awliya'* of Allah '*Azza wa Jall*. 'Uwais bin Aamar makes *Istaghfar* for 'Umar bin Khattab. And 'Umar *radiyallahu 'anhu* is the *Khalifah*. 'Umar bin Khattab said "So where do you want to go?" 'Uwais said "I want to go to Al-Kufaa." Umar said "Let me write a letter to the governor of Kufaa to take good care of you." The *Khalifah*, he loves 'Uwais, he wants to take good care of him. 'Uwais said, "Please don't. Because I want to live in obscurity among the laymen. I don't want to be known. I don't want any special treatment. I want to be an unknown person. *Fe Sabeelillah*. And to live with the laymen, with the common people." This is an example of somebody who is '*Abd Taqeefafee*. Somebody who has *Taqwa* and is hidden. Nobody knows him. Rasoolullah *sallallahu 'alayhe wassallam* says "*Innallaaha yuhibbul 'abd taqi al kafi*." **Allah knows the one who is not known but has Taqwa.**"

So he goes to Al-Kufaa. And he settles there. Nobody knows about him for a year. 'Umar bin Khattab meets with one of the noblemen from the tribe of 'Uwais al Karnee who are with him in Iraq and Kufaa. Umar meets him in Madinah the following year. And nobody knows this special status of 'Uwais. So 'Umar who is now the *Khalifah* is asking about 'Uwais al-Karnee. How is he doing? So this man said, "*Faraqtuhu Rastil Bayt Khaleelul Afaaf*." I left him in a state of poverty and his house is without furniture. Why are you asking about this man? He is just a poor man and he has no furniture in his house. *AllahuAkbar!* He wants to live in obscurity. If he had that letter from *Ameer al-Mu'mineen*, he would be living a very comfortable life, and *Halaal*. But he was happy with what Allah

'*Azza wa Jall* has destined for him. He was happy. He was happy with what Allah gave him. Content. So now 'Umar bin Khattab tells the man "If you meet him, tell him to make *du'a* for you. Because this is what Rasoolullah *sallallahu 'alayhe wassallam* said about him." So the man goes back to 'Uwais and he says "Uwais, *Istaghfirlee!* Ask Allah to forgive me!" 'Uwais said, "You ask Allah for forgiveness. You just came back from traveling and the *du'a* of the traveler is accepted." He said, "No, no, I want you to make *Istaghfaar* for me. 'Uwais thought about it and then he said, "Did you meet 'Umar?" He said, "Yes I did." 'Uwais made *Istaghfaar* for him. And the news spread.

Suddenly they tried looking for 'Uwais al-Karnee; he was nowhere to be found. He disappeared. In order to go and live in obscurity somewhere else. *AllahuAkbar!* Running away from fame. From recognition. He didn't want people to know his *Taqwa*. He didn't want people to know his status. He just disappeared. To live for the sake of Allah '*Azza wa Jall*. To fight *fe Sabeelillah*. And to do it for Allah. And Allah '*Azza wa Jall* to recognize what I've done. I don't want recognition from anyone. We ask Allah '*Azza wa Jall* to give us *Ikhlāas* in everything that we do and everything that we say.¹



1 "The Life and Times of 'Umar ibn al-Khattab."