



The Fortunate Ya'foor

The Holy Prophet ﷺ is a Mercy for the entire creation of Allah almighty. There are many accounts of miraculous events in which the Holy Prophet ﷺ would speak to animals. Animals and inanimate objects, like stones, would bare witness to his Prophethood and share their worries with him.

One such fortunate animal was a donkey the Holy Prophet ﷺ acquired in booty after one of the battles. The life of this blessed donkey had taken the best turn ever. The Holy Prophet ﷺ asked the donkey its name, the donkey replied Yazid ibn Shihab. The donkey went on to explain, "From my ancestors 60 donkeys have served the Prophets. I am the only one left from the lineage of my great grandfather. I belonged to a Jewish man. I used to throw him off deliberately as he used to starve me and beat me on my back." After listening to him the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, "You are Ya'foor."

From this day forth the donkey became subservient to the Holy Prophet ﷺ. When Holy Prophet ﷺ wanted someone to come to him, he would send Ya'foor. The donkey would knock the door and when the man came out, Ya'foor, would point towards the direction of Holy Prophet ﷺ. In this way Ya'foor served the Holy Prophet ﷺ fully well.

When the Holy Prophet ﷺ departed from this life, the donkey went to the farm of Abu Haytham and threw itself in the well. Sayiduna Ya'foor could not bear to be separated from the Holy Prophet ﷺ. The miraculous account of Ya'foor shows how compassionate the Holy Prophet ﷺ was towards animals and how animals loved, respected and served the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

References

Al-Bidaya wal-Nihaya, Ibn Kathir, Chapter Six, Entry Title: "Conversation of the Donkey."