

The Characteristics of the Early Muslims

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Those who embraced Islam in its early years were seekers of the truth and by nature, upright and truthful. Living in Mecca at that time were a group of people called "Ahnaf". To them idol worship was repugnant. They tried their best to follow the way of their great ancestor, Prophet Abraham, but apart from their belief that God is One, there was little else left of the religion of Abraham to guide them and it was in this group of people that Sa'id, Zayd's son belonged.

Othman, Maz'un's son had abstained from alcohol long before the advent of Islam. After embracing Islam he wished to live the life of a recluse, however, Prophet Muhammad, (sa) persuaded him otherwise. Another characteristic of the early Muslims was that none of them were from the Koraysh hierarchy which prompted the scorn of the unbelievers. Allah quotes their mockery in the Koran when they said to the believers:

"Are those whom Allah favors amongst us?" (Koran Chapter 6 verse 53){mosimage=makka-madina/DSC_0110.jpg}{mosimage=makka-madina/DSC_0111.jpg}{mosimage=makka-madina/DSC_0130.jpg}

Upon reflection, one remembers that the followers of previous prophets were, for the most part, those considered by some to be on the lower and unimportant edge of society. The Holy Koran reminds how the council said to Prophet Noah:

" We see your followers are none but the lowliest amongst us, and their opinion is not to be considered. We do not see you superior to us, rather, we consider you liars." (Koran Chapter 11 verse 27)

The early followers of Prophet Jesus were also of the same upright nature and similar in status and his leading disciple James, was known as "James the Just";