

**Freestyle Note:** Kia ora whanau - use this space to write a message & let your loved one know why you thought they'd be interested in this story.

## Abu Hurairah & His Captive

(Originally narrated in Saheeh Al-Bukhari, edited & paraphrased here for clarity & ease of understanding, in shaa Allah)

Source: <https://storiesformuslimkids.wordpress.com/2018/12/13/abu-hurairah-his-captive/>

Abu Hurairah (a companion of Prophet Muhammad, [pbuh\*]) told us this astonishing story:

"Prophet Muhammad [pbuh] had put me in charge of guarding the Zakat al fitr, the compulsory charity collected in the month of Ramadan. Alhamdulillah\*.

However, one day, somebody came quietly and was beginning to take away some food-stuff from the Zakah collection when I suddenly caught him! Indeed, I was so shocked as well. Who would want to steal from the Zakah funds? I immediately wanted to arrest him, 'You are stealing from our Zakah collection, mister! I must take you to the Prophet of God.' He replied quickly with a sad face, 'Please don't! I am a needy man with a large family, and so I have a pressing need. I am desperate. Please let me go.' I thought about it for a while. I certainly pitied him so I let him go.

When I saw the Prophet the next morning, he asked me, 'O Abu Hurairah! What did your captive do last night?'

I was baffled. How did the Prophet know? (Well, obviously, the Prophet is not a psychic. Psychics are people who falsely report to others about the future and this is not allowed in Islam. No one knows the future except Allah.) He had somehow been told by Allah about what had happened to me.

I said, 'O Prophet of Allah\*! He complained of a pressing need and a big family. I felt pity for him and so I let him go.'

The Prophet [pbuh] said, 'He told you a lie, Abu Hurairah. He will return.' When I heard that, I was sure that he would. As Prophet always speaks the truth.

And so I was extra alert the next night and waited intently for the robber. I was determined to arrest him this time. True enough! He sneaked up again and began to steal food-stuff or things from the charity, thinking that nobody is looking.

I caught him red-handed and said, 'I must take you to the Prophet now.' He replied, scared & weeping, 'Please let me go. Please let me go. I am a needy man. I have to bear the expenses of a big family. I will not come back. I promise!'

I couldn't help it. He looked so beggarly and sad. So I took pity on him and let him go.

I went at dawn to see the Prophet who immediately asked me, 'O Abu Hurairah! What did your captive do last night?'

I replied, 'O Prophet of God! He again complained of a pressing need and the burden of a big family. I took pity on him and so I let him go.'

The Prophet responded, 'He told you a lie, Abu Hurairah. He will return.'

And so I was super extra alert the next night and waited intently for the robber again. I was even more determined to arrest him this time. SubhanAllah\*. I would not give in.

True enough! He sneaked up again, for the 3rd time and

began to steal from the charity, thinking that nobody is looking. I arrested him and said, 'I must take you to the Prophet of God now, and this is the last of three times, mister. You promised that you would not come again but you did! I will not release you no matter what you say!'

He replied, 'Please let me go. Please let me go. If you do, I shall teach you some words with which God may benefit you.' I was now intrigued. I am a keen student of knowledge and am indeed very curious. So I asked him, 'What are those words?'

He replied, 'Before you go to bed, recite Al-Kursi verse (Ayatul Kursi in the Quran; 2:255). There will be a guardian appointed for you from God, and no devil will be able to approach you till the morning.'

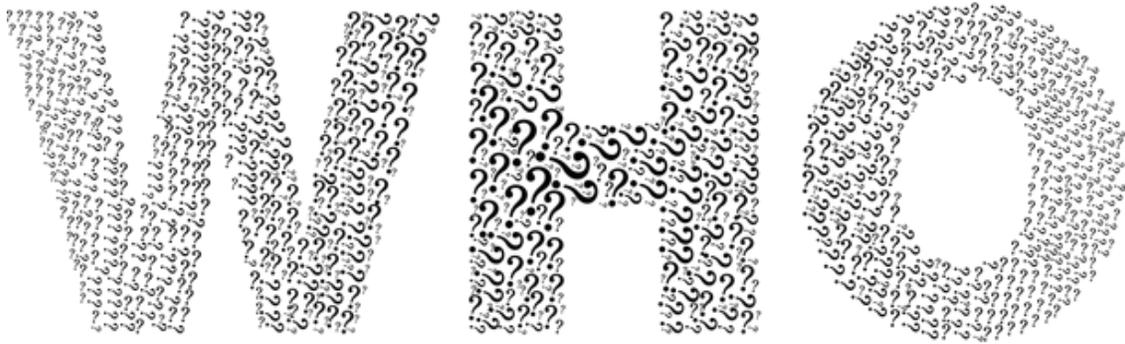
So I released him. The next morning the Prophet (pbuh) once again asked me, 'O Abu Hurairah! What did your captive do last night?'

I told the Prophet (pbuh) about my ordeal, the entire encounter. 'The robber promised to teach me some words from Allah (swt\*) which he claimed will benefit me, O Prophet. So I let him go.'

The Prophet (pbuh) asked, 'What are those words that he taught you, Abu Hurairah?'

I answered, 'He told me: Before you go to sleep at night, recite Al-Kursi verse from the beginning to the end and that by reciting it, there will be a guardian appointed over you from God who will protect you during the night, and no devil will be able to come near you until morning.'

The Prophet said, 'Verily, he has told you the truth, Abu Hurairah, although he usually is a liar. This time, however, he has told you the truth.'



The Prophet (pbuh) then added, "O Abu Hurairah! Do you know with whom you were speaking for the last three nights?'

I replied, 'No.'

The prophet replied, 'That was a shaytan (devil).''

**\* Brief meaning:**

(s.a.w.) = Sal Allaahu alayhi wa sallam = may peace and blessings of God be upon him

**Allah** = God, The one Almighty God

Allah (s.w.t.) - When writing the name of God (Allah), Muslims often follow it with the abbreviation "SWT." These letters stand for the Arabic words "Sub-haanahu Wa Ta'ala," or "Glory to Him, the Exalted." Muslims use these or similar words to glorify God when mentioning His name

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ = Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) = Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) = Prophet Muhammad SalAllaahu 'alayhi wa

**Sallaam** = Prayer of God be upon him (Prophet Muhammad) and peace

**SubhanAllah** = How perfect God is! Glory be to God!

**Alhamdulillah** = All praises and thanks to Allah

**Sahaba** or As-**Sahaba** (Arabic: الصحابة), meaning the companions, refers to the companions, friends and family of the Islamic prophet, Muhammad.