

Master Bilal

Who was Bilal and what happened to him?

Bilal Ibn Rabah al-Habashi was a loyal Sahabah (companion) of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and one of the first converts of Islam. Bilal was also the first muezzin (caller to prayer). Bilal too is the first person of known African ancestry to become Muslim.



He was the most trusted, righteous, and influential companions, chosen by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to be the first mu'ezzin (reciter of the adhan, call to prayer) to use his own voice to call people to prayer. Bilal was born in Mecca, Western Arabia. His mother was abducted as a child and sold as a slave.

Bilal became the first Mu'azzin of Islam, his Adhan (call to prayer) echoing through the streets of Medina, inviting the faithful to come together in worship. His voice, once suppressed by chains and torture, now became a beacon of unity and spirituality.

NOTE: Before he accepted Islam, he heard from a priest that there was a prophet coming with a religion where everyone is equal like the teeth of a comb.

When he accepted Islam and some people expressed their contempt due to his black skin, the following verses of Quran were sent down to chastise them...

"O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise each other). Verily the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)." (Surah 49: the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)." (Surah 49:13)

He was an Ethiopian slave. Bilal's owner was Umayyah ibn Khalaf, an enemy of Islam. When Bilal learned about Muhammad and became Muslim, his master started punishing him. When Muhammad heard about this, Muhammad sent Abu Bakr to negotiate for the emancipation of Bilal, who manumitted him after either purchasing him or exchanging him for a non-Muslim slave. Bilal -who was now free- joined Muhammad's companions.