

## **Translation of Zarqawi audiotape**

May 28, 2005

[Please note: Images may have been removed from this document. Page numbers have been added.]

Praise be to God, Who Brings glory to Islam with His support, and humiliation to polytheism with His might; Who controls matters with His command, and traps the infidels with His shrewdness; the One Who, with His justice, gives varying fortunes to nations, and with His grace, preserves the outcome for the pious. Prayers and peace be upon the one who raised the beacon of Islam with his sword.

From a soldier standing in the line of fire, from Abu-Mus'ab al-Zarqawi to his gracious commander Abu-Abdallah, Usama Bin Ladin, may God bestow his graces and abundant kindness on him. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

I praise Almighty God and testify that there is no God but Allah. If you have a great longing to meet me, then I have a greater longing for seeing you. May God bring us together and may we see each other soon. God knows, O our shaykh, that we have not chosen to be far from you. If birds can carry us, then we will come to you. We beseech Almighty God to reunite us and make us taste the sweetness of meeting you.

O dear commander, we are confident that you yearn to know our news and get reassured about our situation. This is because you follow the tradition of our imams and commanders from the righteous ancestors. When Umar [Bin-al-Khattab] sent a mission, he used to go to the outskirts of Medina to seek the news of the army. We assert to you that we are proceeding along the path of jihad and that we adhere to our pledge. We will sacrifice all that which is dear and precious until God grants victory to his religion and elevates his word or we get killed. We have made our decision, chosen to raise the banner of jihad, and unsheathed our sharp swords. We have raised the banner of struggle and carried our swords and spears. We are heading toward pride and strength because we believe that the neighs of horses and saber rattling are the key and road to victory and triumph.

I believe you have heard the report that was circulated by media outlets, and which left minds boggled, to the effect that I was seriously wounded and consequently treated in Al-Ramadi Hospital. I would like to assure you and assure Muslims all over the world that all these reports are sheer rumors, which are baseless. My wounds are light, as the brothers in the media section have said. Praise be to God, I am now enjoying God's abundant blessings among my brothers and people in the land of Al-Rafidayn [Iraq] and I am taking part, with them, in fighting the Crusaders and battling the enemies of religion.

Our beloved commander, as my pen writes you these words, your soldiers are, by the grace of God, writing remarkable chapters about sacrifice and the defense of religion and the honor of Muslims in the city of Al-Qa'im, may God champion Islam there. Al-Qa'im is the battleground and the arena of men; the legend of the Marines collapsed in it. It is the city where the mask of lies fell, and where the knights of Islam and the youth of Muhammad, may God's prayers and blessings be upon him, proved that they are valiant lions in battle, be they from the Muhajirin [immigrants -- reference to Arab fighters] or the Al-Ansar [the supporters -- reference to Iraqi fighters]. The goals of their crusade have vanished at the gates of Al-Qa'im. Ten days into the fierce and incessant battles, God granted your sons the strength to force back the Crusader's aggression at the city's gates, their armies retreated in disgrace, licking their wounds.

This battle was one of the great battles in the history of Islam and Muslims, for God cursed them with defeat and flight from battle after their campaign's leader, the general called the wine drinker [US Army Lieutenant Colonel Brian Drinkwine], challenged God and boasted: We will defeat them even if Muhammad and Muhammad's god are by their side. He also said that he would drink alcohol after his victory so that the world may hear of it and continue to fear them. His words remind us of those uttered by God's enemy Abu-Jahl [leader of Mecca infidels in the Battle of Badr, the earliest major battle between the Muslim Army of Medina and Mecca infidels in the year 624 AD] on the eve of the Badr Battle, who said: I swear we will not stop fighting Muhammad until we reach Badr and drink alcohol and play our music, so that Arabs may hear of our victory and fear us forever. He led his soldiers to Badr, where they met their end by the grace of God. Our dear shaykh, God knows we took this cursed general's words as a good omen, and rested assured that God would keep his promise to us and would help us defeat them in a demonstration of the punishment He metes out to all those who dare question Him or this religion.

The Shaykh of Islam, Ibn-Taymiyah, may God have mercy on his soul, said in his book *Al-Sarim al-Maslul*: This is similar to what we were told by a number of judicious Muslims who are educated in Islamic jurisprudence, when they spoke about their numerous experiences in besieging forts and cities along the Syrian shores, whenever the Muslims besieged the Byzantines at that time, they said: We used to besiege a fort or a city for one month or more, and it was difficult to storm it until we become close to losing hope of storming it and until the people of that fort or city insult the messenger of God, peace be upon him, and speak badly about his honor. At this point, we would speed up conquering the place and it became easy to do so in no more than one or two days. The place is stormed then by force and the people inside are badly defeated. They said that we used to expect rapid conquering of the place when we hear them abusing [the prophet], which fills the hearts with anger for what they said. His talk ends here, may God have mercy on his soul.

Almighty God provided success to one of your sons to kill this general. He hit his helicopter, in which he was on board using it to seek protection from the mujahidin's blows. The helicopter crashed, burning him with the fire of this world before burning him in the fire of the Hereafter, praise be to God.

Almighty God has helped us to behead them, cut their bodies into pieces, and spill their blood. God willing, they will leave the Muslims' land in humiliation, licking their wounds in defeat and loss.

The writer of the book entitled "The Second Civil War", who is an American Vietnam veteran, was right when he said that America was born in blood, fed on blood, and will drown in blood [apparently refers to Thomas W. Chittum, *Civil War II: The Coming Breakup of America*, American Eagle Publications, 1997].

O our Shaykh; if the Byzantine dog Bush was pleased by the arrest of our brother Abu-al-Faraj al-Libi, he was disturbed by what happened to his soldiers in Al-Qa'im and elsewhere in the Land of the Two Rivers.

Our beloved commander: The enemy, praise be to God, is proceeding as was planned for it. We, praise be to God, are about to tighten the noose on it. If everything goes as planned, God willing, its results will appear for every person who has eyes, in a way that pleases every Muslim and angers every infidel and hypocrite. I think that the plan that was drawn up has reached you or is on its way to you. The enemy today is experiencing its worst days in the land of Al-Rafidayn.

Were it not for what the actions of Al-Rawafid [derogatory reference to the Shiites], the grandsons of Ibn al-Alqami, headed by the leader of infidelity and heresy Al-Sistani, the condition of the Byzantines would have been different from what the nation is witnessing these days. This is what Thomas Friedman, the well-known US writer, referred to in the New York Times ["A Nobel for Sistani," March 20, 2005] when he said: It can be said that in many ways, Al-Sistani has played the role for President Bush that Mandela and Gorbachev played for Bush Senior when he was president.

Then, thanks to the ideas and leadership of Mandela, power was transferred to the black majority in South Africa peacefully. That helped the administration of Bush senior and its allies to achieve that process calmly. Similarly, Gorbachev insisted on dismantling the Soviet Union, particularly East Germany nonviolently. That helped bring the Soviet Union to a soft landing. As in international relations or sports, it is better to be lucky than good. To be lucky, you should have partners like Mandela, Gorbachev, and Al-Sistani to arrive at a historic agreement at a key historical juncture.

Friedman adds: The most important thing that Al-Sistani did was that he brought into Arab politics a religious and pragmatic interpretation of Islam. Democratization in the Arab world will be long and bumpy road. However, the chances of success are immeasurably improved when we have partners from inside the region who enjoy legitimacy and have progressive instincts. This is available in Al-Sistani. Luck helped us with the survival of the 75-year-old ayatollah, who lives in a small house in a narrow alley in Al-Najaf. How someone with his instincts and wisdom could have emerged from the middle of Iraq's debris, which was brought about by Saddam, I will never know. All I have to say is: May he live to be 120 - and give that man a Nobel Prize. Here ends his article.

Those traitorous slaves, from Al-Rawafid and peshmerga [Kurdish fighters], have been distressed by the conditions of their master and idol, who was humiliated and defeated. Thus, as slaves, they were determined to save him and get him out of the swamp in which he was drowned. There is no better proof of that than the words of US Chief of Staff Richard Myers, who said that the war on Iraq has sapped the US military power, and that any new war would take longer and would need additional materials. A US Army officer in the Green Zone told a reporter: Those thugs have destroyed the prestige of the US Army, which no other army dared to destroy. [The officer added] Thank God that through lucrative incentives we are able to recruit non-American youths to fight in Iraq. This is the secret of our stay in Iraq. But I am afraid that one day we might not be able to recruit with millions of dollars.

Then, the enemy of God, the Zionist-American Jalal Talabani, came out to claim that jihad in Iraq has become isolated and weak. This liar, the author of the famous statement: Muhammad brought the Koran to us on camels, and today we have no camels. Therefore, we will return those copies of the Koran to Mecca on the backs of animals and donkeys.

I challenge this sinful liar, if he is a man, to leave his hole for an inspection tour of the districts of Baghdad, Mosul, or Al-Anbar so that everyone, both near and far, would know who is the weak and isolated. However, by God, this is the age of worthless men, who speak on public matters.

They run public affairs brainlessly, yet their decisions are executed and they are called politicians [old Arabic poetry].

Our noble leader, I sacrifice my father and mother for you. I do not find anything better than

this tradition to conclude my letter with. Muslim [Bin-Al-Hajjaj, died: 875 AD; a historian and one of the two most famous "compilers" of Prophet Muhammad's sayings) narrates that Utbah Bin-Ghazwan, may God be pleased with him, delivered a sermon. He first praised God and said: The world has gone and only a very minor part of it has remained. You are moving from this world to another eternal world, so move with the good deeds you have. We have been told that a stone is thrown from the top of Hell and it continues to fall for 70 years without reaching its bottom. By God, Hell will be filled. Do you think this is cause for wonder? We were told that the distance between two doors in Heaven is the same distance covered by a person walking for 40 years. A day will come when it will be crowded because of the number of people entering. I was the seventh person with the Prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, and our only food was tree leaves, until our mouths were wounded from eating. I picked up a dress and split it into two parts, one for me and one for Sa'd Bin-Malik, and we wore the two pieces. Both of us later became rulers over two provinces. I take refuge in God against feeling too proud while being small in the eyes of God.

God sent to the nation in its ordeal after the death of the Prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him--when the entire nation abandoned its faith except for Mecca and Medina, and the Muslims felt afraid and the infidels and hypocrites began to show their reality and their swords started to shine--God sent to it Abu-Bakr al-Siddiq, may God be pleased with him. He prepared armies to fight the apostates and ordered that the military expedition of Usamah [Bin-Zayd; early Islamic commander] proceed to fight the Byzantines, the enemies of religion. That military expedition was sent under the most difficult conditions. It was an army with the greatest blessing and best traits. The one who sent that army under that difficult condition can order sending this expedition.

O God, make the expedition of Usama [Bin Ladin] proceed toward its goal. We ask God to protect you and give you a long life and make you a thorn in the side of your enemies and to grant you martyrdom in the end. We are awaiting your instructions and orders. May you be safe for your younger brother.

And Allah hath full power and control over His affairs; but most among mankind know it not. [Koranic verse]

Praise be to God, lord of all creation.