Eulogy for Slain Fighter - "Vanguards of Khorasan," Issue 17

November 10, 2010

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

A eulogy for a fighter slain in Afghanistan, Abu Obeidullah al-‘Absi (AKA Muhammad bin Muflih al-Nahar al-Rashidi), is featured in the seventeenth issue of al-Qaeda in Afghanistan’s "Vanguards of Khorasan" magazine. This issue was released on jihadist forums on November 8, 2010. The author, Abu al-Hassan al-Wa’ili, described Abu Obeidullah's life before going to jihad as a life of luxury, growing up as spoiled child in a well-to-do family, and later studying at Kuwait University and also pursuing studies in Islamic law. After time, he wrote, Abu Obeidaullah decided to pursue jihad in Afghanistan, having become "sick of claiming to love jihad and martyrdom while not moving a limb and without any proof for this love..." The author does not mention the slain fighter's travels and activities in jihad, but instead praises his character and his love for jihad. At the end of the eulogy, Abu al-Hassan al-Wa’ili provides one of Abu Obeidullah’s final messages, addressed to Abu Muhammad al-`Ajami, urging him to be pious and to be a good person.

Following is a translation of the article:

Full Text

{The Vanguards of Khorasan, Issue 17 - Ramadan 1431}

[pp. 34-37]

The Wind of Paradise

Abu Obeidaullah al-‘Absi
Muhammad bin Muflih al-Nahar al-Rashidi

Written by Abu al-Hassan al-Wa’ili

In the Name of Allah, the most Gracious and Merciful

Praise be to Allah, who accepts martyrs and defeats enemies. Peace and prayer upon the master of the prophets, our master Muhammad, Allah's peace and prayer be upon him, and upon his family and his Companions. And thereafter:

A few months before traveling to the land of Khorasan, Abu Obeidullah changed with us and we didn't see him like we used to. I wondered, what is the reason? Muhammad said: "I am sick of claiming to love jihad and martyrdom while not moving a limb and without any proof for this love except just talks in private meetings!!"... Why is Obeidullah bored with that? Simply put, it is because we live a life of luxury while our Muslim brothers in Palestine live a life of sorrow! We're accustomed to getting tired from laughing while our brothers in Iraq are sickened by tears! We did indeed have beards and short garments, and prayed all the prescribed prayers at the mosques, but we watched the afflictions and temptations all around us and we didn't object to any of it! We didn't even object to open disbelief, by talking to people! This was due to the fear of tyrants and their might and from getting thrown in their prisons! In that case we started new serious steps to go fight for the Cause of Allah, and Abu Obeidullah started saying to himself: "Nothing will save me other than going to fight... Nothing will fix my condition and my heart
except being sincere with Allah in going to jihad." Sure enough, our beloved Muhammad was truthful, as we think of him, and when the way opened up for him to go to Khorasan, he didn't hesitate for a moment.

Let me die as a martyr in jihad, because the death of honor is better than my life.

He is Muhammad bin Muflih. He used to feel very happy with that name and he used to say, 'my name is the same as one of the Hanbali Scholars.' He was killed at the age of 23. He used to study in the University of Kuwait, in the sociology department. He was the oldest son to his father, with many sisters after him. Thus it was not surprising that Muhammad became a spoiled child whose requests were never rejected by his parents, may Allah protect them. He is from a well-to-do family, and he used to live a life that made a lot of people jealous. He was a practical example of the descendants of Musab bin Umeir, may Allah be pleased with him, and he was an intelligent genius, as attested to by those who knew him. He graduated from high school with high grades, and his family wanted him to go to medical school, which he did, but he didn't like this field. He loved psychology since a young age, so he changed his major to social sciences.

He loved Shariah studies and he strived in acquiring them and being distinguished in them, to the point he became one of the leading people in the field at whom people point their fingers [as a sign of respect and fame]. One of his first sheikhs was Sheikh Nasser al-Mutairi, may Allah have mercy on him, who offered a lot to our martyr, as we may think of him. He taught him pure creed and he planted in his heart the love of jihad and mujahideen. So, he kept attending lessons and listening to discourses, and with great determination he read Shariah books, which was envied by many of the students. His library was full of different kinds of books in many fields, and when he wanted to go to fight, he donated it to his brothers. May Allah reward him in the best way.

Despite the love from his parents, luxury and high life, the "sailor" decided to divorce this worldly life for good to answer the call of Allah the Glorious and High: "March forth, whether you are light or heavy, and strive hard with your wealth and your lives in the Cause of Allah. This is better for you, if you but knew." [At-Taubah 9:41] He said to the worldly life that it is just a short time of pleasure and Allah has more and what is permanent, so he directed his face towards Khorasan, the land where the legend of America was broken and the myth that was planted in our hearts by this transgressing oppressing country were removed. Allah graced him with arriving, and he met with his beloved friend on the path “Nawaf al-Mutairi” - Abu `Asim al-Najdi, may Allah have mercy on him - who was eulogized by Abu Obeidullah in a past issue of this magazine.

The love of jihad flows in all my limbs... I offered my blood for cheap on the path of jihad

After Obeidullah spent one year in the land of jihad, he would to say to me: "I can't depart the arena of jihad, it is impossible to live anywhere else!" He said that after tasting the sweetness of this kind of worship and after living with the pure mujahideen, whose love merged into his heart. He realized that this is the only way that will return the Ummah to its glories and rid it of its servitude and shame. He achieved in this arena his life's wish, as he told me in his last messages, and he started teaching the brothers there from the knowledge that Allah granted him. Thus, he combined the determination for learning with jihad for the Cause of Allah. May Allah reward him in the best way.
Just as "Muhammad al-Bahar [the sailor]" loved the mujahideen, they also loved him and liked his company, his talks and his experiences. He was nice in dealing with his brothers, and he offered to them everything he could. The strange thing is that whenever he acquired money privately, he would spend more than half of it on his brothers in a day or two, whether by helping them anonymously or by buying what they need. I remember one day when money came to us, he said to me: what do you think if we spend it in so and so and so? He said that despite the shortage in money, and being in foreign and difficult places. He never said: if I spend my money, how would I get more? But he always trusted in Allah for his sustenance. In the field of jihad you find many like Abu Obeidullah who spend their money while they don't have a way of making a living or an income! It is as if there state is like:

*Living is just for a short period of time that will come to an end... money is just an exhaustive sum owned by a mortal*

The moment of farewell:

The state of some martyrs changes days before their martyrdom, and you get to witness things from them that makes you think that they know these are the last few days of their lives. Thas was the state of Abu Obeidullah. He changed during his latest days in terms of worship, frequent remembrance of Allah, and constant silence, which was unlike him. After his death, I knew why Abu Obeidullah changed. The news of his passing came to him in a dream in one of the nights, and he saw Allah the Glorious and High smiling to him. That, Allah knows better, was the sign for the farewell of this transient worldly life. May Allah have mercy on you and may He grant you an abode in the supreme paradise.

At the end: This is one of the messages that our martyr "Muhammad" sent to one of his dearest beloved ones, and it was one of the last messages that he sent:

*In the Name of Allah, the most Gracious and Merciful*

To my older brother and beloved friend: Abu Muhammad al-‘Ajami, may Allah protect and keep him, from your younger beloved brother: Abu Obeidullah al-'Absi, may Allah forgive him:

Peace be upon you, and Allah's mercy and blessings.

I ask Allah that this message finds you in the best state. And thereafter:

I write this message to you my beloved brother, hoping for reward from Allah the Glorious and High for what I wills mention to you in it. I will not leave out anything that I learned without using it to advise you in a hopefully beneficial way.

My beloved brother, I learned that whatever you do in this life gets written down on sheets by angels who don't miss an atom worth of good or an atom worth of bad. The pain inflicted by you to others will remain in your memory and also will your oppression, regret, happiness and sadness! All of that will remain as long as you exist, and when your time comes to an end and death grabs hold of your being and you return to Allah, He will either honor you or humiliate you. Therefore, always think before you proceed to do any action. If you are able to do nothing other than good actions that are not rejected, please do! Pray, fast, give charity a lot and remember Allah. The best way to do the latter is by reciting the Qur’an, especially in prayers at the middle of the night before dawn on Fridays, and in the early morning prayer on Fridays. Allah knows better.
But if you don’t do that, then die while being alive! Either truth or falsehood are expected from the living. If a person doesn’t occupy himself with the truth, then falsehood takes over him, as transmitted by Imam Shaf’i from the Sufis. Withholding bad deeds is a charity from you to yourself, as the noble Prophet said, Allah’s peace and prayer be upon him in plenty. I ask Allah for his intercession for me and you.

If you refuse all of that and want to be with people and merge with them, then try not to do anything except that which you know to be pure good or pure truth, like helping someone who is not able to do something, or permissible entertainment and giving joy to your brothers and other things. Be very careful not to judge people's actions, and be compassionate with them as much as you can.

If you don’t want that, and if one day you need to offer your opinion on someone, do not accompany that description with movements and expressions in your face or signs with your hand, because these all are actions that you will be questioned about. May Allah make the standing at the Day of Judgment easy for us. Do not talk about anyone as much as you can, and do not put someone over someone else, so as to not think that you are better than anyone else, for example, or that Sheikh so-and-so is better that so-and-so. I swear by Allah, to judge people is a great matter; indeed, the sanctity of people is one of the pits of hell of which that judges and leaders stand on its edge. We ask Allah to afflict us with one of these two things unless we are qualified for them with strength and trustworthiness.

My beloved brother! Dedicate your intention day and night, and give the utmost of your determination to worship Allah alone without partner in all your affairs with what Allah the Glorious and High ruled in His laws. Make your slogan in all of this: I believed in Allah and in what was narrated about Allah that is in accordance with Allah's will, and I believed in the Messenger of Allah and in what the Messenger of Allah brought that is in accordance with Allah's will. Do not be sure about something until you research, pray, watch and consult, and if you fall short of that, you will fall short of answering what is said by Allah: "And whoever holds firmly to Allah, then he is indeed guided to the Right Path." [From Al-Imran 3:101] So, how will you hold firmly to Allah while you are not supplicating to Him or looking for the truth, contemplating your state and your intention and consulting with the righteous people?!

I swear by Allah, this is like deceiving and harming oneself. Allah prohibited that. The meaning of harming oneself is not following piety, which is the will of Allah the Glorious and Almighty to us, to those before us and to those who will come after us, and to the Messenger of Allah, Allah's peace and prayer be upon him, and to all of creation. "And fear Allah, so that you may be successful." [From Al-Imran 3:200] So, have piety before Allah and ask for reward from Him and ask Him to grant you piety and sincere repentance before death.

Maybe today you see things in one way and tomorrow you will see things in a different way, so do not be shy to return to the truth; it is better than continuing in the wrong direction. Allah didn’t commission the believers to reach the truth; rather, He commissioned them to strive for it. The one who succeeds in reaching the truth will receive the rewards for the effort and the truth, and the one who fails in reaching the truth, we ask Allah for the well being of all Muslims, will receive the reward for the effort.

My beloved brother, as I said to you: Be pious before Allah the Almighty, always look at yourself and correct your intention, and perform many supplications. Ask Allah for forgiveness and show
the need for Allah the Almighty that He may save you from the great punishment in the hereafter.

I ask Allah for guidance, piety, chastity and contentment for me, you and for the rest of the Muslims. Forgive me for taking long with the people I love.

Peace be upon you, and Allah’s mercy and blessings.

Your little brother

Wednesday, 10-11-1430H [29 October 2009]