

to persevere in praising him, or the riders to entertain themselves by recollecting his anecdotes on their travels and journeys,

"And grant me an honourable mention in later generations." [Quran 26:84]

His sudden heart failure distressed us immensely, but the Prophet (SAWS) said in an authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Abdullah bin Ubaid bin Umair (RA) when Aisha (RA) asked him about the sudden death, *"The sudden death is a sad, angry taking for the disbeliever, and a mercy for the believer."*¹⁰

My Acquaintance with Sheikh Tameem

Sheikh Tameem and I knew each other through the Jihad. Our bonds of brotherly love were built on a land of burning fire, where souls prepared themselves for death, were near to their Creator and looked forward to meeting their Lord. I first met him in 1982 when he visited me at my home in Jordan during the summer. Our ties of friendship strengthened through this blessed Jihad, in which his blessings and influence affected most of the individuals and nations living in the Islamic World at the time. By the year 1408AH (1988CE), Sheikh Tameem had devoted himself entirely to the Jihad.

I never saw a man the age of Sheikh Tameem, who was also of his character. Nor did I ever see the saying of the Prophet (SAWS) about yearning for Martyrdom, represented in any man as it was in Sheikh Tameem: *"Of the men, he lives the best life who holds the reins of his horse (ever ready to march) in the Way of Allah, and flies on its back. Whenever he hears a fearful shriek or a call for help, he flies to it seeking death at places where it can be expected."*¹¹

Writing these few words hastily about Sheikh Tameem, indeed fails to give him his due, for entire volumes can be filled on the subject, no doubt. But still, it is necessary to write a few lines detailing some of the main points of his life. May Allah have mercy on Sheikh Tameem. We must here

¹⁰ Reported by Ahmad, No. 93782. *Saheeh*.

¹¹ Reported by Muslim, No. 4655