

Thus, Sheikh Tameem finally went down into the Control Room, saddened that he was not killed! After a while, Abu Abdullah Usama came and found that his men would most surely all be killed if they did not withdraw, for the bullets were coming in like rain. I remember that on that day I felt a thirst that I had never felt before in my whole life because it was so hot. I had left Peshawar in the morning and I arrived in Jaji in the heat of the late afternoon. Abu Abdullah therefore ordered his men to retreat, so they all went to the vans. All except Sheikh Tameem. They called out to him, *“O Sheikh Tameem! We are retreating!”* He cried out, *“What?! We are leaving the Camp?!”* and he began to pull at his beard and hair, and cry and shout, *“Leave the camp?! After we built it, after we spent six months in it? After we put our sweat and blood into it?!”*

Abu Abdullah said to me later, *“By Allah, I thought he was possessed by Jinns<sup>25</sup>, for he began to pull at his beard and his hair and cry and scream. I said to him, ‘O Sheikh Tameem, the men are in the car: if a single one of them is killed, the sin will fall on your neck and you will be responsible for his blood on the Day of Judgement,’”* So Sheikh Tameem was forced to go to the van, crying.

We later found him in the Den at Barooja. There, Sheikh Sayyaf was in charge of the battle so Sheikh Tameem, Abu Abdullah Usama, Abul-Hassan Al-Madani and I went to Sheikh Sayyaf. I held Sheikh Sayyaf's hand and I said to him, *“O Sheikh Sayyaf is it really necessary to protect the Camp? I mean, should we have our brothers killed for the sake of a piece of land?”* Sheikh Sayyaf said, *“Yes, we need to protect the Camp because it has become known in the Islamic World, and its loss would be a moral loss to the honour of the Mujahideen.”* I then said to him, *“Then hold onto these men and forbid them from leaving you.”* Therefore, Sheikh Sayyaf said to them jokingly, *“O Abu Abdullah, Abul-Hassan and Sheikh Tameem, you are forbidden from leaving here.”* Abu Abdullah said, *“Not even for one day? Will you not allow Abul-Hassan and I to leave on Eid?”* He said to them, *“Okay, you can go.”*

Sheikh Tameem then stood up and began to kiss the hand of Sheikh Sayyaf, *“For the sake of Allah, O Sheikh Sayyaf will you also allow the same for me?”* Sheikh Sayyaf said to him, *“You, Sheikh Tameem, are forbidden to*

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<sup>25</sup> *Jinn*: lifeform made of smokeless fire who have a free-will and will be judged on the Day of Judgement. It is part of a Muslim's belief to believe in the existence of Jinn and that they can possess human beings.