

Chapter on the appearance of the white hair of Sayyidina Rasulallah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam

Imaam Tirmidhi has compiled eight ahaadith in this chapter.

(36) Hadith Number 1

Qataadah Radiyallahu 'Anhu reports: "I asked Anas Radiyallahu 'Anhu, 'Did Rasulallah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam dye his hair?' He replied: "The hair of Rasulallah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam did not reach such a stage where one would use a dye. Rasulallah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam had a few white hair on his temples, but certainly Abubakr Siddiqe Radiyallahu 'Anhu dyed with hina and katm".

Commentary

Katm is a type of grass, which is used for dying the hair. Some people say the colour of katm is black, and if mixed with hina it becomes red. Others say the colour of katm is green, and if mixed with hina it gives a black tint. Mulla 'Ali Qaari says: 'The one that gives more colour is considered. If more katm is used the dye becomes black and if more hina is used, it becomes red'. The use of both colours are permissible, but black should not be used. It has been forbidden in the ahaadith to use a totally black dye.

(37) Hadith Number 2

Anas bin Maalik Radiyallahu 'Anhu reports: "I did not count more than fourteen white hair on the head and beard of Rasulallah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam".

Commentary

Sayyidina Rasulallah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam had very few white hair. There is some disagreement on the actual number. In this narration fourteen hairs are mentioned. In others, seventeen, eighteen and in some, twenty white hairs are mentioned. This is a minor

disagreement. The other aḥadith may have been related at different periods. A difference in the counting may also be possible.

(38) Hadith Number 3

Jaabir bin Samurah Radiyallahu 'Anhu was asked a question regarding the white hair of Rasulullah Ṣallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam. He replied: "When Rasulullah Ṣallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam oiled his hair, it (white hair) did not show. When he did not oil it, it showed".

Commentary

Oil gives the hair a shine, therefore the white hair become indistinguishable from the other hair, or they become compact and mixed, therefore the few white hair cannot be easily seen. When there is no oil the hair become dry and loose, and is easily seen.

(39) Hadith Number 4

Ibn 'Umar Radiyallahu 'Anhu says: "Rasulullah Ṣallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam had about twenty white hair".

Commentary

As mentioned above this is not contrary to the other aḥadith.

(40) Hadith Number 5

Ibn 'Abbaas Radiyallahu 'Anhu reports: "Abubakr Siddiqe Radiyallahu 'Anhu once said: 'O Messenger of Allah, you have become old'. (What is the reason? Due to his mild and soft temperament he ought to be young, and also according to his age he should be still young). Rasulullah Ṣallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam replied: 'The recitation of Surahs Hud, Waaqi'ah, Mursalaat, 'Ammah and Kuwwirah has made me old'".

Commentary

Apart from these surahs the Surahs of Al-Haaqqah, Al-Qaari'ah, Al-Ghaashi'ah etc. have also been mentioned. In short all those surahs wherein frightening matters are mentioned, e.g. qiyaamah, jahannam, the Trumpet, the punishment of evil people etc. In a hadith it is stated that Sayyidina Rasulullah Ṣallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam said: "If you knew what I know, you would laugh less and cry more. You would even stop going to your wives (or however he had said it)". It is written in the 'Sharḥus Sunnah' that a person saw Sayyidina Rasulullah Ṣallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam in his dream. He asked: "Ya Rasulullah, this hadith had reached me, that you have said: 'Surah Hud has made me old'".

Sayyidina Rasulullah Ṣallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam replied: "There is one aayah in it 'Wastaqim kama umirta' (Stay steadfast on the religion as I have commanded you). And it is well known that to stay steadfast on the commandments of Allah is very difficult". That is why the sufis have written that to remain steadfast is better than a thousand miracles.

(41) Hadith Number 6

Abu Juḥayfah Raḍiyallahu 'Anhu says: 'The people said: "Ya Rasulullah, we see the signs of old age beginning to show on you?"' Rasulullah Ṣallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam replied: "Surah Hud and similar surahs have made me old".

Commentary

It is related in a hadith that Sayyidina Rasulullah Ṣallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam was once coming out of his house, wiping his hands on his mubaarak beard. Sayyidina Abubakr and Sayyidina 'Umar Raḍiyallahu 'Anhuma were sitting in the masjid at that time. When Sayyidina Abubakr Raḍiyallahu 'Anhu saw this he said: 'Oh Messenger of Allah, may my father and mother be sacrificed. How suddenly you have aged'. Then he began to weep and shed tears.

Sayyidina Rasulullah Ṣallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam said: "Surahs like Surah Hud have made me old". Zamakh-shari says: "He read in a kitaab, that a person had pure black hair one evening, and during the night it became completely white. When the people enquired the reason, he said: "At night, I dreamt of qiyaamah, where people were pulled with chains and thrown into jahannam. It frightened me so much, that in one night I became like this". Allah is Great.

(42) Hadith Number 7

Abi Rimṭah Taymi Raḍiyallahu 'Anhu says: "I went with my son to Rasulullah Ṣallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam. (Probably he did not know Sayyidina Rasulullah Ṣallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam before). When I saw him I said to myself immediately, 'This is the true Messenger of Allah'. At that time Rasulullah Ṣallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam was wearing two pieces of green (coloured) clothing. (His lungi -sarong, waist wrap- and shawl were both green). On a few hairs there were signs of old age, but those hair were red".

Commentary

The signs of dignity, 'Anwaari Nubuwwah' (prophetic illumination) and 'Aathaari Haybah' (sign of awe) were thus seen on the mubaarak face of Sayyidina Rasulullah Ṣallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam. When one

sees these signs, such words naturally come to one's tongue: "There is no doubt he is Allah's Messenger and cannot be untruthful. etc." The ahaadith state that many Sahaabah Radiyallahu 'Anhum uttered such words when meeting Sayyidina Rasulullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam for the first time.

The above hadith also states that the hair of Sayyidina Rasulullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam was red. The 'ulama disagree whether Sayyidina Rasulullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam dyed his hair or not. Some are of the opinion that Sayyidina Rasulullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam dyed his hair and they base their argument on the red hair. Others deny this and say before the hair becomes white, it usually turns red. The redness was natural, and not that of a dye. Dying of the hair will be discussed in the ensuing chapter.

(43) Hadith Number 8

Jaabir bin Samurah Radiyallahu 'Anhu was asked: "Were there any white hair in the mubaarak head of Rasulullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam? He replied: 'He only had a few on the middle path, and when Rasulullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam oiled his hair, they did not show'".

Commentary

This narration seems to contradict the one related by Sayyidina Anas Radiyallahu 'Anhu, which has been mentioned in the beginning of this chapter. There is no complication, as there were a few white hair in the path, that used to be covered by other hair. When oil was not rubbed in, they became visible. Therefore, if this is not mentioned in any hadith, there is no complication or harm.

باب ما جاء في خضاب رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم

٤٤ - (١) حدثنا أحمد بن منيع ، حدثنا هشيم ، حدثنا عبد الملك بن عمير عن إياد بن لقيط قال: أخبرني أبو رمثة قال: أتيت رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم مع ابن لي ، فقال إبنك هذا؟ فقلت: نعم ، أشهد به ، قال: لا يجنى عليك ولا تجنى عليه ، قال ورأيت الشيب أحمر ،

قال أبو عيسى: هذا أحسن شيء روى في هذا الباب ، وأفسر لأن الروايات الصحيحة أن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم لم يبلغ الشيب وأبو رمثة اسمه رفاعه بن يثربى التيمى ،

٤٥ - (٢) حدثنا سفيان بن وكيع قال: حدثنا أبي عن شريك عن عثمان بن موهب قال: سئل أبو هريرة هل خضب رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال نعم ،

قال أبو عيسى: وروى أبو عوانة هذا الحديث عن عثمان بن عبد الله بن موهب فقال عن ام سلمة ،

٤٦ - (٣) حدثنا إبراهيم بن هارون قال: أنبأنا النضر بن زرارة عن أبي جناب عن إياد بن لقيط عن الجهدمة امرأة بشير بن الخصاصية قالت: أنا رأيت رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم يخرج من بيته ينفض رأسه ،

وقد اغتسل وبرأسه ردغ أو قال ردغ من حناء شك في هذا
الشيخ

٤٧ - (٤) حدثنا عبد الله بن عبد الرحمن ، حدثنا عمرو بن
عاصم ، حدثنا حماد بن سلمة ، حدثنا حميد عن أنس قال:
رأيت شعر رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم مخضوبًا ، قال
حماد: وأخبرنا عبد الله بن محمد بن عقيل قال: رأيت شعر
رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم عند أنس بن مالك مخضوبًا ،

Chapter on Sayyidina Rasulallah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam using a dye

There are many different ahaadith on this subject. From among these Imaam Tirmidhi has mentioned four ahaadith in this chapter. Because of the different ahaadith on this subject, the 'ulama have also differed as to whether Sayyidina Rasulallah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam dyed his hair or not. Imaam Tirmidhi and the majority are of the opinion that he did not dye his hair. The Hanafis also hold the same view. It is stated in the 'Durri Mukhtaar' that it is more correct that Sayyidina Rasulallah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam did not dye his hair. 'Allaamah Shaami has reasoned that according to Bukhaari and other muhadditheen, Sayyidina Rasulallah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam did not have more than seventeen white hair in his mubaarak beard and head. Bayjuri As-Shaafi'ee, the commentator on the 'Shamaa-il Tirmidhi' is of the