

In The Name of Allaah, The Most Merciful, The Bestower of Mercy.

The Influence He Had On Others Due to His Religious Personality

This characteristic manifested when the leader of Prusa came into contact with him and accepted Islam. The Sultan gave him the title Bey [i.e. Chief] and he became one of the prominent leaders of the Ottoman Empire later. Many Byzantine leaders were influenced by Uthmaan's personality and the path he followed, until many of them joined the ranks of the Ottomans. Many Muslims from different walks of life joined the Ottoman Empire, such as "**The Rome Raiders**" - a group that was stationed on the borders of the Romans and repelled their attacks against Muslims since the Abbasid era. This group contributed its experiences in the Jihaad against the Romans, their affiliation to Islam became very strong and they adhered to all that Islam brought about in terms of a social order. "**The Brotherhood Group**"- a generous people who helped Muslims, hosted them and accompanied their armies to serve those engaged in military expeditions. Most of the people in this group were big merchants who utilized their wealth for Islamic causes such as the establishment of mosques and buildings that provided space for different religious activities. They had a high status in the Islamic empire. "**The Distinguished Scholars**"- a group whose work was to promote Islamic civilization and urge the people to adhere to the religion. "**The Travellers Within The Empire**" were a group who possessed sound and precise understanding of the rulings of the Islamic religion. Their goal was to give assistance to Muslims in general and specific assistance to the Mujaahideen. There were other groups as well.

Justice:

Most of the Turkish historical sources dated to the Ottomans recorded that Ertugrul [may Allaah have mercy upon him] entrusted to his son Uthmaan, founder of the Ottoman Empire, with the jurisdiction of the city of **Karacahisar** after seizing it from the Byzantines in 684 AH /1285 CE, and Uthmaan [may Allaah have mercy upon him] once passed a judgement (on some affair) in favour of a Christian Byzantine against a Turkish Muslim; so the Byzantine was surprised and asked Uthmaan, "**You judge in favour of my welfare even though I am not one who follows your religion?**" Uthman responded to him, "Rather, how can I not judge in your favor, and Allaah, whom we worship, says to us: [إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَنْ تُؤَدُّوا الْأَمَانَاتِ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهَا] وَإِذَا حَكَمْتُمْ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ أَنْ تَحْكُمُوا بِالْعَدْلِ - Verily! Allah commands that you should render back the trusts to those, to whom they are due; and that when you judge between people, you judge with justice]. [Surah An-Nisaa. Verse 58] This noble act of justice was a reason for the man and his people to accept Islam.

Uthmaan [may Allaah have mercy upon him] used to deal justly with his subjects as well as in the countries he conquered. He did not treat the defeated people with injustice, oppression, persecution, tyranny or transgression. (1) [End of quote]

A Reminder Regarding Standing Firmly For Justice On Behalf of Everyone

Allaah [The Most High] said:

يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا كُوْنُوْا قَوّٰمِيْنَ بِالْقِسْطِ شُهَدَآءَ لِلّٰهِ وَلَوْ عَلٰى اَنْفُسِكُمْ اَوْ اَلْوَالِدِيْنَ وَالْاَقْرَبِيْنَ اِنْ يَكُنْ غَنِيًّا اَوْ فَقِيْرًا فَاَللّٰهُ اَوْلٰى بِهِمَّا فَاَلَّا تَتَّبِعُوْا الْهَوٰى اَنْ تَعْدِلُوْا وَاِنْ تَلُوْا اَوْ تُعْرَضُوْا فَاِنَّ اللّٰهَ كَانَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُوْنَ خَبِيْرًا

O you who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah; even though it be against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, be he rich or poor, Allah is a Better Protector to both (than you). So follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest you may avoid justice, and if you distort your witness or refuse to give it, verily, Allah is Ever Well-Acquainted with what you do. [Surah An-Nisaa. Verse 135]

Imaam Ibnul Qayyim [may Allaah have mercy upon him] said: Allaah [Glorified be He and Free is He From all Imperfections] commanded His servants to stand out firmly for justice on behalf of everyone – be it an enemy or an ally. Allaah commands us to stand out firmly for justice and testify (for or against) everyone, even if it were someone who is the most beloved person to us. A person should stand out firmly for justice (whether it is for or against) himself, his two parents, his other close relatives and his best friend amongst the people. If a person's love for himself, his parents and his relatives prevents him from standing out firmly for the truth against them, especially if the truth is with someone he hates and regards as an enemy due to them, then indeed none will stand out firmly for justice in such circumstances except one whose love for Allaah and His Messenger is more than their love for everyone else.

A person has to establish justice when dealing with his enemies and that one who deprives him of his rights; for indeed it is not permissible that hatred for his enemies leads him to be unjust towards them, just as it is not permissible (to allow) love of himself, his parents and relatives to make him abandon standing firmly for justice against them. Therefore, hatred harboured against someone should not lead him to falsehood, and love of (oneself, parents and relatives) should not make him fall short in establishing truth, just as some of the Salaf said, 'The just person is that one who when angry, his anger does not lead him to falsehood, and when he is pleased, it does not remove him from truth'. (2)

Allaah [The Most High] said:

يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا كُوْنُوْا قَوّٰمِيْنَ لِلّٰهِ شُهَدَآءَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَتَاۗءُ قَوْمٍ عَلٰى اَلَّا تَعْدِلُوْا اَعْدِلُوْا هُوَ اَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوٰى وَاَتَّقُوا اللّٰهَ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ خَبِيْرٌۢ بِمَا تَعْمَلُوْنَ

O you who believe! Stand out firmly for Allah and be just witnesses and let not the enmity and hatred of others make you avoid justice. Be just: that is nearer to piety, and fear Allah. Verily, Allah is Well-Acquainted with what you do. [Surah Al-Maa'idah. Verse 8]

"O you who believe"- Meaning, O you who believe in that which your Eemaan obligates on you! Establish that which your Eemaan necessitates so that you are "Stand out firmly for

Allaah and be just witnesses”- being eager and active in establishing justice in all your apparent and hidden deeds, do so for the sake of Allaah alone and not due to some worldly goal, and intend to do justice- neither going beyond bounds nor falling short in your statements and actions. Do this on behalf one who is close to you and one who is not close to you, on behalf of a friend and an enemy. And let not the enmity and hatred of others make you avoid justice, as this is what is done by the one who neither deals justly nor gives people the rights due to them; rather stand out firmly for justice – for and against your allies, just as you stand out firmly for justice for and against your enemies. (3)

Truthful In His Agreements: Uthmaan I [may Allaah have mercy upon him] placed great importance in fulfilling agreements. When the leader of the Byzantine Castle of Ulubad surrendered to the Ottoman army and stipulated that no Muslim Ottoman should pass over the bridge into the castle, he abided by that, as well as those who came after him.

Goal Behind His Conquests: His conquests were not for economic or military reasons, or anything else; rather, it was an opportunity to propagate the call to the path of Allaah and spread the religion ordained by Allaah. (4)

[Ref 1: An Excerpt from 'Ad-Dawlah Al-Uthmaaniyyah Awaamil An-Nuhood wa Asbaab As-Suqoot'. 6/46-48. slightly paraphrased]

[Ref 2: An Excerpt from 'Badaa'i At-Tafseer Al-Jaami Limaa Fassarahu Al-Imaam Ibnul Qayyim. Vol 1. Page 300-303]

[Ref 3: An Excerpt from Tafseer As- Sadi]

[Ref 4: An Excerpt from 'Ad-Dawlah Al-Uthmaaniyyah Awaamil An-Nuhood wa Asbaab As-Suqoot'. 6/46-48. slightly paraphrased]