

The Appearance of The White Hair of Sayyidina Rasullullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam

Imaam Tirmidhi has compiled eight ahaadith in this chapter.

(36) Hadith Number 1.

Qatadah R.A. reports: "I asked Anas R.A., 'Did Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) dye his hair?'" He replied: "The hair of Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) did not reach such a stage where one would use a dye. However Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) did have a few white hair on his temples, on the other hand Abu Bakr R.A. dyed his hair with Hina and Katm."

Commentary

Katm is a type of grass, which is used for dyeing the hair. Some people say that the colour of Katm is black, and if mixed with Hina it becomes red. Others say the colour of Katm is green, and when mixed with Hina it gives a black tint. Mulla Ali Qari 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 R.A. reports: "I did not count more than fourteen white hair on the head and beard of Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam)".

Commentary

Sayyidina Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe 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 ahaadith may have been related at different periods. A difference in the counting may also be possible.

(38) Hadith Number 3.

Jaabir bin Samurah R.A. was asked a question regarding the white hair of Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam). He replied: "When Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe 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 becomes indistinguishable from the other hair, or they become compact and mixed, therefore the few white hairs cannot be easily seen. When there is no oil the hair becomes dry and loose, and is easily seen.

(39) Hadith Number 4.

Ibne Umar R.A. says: "Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) had about twenty white hair".

Commentary

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

(40) Hadith Number 5.

Ibne Abbas R.A. reports: "Abu Bakr R.A. once said, 'O Messenger of Allah, you have become old'. (What is the reason? Due to this mild and soft temperament he ought to be young, and also according to his age he could be still called young). Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) replied: "The recitation of Surahs Hud, Waaqiah, Mursalat, Amma and Kuwwirah has made me old".

Commentary

Apart from these surahs the Surahs of Al-Haaqqah, Al-Qaariah, Al-Ghaashiah etc. have also been mentioned. In short all those surahs wherein frightening matters are mentioned, e.g. Qiyaamah, (Day of judgement) Hell, the Trumpet, the punishment of evil people etc. In hadith it is stated that Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) said: "If you knew what I know, you would laugh less and cry more. You would even stop going to your wives (or as he had said)". It is written in the Sharhus Sunnah that a person saw Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) in his dream. He asked: "O Rasullullah, (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam)! This hadith has reached me, that you said: 'Surah Hud has made me old'. Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) replied: "There is one verse 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 Sufiya have written that to remain steadfast is better than a thousand miracles.

(41) Hadith Number 6.

Abu Juhayfa R.A. says: 'The people said: "O Rasullullah, (Sallallahu alaihe

wasallam)! we see the signs of old age beginning to show on you?" Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) replied: "Surah Hud and similar surahs have made me old".

Commentary

It is related in a hadith that Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) once came out of his house, wiping his hands on his blessed beard. Abu Bakr and Umar R.A. were sitting in the Masjid at that time. When Abu Bakr R.A. saw this he said: 'O Messenger of Allah, may my father and mother be sacrificed for you. How early you have aged'. Then he began to weep. Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe 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 of this sudden change, he said: "At night, I saw Qiyaamah, in my dream. People were being pulled with chains and thrown into Hell. It frightened me so much, that within the night I became like this". Allah is Great.

(42) Hadith Number 7.

Abu Rimthah Taymi R.A. says: "I went with my son to Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam). (Probably he had not seen Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) before). When I saw him I said to myself immediately, 'This is the true Messenger of Allah'. At that time Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) was wearing two pieces of green clothing. (His lungi -sarong, waist-wrap- and shawl were both green). On a few hairs there were signs of old age, but those hairs were red".

Commentary

The signs of dignity, 'Anwaar-e- Nubuwwah'(prophetic illumination) and 'Aathari-Haybah' (signs of awe) were thus seen on the blessed face of Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe 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 false." The ahaadith state that many Sahabah R.A. uttered such words when they first met Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam). The above Hadith also states that the hair of Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) was red. The ulama disagree whether Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) dyed his hair or not. Some are of the opinion that Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) dyed his hair and they base their argument on the red hair. Others deny this and say that before the hair becomes white, it usually turns red. The redness was natural, and not that of a dye.

(43) Hadith Number 8.

Jaabir bin Samurah R.A. was asked: "Were there any white hairs in the blessed head of Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam)? He replied: 'He only had a few on the middle parting, and when Rasullullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) oiled his hair, they did not show'".

Commentary

This narration seems to contradict the one related by Anas R.A., which has been mentioned in the beginning of this chapter. There is no complication, as there were a few white hair in the parting, 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.