

Sayyidina Rasullullah Sallallahu' Alayhi Wasallam

Using a Dye

There are many different ahaadith on this subject. From among these Imaam Tirmidhi had mentioned four ahaadith in this chapter. Because of the different ahaadith on this subject, the 'ulema have also differed as to whether Sayyidina Rasullullah 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 Rasullullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam did not dye his hair. 'Allamah Shaami has reasoned that according to Bukhari and other muhadditheen, Sayyidina Rasullullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam did not have more than seventeen white hair in his mubarak beard and head. Bayjuri As-Shaafi'ee, the commentator on the Shamaa-il Tirmidhi is of the opinion that Sayyidina Rasullullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam sometimes dyed his hair but did not do so regularly. MAS-ALAH: According to the Hanafi 'ulema, dying of the hair is mustahab but according to a well known saying the using of a black dye is makruh. The Shafi'ee 'ulema say that the use of a dye is sunnah, and the use of black dye is haraam.

(44) Hadith Number 1

Abu Rimthah Taymi Radhiallahu 'Anhu says: "I attended a gathering of Rasullullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam with my son. Rasullullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam asked me, 'Is this your son?' I replied: 'Yes, this is my son. You be a witness to it.' Rasullullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam said: The revenge of his crime (jinayah) is not on you, nor is the revenge of your crime on him.' (This will be explained in the commentary). Abu Rimthah Radhiallahu 'Anhu says: 'At that time I noticed a few hair of Rasullullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam were red." Imam Tirmidhi says: 'This hadith is the most correct and closest on the subject of using a dye.'

Commentary

It was the custom in the pre-Islamic times (jaahiliyah) that a son was punished for the crimes of his father. On this basis Abu Rimthah Radhiallahu 'Anhu said this, so that if it would be necessary at any time, Sayyidina Rasullullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam would be witness that truly this was his son. Sayyidina Rasullullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam in refuting this custom of the jaahiliyyah said: 'This is not the law of Islam, that one person commits a crime and another gets punished for it." (No laden soul can bear anothers load.- Surah Najm,38).

(45) Hadith Number 2

Abu Hurairah Radhiallahu 'Anhu was asked: "Did Rasullullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam use a dye?" (for his hair). He replied: "Yes."

(46) Hadith Number 3

Jah-dhamah Radiallahu 'Anha, the wife of Bashir Kha-saasiyyah Radiallahu 'Anhu says: "I saw Rasullullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam coming out of the house after taking a bath and was stroking (or combing) his haif. There were signs of henna on his mubarak head."

(47) Hadith Number 4

Anas Radhiallahu 'Anhu says: "I saw that the hair of Rasullullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam had been dyed."

Commentary

As has been explained there are different narrations on the dying of the hair of Sayyidina Rasullullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam. There is an apparent contradiction between this narration and the one mentioned in the first hadith of the previous chapter, where Sayyidina Anas Radiyallahu 'Anhu denies Sayyidina Rasullullah Sallallahu ' Alayhi Wasallam used a dye. we may take both narrations to be correct, as they could have been narrated at an earlier and a later period.