

Abu `Ali al-Fudayl ibn `lyad (b. n Samarkand – d. 187 H. in Makka)in al-Risala al-Qushayriyya
by Lanise Umm Hanif on Friday, 29 October 2010 at 05:23

He was from Khurasan, from the region of Merv. It is said that he was born in Samarkand and grew up in Abiward. He died in Makkah in the month of Muharram in the year 187 H.

I heard Muhammad ibn al-Husayn say that Abu Ammar related [the following] about al-Fudayl bin Musa, "Fudayl was a brigand who worked the road between Abiward and Dusarkhas. His repentance came about in the following way. He had developed a passion for a serving girl. He was scaling a wall to get to her when he heard a recite of the Quran chant, 'Has the time not come for those who believe, that their hearts will be humble for the remembrance of God?' (57:16). He said, 'O Lord, the time has come.' So he abandoned what he was doing and took shelter for the night in a ruin. Unexpectedly, a group of people was already there. Some of them said, 'Let us leave,' but another party said, 'Not until morning, for Fudayl is on the road and will fall upon us.' So Fudayl repented [before them] and reassured them. He then went to live near the sacred precincts in Makkah until he died."

Fudayl bin lyad said, "When God loves a servant He increases his pain, and when He hates a servant He makes this world wide for him." Ibn al-Mubarak remarked, "When Fudayl bin lyad died, sadness passed out of this world."

Fudayl said, "If the whole of this world were spread before me and I was not accountable for what I did with it, I would still shun it, just as one of you shuns the gutter when you pass by it, lest it soil your clothes." And, "if you should swear that I am a hypocrite, I would prefer it to my swearing that I am not one."

He also said, "To give up working for the sake of human beings is hypocrisy; to work for the sake of human beings is polytheism."

Abu Ali al-Razi recalled, "I was with Fudayl for thirty years and never saw him laughing or smiling except on the day his son Ali died. I asked him about this and he said, "If pleases God, how can it no be pleasing for me?" Fudayl said, "I revolt against God, and know it from the misbehavior of my donkey and my servant."