And what do you know about those who love death

And what is death but a moment of passing, from a life that ends to one everlasting.

— Abu Baseer

May Allah accept him
Abu Liya (father of the beard) was recognised from afar by his distinctive lengthy beard in the streets of the UK. Of Indian heritage and English upbringing, he had a soft nature and was quiet around newcomers until he had gotten to know them, but as for those whom he was comfortable around - they saw the bubbly, laughing youngster who put smiles on the faces of those with him. He loved to make halal jokes and was easy to get along with, often making everyone laugh.

As a friend and companion, Abu Baseer (rahimahullah) was a humble, simple man, loved by Muhajireen and Ansaar alike. He had a soft nature and was quiet around newcomers until he had gotten to know them, but as for those whom he was comfortable around - they saw the bubbly, laughing youngster who put smiles on the faces of those with him. He loved to make halal jokes and was easy to get along with, often making everyone laugh.

He was one of those people who hated making others go out of their way for him. He would try to put himself in other people’s shoes, in order to better understand them and would never, if ever, get angry at anyone, nor would he be a means of upsetting anyone else. He was true to his word, ensuring that anything he said would get done.

He became the cameraman for Jabhat al Nusrah, so that his time was either spent in the frontlines, fighting, or filming the battles in an effort to encourage others to fight. A day before his martyrdom, a brother called him and said: “Akhī, I had a dream that you were killed.” A brother mentioned his last conversation with Abu Baseer (rahimahullah), in which Abu Baseer asked him if he had seen the new Al-Nusr al simulajn. A brother waiting impatiently for him to complete his salah, mentioned how tempted he was to interrupt him on observing his lengthy qiyaam and sujood, but managed to contain himself until Abu Baseer had completed his salah. Before setting forth for the battle, the brother enquired: “Would you like a spare battery for the camera in case the battle lasts long?” “No,” he responded. “It should be over very soon inshaAllah.”

Abu Baseer had a great love for ribaa’t, ensuring that any free time he had was spent in guarding the frontlines of the Muslims. When not engaged in physical jihad, he dedicated himself to defending the honour of the believers verbally. He was active on social media, eagerly encouraging others to spend their lives in the service of Allah, while also fighting the ongoing battle against the falsehood of the kawarij, exposing their incredibility with simple, stated facts. In his effort to achieve this, he encouraged the brothers to start Al-Risaalah magazine and became its editor, his pen striking with harsh accuracy at the hearts of the enemy, no less a potent weapon than any other military instrument. He was engaged in writing a eulogy for the martyr, Abu Batool Al-Muhajir, but instead joined his ranks before completing it.

As the hadith mentions:

“A martyr only feels from the effect of being killed that which one would when being stung.”

(Tirmidhi)

May Allah (swt) accept him and reunite us in Al Firdous.

Ameen