A Sahābī being cast into a fire

Question: Is it established that a certain Sahābī was cast into a fire and it did not burn him? If it is established, who is that great Sahābī?

Answer: Yes, it is established. The great Sahābī is Hadrat Dhu'ayb ibn Kulayb Khaulānī Yamanī radiyallāhu 'anhu. The following is related in al-Istī'āb:



Dhu'ayb ibn Kulayb Khaulānī was the first who embraced Islam from Yemen. Rasūlullāh sallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam named him 'Abdullāh. Al-Aswad, the impostor [who claimed prophet-hood], cast Dhu'ayb into a fire because he believed in Rasūlullāh sallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam. The fire did not harm him in any way. Rasūlullāh sallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam related this to his Companions. He is thus similar to Ibrāhīm 'alayhis salām.

Al-Isābah states:

...Ibn Lahī'ah said: When al-Aswad al-'Ansī claimed prophet-hood and gained control over San'ā', he took Dhu'ayb ibn Kulayb and cast him into a fire because he believed in Rasūlullāh sallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam. The fire did not harm him. When Rasūlullāh sallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam related this to his Companions, 'Umar radiyallāhu 'anhu said: "All praise is due to Allāh ta'ālā who made someone similar to Ibrāhīm al-Khalīl ['alayhis salām] in our ummah...

Fayd al-Qadīr has a similar narration:

This Hadīth is mursal and the 'ulamā' are aware of the objections made against Ibn Lahī'ah.

This narration is therefore debatable.

After going through the Hadīth collections and history books, we come across another person by the name of Abū Muslim Khaulānī rahimahullāh. Ibn Hibbān says with reference to him:

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Abū Hātim said: Abū Muslim al-Khaulānī – his name is 'Abdullāh ibn Thaub. He is a Yemeni and a Tābi'ī. He is from among the best and most virtuous people of Yemen. He is the one who was asked by al-'Ansī [the impostor]: "Do you testify that I am Allāh's Messenger?" He replied: "No." He asked: "Do you testify that Muhammad is Allāh's Messenger?" He replied: "Yes." Al-'Ansī ordered for a huge fire to be lit. When the fire began blazing and roaring, he threatened to throw him [Abū Muslim] into it if he did not accept him as a Prophet. He cast him into it but it did not harm him in the least. Al-'Ansī considered this too significant so he ordered for him to be banished from Yemen. When he was banished he proceeded to Madinah and met 'Umar ibn al-Khattāb radiyallāhu 'anhu. The latter asked him where he came from and he informed him. 'Umar asked: "What happened to the youngster who was burnt in the fire?" He replied: "He did not get burnt." 'Umar radiyallāhu 'anhu gauged that he was in fact the person [who was thrown into it], so he said: "I take an oath in Allāh's name and ask you: 'Are you Abū Muslim?' He replied: 'Yes.' 'Umar radiyallāhu 'anhu held him by his hand and took him to Abū Bakr radiyallāhu 'anhu. He then related his story to him. Abū Bakr and 'Umar were overjoyed at hearing it. Abū Bakr radiyallāhu 'anhu said: "All praise is due to Allāh ta'ālā who showed us someone in this ummah who was thrown into a fire but did not get burnt, as was the case with Ibrāhīm 'alayhis salām."

Allāh ta'ālā knows best.