

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-Khawlānī – his name is ‘Abdullāh ibn Thaūb. 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 Madīnah 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.