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Abu Bakr As-Siddiq

THE FIRST CALIPH OF ISLAM

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*In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

“Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allâh [i.e. They have gone out for *Jihâd* (holy fighting), and showed not their backs to the disbelievers]; of them some have fulfilled their obligations (i.e. Have been martyred); and some of them are still waiting, but they have never changed [i.e. They never proved treacherous to their covenant which they concluded with Allâh] in the least.” (33:23)

Publisher's Note

All praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists. May Allâh's peace and blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad ﷺ, his family and his Companions.

Darussalam is pleased to present this valuable series, '*The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions*' to the Muslim youth. The purpose of these books is to enlighten our youth about the lives of the greatest heroes of Islam, the Prophet's Companions. Also, we wish to increase the enthusiasm of the Muslim youth for following and adhering to their religion. In this way, these books achieve two very important tasks: educating our children and encouraging them to be good Muslims.

The following story titled '*Abu Bakr As-Siddiq - The First Caliph of Islam*' is the life story of one of the greatest Muslim heroes. He was unique in everything. He devoted all his life to the support of Islam, and the poor and the needy. When the Prophet ﷺ asked to donate for the Tabuk expedition, he brought all the things at his home to the Prophet ﷺ. When the Prophet ﷺ asked him how much he left for his family. He

replied that he left them on the satisfaction of Allâh and His Prophet ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ said:

“I found no one best among my Companions other than Abu Bakr. However my relation with Abu Bakr is that of a close friend, Islamic brotherhood and faith until Allâh raises us together.”

He was the first Caliph and a great conqueror of Islam but when he left this world, he had only some of six hundred dirhams.

We hope that these books are beneficial to our Muslim youth, as they are the future of Islam. We at Darussalam realize the importance of good Islamic literature for Muslim children, especially in the West where non-Islamic influences are so strong. For this reason, we feel that the availability of this series will be a valuable aid in instilling a genuine love for Islam in our children.

We would like to thank the author, Mr. Abdul Basit Ahmad, the editor, Mr. Aqeel Walker for their diligent work in preparing this series.

And our final invocation is that all praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager

Foreword

Most, if not all, human beings would think twice before accepting any idea or belief. They usually like to see evidences of the truth of the idea that they are called to accept. While thinking whether to accept or reject any idea, many factors either bring them closer to or drive them far from the idea proposed to them. Such factors are usually connected with the personality of the person proposing the idea, to what extent the idea is sensible or collective acceptance of the idea by the society.

To accept an idea from the first instance means that the person invited to such an idea already knows much about the person who calls him to believe in what he is saying, feels the sensibility of the idea compared to the contradictions prevailing in the society or has a power of intellect and high mentality that distinguishes him from other members of the society.

That man is our hero, Abu Bakr As-Siddiq ؓ. The man was a close friend of the Prophet ﷺ before the latter began calling people to Islam. As soon as he was called by the Prophet ﷺ to believe that he was the Messenger of Allâh and that he was

calling to a new religion that would save all humanity from the agonies of worshipping idols of stone, elements of nature or other human beings, he, without any hesitation, accepted the call and adopted it as if it was his own.

With the progress of the Islamic call, Abu Bakr ؓ was a true believer who never hesitated to provide all support to the Prophet ﷺ and the religion of Islam. He sacrificed the major part of his wealth for the sake of spreading the call and freeing slaves from the oppression of disbelievers.

Even when he was elected a Caliph (ruler), he continued the same course of life he had before. He was the kind of man who deeply believed in Islam, sincerely worked for it and never had rest until he was sure that Islam had been deeply rooted in the Arab society and other societies as well.

Let us together go through the following pages to know more about this great man who played a major role in building the future of Islam.

Abdul Basit Ahmad

Introduction

Arabs before the rising of Islam

The Arab society in the Arabian Peninsula and surrounding areas mainly consisted of tribes and clans. Some of them lived in towns while most of them followed their flocks everywhere in the desert in search of food and water. These tribes were usually involved in wars amongst each other. Every tribe was invading and invaded by other tribes.

The gloom that loomed over the Arabian Peninsula and the world in general before the rise of Islam killed nearly every virtue in the minds and hearts of human beings at that time. Human rights, for example, were not given any value. Slavery, burying girls alive and injustices were dominating the societies of the city and desert alike. Youth and old were spending their time in grazing animals or practicing trade during the daytime and seeking trivial pleasures during the night. The guidance brought by previous religions was absent from the life of people. There was no central government; rather, every tribe had its own chief and customs in spite of the fact that some common laws were prevailing in the society.

The people of Arabia were largely idol

message to the entire world.

Values and morals called to by the Prophet ﷺ

The first thing the Prophet ﷺ called people to adopt was to worship One Allâh. He told people that the stones they were worshipping were just stones made by them and that they did not deserve to be worshipped. These stones were not the real creators of this vast universe. They could not bring their worshippers any good or cause them any harm. The Prophet ﷺ urged people to stop burying their daughters alive. These little girls were given the right by Allâh to live and no one should deprive them of this sacred right. He also urged them to be just to their slaves and not to be hard on them. He invited various the different tribes to stop invading each other and to unite their efforts under the banner of Islam to become a real nation. He also preached against all vices and evils that were spreading amongst the people.

Followers of Islam

In the beginning of the call, most of those who accepted Islam were weak people and slaves. They found justice and truth in the principles preached by the Prophet ﷺ. Although some of the early believers held good positions in their society, they also received their share of

oppression and torture. These followers were worshipping Allâh secretly. They faced the challenge with courage and steadfastness. All means to make them abandon their faith were of no avail. The torture they received at the hands of the pagans did not succeed in making them even say one word against their faith. Some of them were even killed under torture.

Quraish's attempts to stop the call of Islam

The chiefs of the Quraish were furious to see Islam spread among people. In the beginning, they tried their best to make the followers of Islam recant. When they could not force the believers to give up their faith, they began accusing the Prophet ﷺ of things that they themselves knew were untrue. They alleged that Muhammad ﷺ was a magician or a liar, although they themselves used to call him the trustworthy. However, all their attempts were of no avail. They followed another direction. His uncle began negotiating with the Prophet ﷺ and try to reach a compromise. They told the Prophet ﷺ that they would make him a king or give him all the money he might ask for. However, the Prophet ﷺ rejected all of their worldly proposals and continued preaching the message of Islam to all humanity.

Conversion to Islam

Relation to the Prophet ﷺ

Abu Bakr lived in the same neighbourhood where the Prophet ﷺ lived. In the beginning about twenty-five years, no contacts were made between Abu Bakr and the Prophet ﷺ. However, it was clear that both the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr became close friends after that time. They were nearly of the same age, their natures were uniform, both of them abhorred the corrupt beliefs and practices of the Quraish and both of them kept themselves away from the evil habits of the day. Hence, Abu Bakr became a most trusted man and a confidant of the Prophet ﷺ.

The first Muslim

After he was ordered to preach the new religion, the Prophet ﷺ invited Abu Bakr to adopt the new faith. Abu Bakr did not avoid him or ask him to give him time to think it over. The Prophet ﷺ said:

“Whenever I invited anyone to accept Islam, he argued with me and rejected my words at the outset except the son of Abu Quhafah (Abu Bakr). He accepted it

immediately and stayed steadfast in it.”

At the beginning of the call, Abu Bakr was on a trade journey in Yemen. On his return to Makkah, some chiefs of Quraish came to see him. They told him that Muhammad had declared himself to be the Prophet. They were waiting for his return to help them find ways to stop the call. Instead of plotting with them against the Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr hurried to the Prophet ﷺ, asked him about the Divine Message and immediately accepted the Faith at the very meeting with the Prophet ﷺ. Abu Bakr did not have any doubts about the themes presented by the Prophet ﷺ. He directly believed the claims of the Prophet ﷺ of an angel (Gabriel) bringing down revelation to him from Allāh. He knew from the very beginning that worshipping idols had been an act of silliness. On the other hand, he recognized the truthfulness, honesty, nobility and piety of the Prophet ﷺ. Hence, he, from the first instance, supported his message because it satisfied the demands of his reason and soul.

Thus, Abu Bakr was destined to be the first servant of Islam. His zeal for upholding truth, right and justice prepared him to make great

Leaving the Homeland

Early morning before dawn, the Prophet ﷺ ordered his cousin, 'Ali ؑ to cover himself with his blanket and sleep in his bed. The Prophet ﷺ left, passing in front of the youth surrounding his house. He reached the house of Abu Bakr ؓ who kept awake and ready to join the Prophet ﷺ. They both made for a cave of Thaur about five miles south of Makkah. Both the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr ؓ kept in the cave while Makkans were searching everywhere to find them after they had discovered that the Prophet ﷺ had escaped them. The Quraish horsemen came very close to the cave and Abu Bakr ؓ felt his body shivering for fear of being seen by pursuers. However the Prophet ﷺ whispered in his ear:

“Do not grieve, Allâh is with us.”

The pursuers came very close to the mouth of the cave and would have seen the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion had they gone into that cave. But thanks to Allâh they left in dismay and the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion kept safe. They were very sure that Allâh had protected them.

Sacrifices for the Prophet ﷺ

In fact, Abu Bakr ؓ feared for the Prophet's life more than he feared for his own life. As soon

as both men arrived at the cave, Abu Bakr ؓ asked the Prophet ﷺ to stay outside. He went inside to check the cave. He knew that if the Quraish had got hold of the Prophet ﷺ, it would have been the end of Islam.

In the Cave

Both men spent three days in the cave until the Quraish's search cooled down. They were served every night with food by Abu Bakr's daughter, Asma' رضي الله عنها, and brought news of the search efforts by Abu Bakr's son, Abdur-Rahman ؓ.

The Reward

Because the Quraish were not able to catch the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion, they fixed a reward of one hundred camels for whoever caught hold of the two migrants. The Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr ؓ, a guide and a servant left the cave and headed to Al-Madinah on zigzagging ways to mislead the pagans.

Attempts to catch the two Migrants

On the way to Al-Madinah, a horseman named Suraqah bin Malik followed the migrants. Suraqah heard news of the reward set by the Quraish for the heads of the Prophet ﷺ and Abu

Abu Bakr in Al-Madinah

Solidarity and Brotherhood

Abu Bakr ﷺ settled with the Prophet ﷺ and other migrants in Al-Madinah. The Prophet ﷺ soon organized Islamic brotherhood among Supporters and Migrants (*Ansar and Muhajiroon*). Abu Bakr ﷺ was made the brother-in-faith of Kharijah bin Zaid of the tribe of Khazraj. He, like other migrants, started his life in Al-Madinah preparing for the establishment of the new Islamic State. He helped his brothers in Islam in building the mosque and even earned his living by working for wages on the farms of Al-Madinah.

Abu Bakr ﷺ had already accepted the Prophet's proposal to marry his daughter, 'Aishah رضي الله عنها, after the death of the Prophet's wife Khadija رضي الله عنها. As conditions in Makkah were not good to complete the marriage, the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr ﷺ waited until they were safe and secure in Al-Madinah. As soon as they arrived in Al-Madinah, the Prophet ﷺ married 'Aishah رضي الله عنها. This marriage added to the strong

relations between the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr ﷺ.

Building the Islamic State

Abu Bakr ﷺ always kept close to the Prophet ﷺ to help in matters of strengthening the new center of Islam and the influence of Muslim brotherhood.

Covenants with the Jews

During this period, the Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr ﷺ and other Muslims did their best to foster relations with the Jews. Jews were settling in the suburbs of Al-Madinah. The Prophet held with them a pact of mutual support. However, the Jews did not respect their covenants on several occasions. Threats from other tribes, especially from the Quraish in Makkah, were increasing. Day after day, the Muslims felt the need to strengthen their forces in order to stand fast against the forces of evil.

Challenges to the Message of Islam

The Muslim settled in Al-Madinah under the protection of the *Ansar*. But the Quraish forced and threatened the polytheist of Al-Madinah to provide help to them against Muslims. Upon this Allâh allowed the Muslims to fight the Quraish in self-defense. The Muslims began patrolling outside Al-Madinah for security purposes. They

ﷺ declared clearly and loudly that all past enemies are free and none should harm them.

The Farewell Pilgrimage

Soon after conquering Makkah, the Prophet ﷺ decided to perform pilgrimage. One hundred thousand Muslims accompanied the Prophet ﷺ to the blessed land to perform pilgrimage. Abu Bakr ؓ was beside the Prophet ﷺ when he stood at Arafat announcing that the religion of Islam was now complete and perfect. Abu Bakr ؓ was so happy to hear these words from the Prophet ﷺ. However, at the same time, he felt very sad for he knew that the end of the Prophet's life had come close.

The Prophet ﷺ falls ill

A short period after performing pilgrimage, the Prophet ﷺ fell ill. Abu Bakr ؓ was very afraid to lose company with the Prophet ﷺ. During his illness, the Prophet ﷺ came into the mosque, ascended the pulpit and said:

“Allâh offered to His servant (the Prophet ﷺ) the privilege of choosing this world or the Hereafter. The servant chose the Hereafter to be close to Allâh.”

“Abu Bakr ؓ understood what the Prophet's

statement implied. He began weeping bitterly. He asked:

“O Prophet of Allâh! Our lives and children be sacrificed for you. How would we live after you.”

During his address, the Prophet ﷺ ordered all doors leading to the mosque to be closed except the door of Abu Bakr ؓ. He added pointing to Abu Bakr :

“I found no one best among my Companions other than Abu Bakr ؓ. However my relation with Abu Bakr is that of a close friend, Islamic brotherhood and Faith until Allâh raises us together.”

The leader of Prayers

During the Prophet's illness, Abu Bakr ؓ was leading the prayers in the *Fajr* (dawn) prayer, the Prophet ﷺ came in the mosque supported by two of his Companions. Abu Bakr ؓ was leading that prayer. The Companions of the Prophet ﷺ were so happy to see the Prophet ﷺ. Abu Bakr ؓ gave way for the Prophet ﷺ to lead the prayer. However, the Prophet ﷺ ordered Abu Bakr ؓ to continue leading the prayer and sat to Abu Bakr's side and

The Virtues of Abu Bakr ﷺ

The Merciful

Abu Bakr ﷺ was known to be a very tender hearted man. He was very merciful to others even enemies. He showered love on all community members. He did not show favour to one over others. Surely he loved his children but the cause of Islam was dearer to him.

The Liberator

From the first day he accepted Islam, Abu Bakr ﷺ put all his resources under the service of the new religion. He bought the slaves who accepted Islam and freed them. He was charitable to all members of the society.

Full Dedication and Sacrifice

When the Prophet ﷺ instructed his Companions to prepare for the Tabuk expedition, he urged them to donate as much as they could out of their property. Abu Bakr ﷺ brought every thing he had to the Prophet ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ asked him how much he left for his family. He replied that he left them the satisfaction of Allâh and His Prophet ﷺ.

No one among the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ excelled Abu Bakr ﷺ in terms of support of Islam. He usually gave the larger portion of his money for the Cause of Islam.

Rule is a Responsibility

Assuming rule did not change the man. Immediately after taking over, he left his house to the market to sell some clothes for his living. ‘Umar ﷺ saw him doing so. He immediately took him to the public treasurer and set him an annual salary to cover his needs.

It is reported that his wife asked him once to increase his share of sugar because she wanted to make some pudding. He told her that he could not do so. Therefore, she tried to save some quantity out of the monthly lot to fulfil her desire. When she had fulfilled that desire, she brought him the pudding. He immediately told the treasurer that his lot of sugar should be reduced because the quantity spared was not needed.

Collection of the Noble Qur’ân

As a result of wars waged against the apostates, many prominent Companions of the Prophet ﷺ were killed. Among these people there were