



The Golden Series of
**THE PROPHET'S
COMPANIONS**

The First Caliph of
ISLAM

Abu Bakr AS-SIDDEEQ

May Allah be Pleased with him

ABDUL BASIT AHMAD



DARUSSALAM
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The Golden Series of
THE PROPHET'S COMPANIONS



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The Golden Series of
THE PROPHET'S COMPANIONS

The First Caliph of Islam

Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq رضي الله عنه



Abdul Basit Ahmad

Edited by
Abu Taymiyyah Shafiq Siddiq



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

“Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allah [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 Allah] in the least.”
(33:23)

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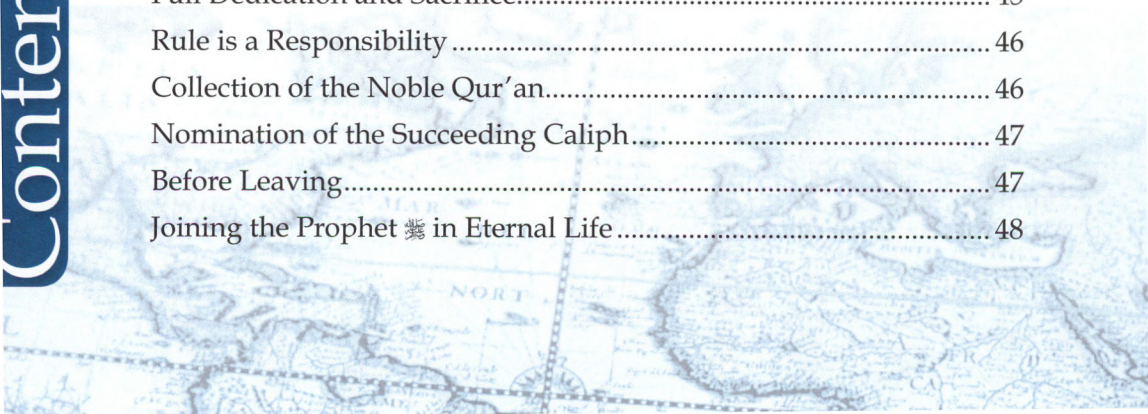
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Publisher's Note

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, 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 youth and encouraging them to be good Muslims.

The following story titled 'Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq- 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 cause of Islam, helping 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 Allah and His Prophet ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ said: "I found no one better among my Companions than Abu Bakr. However my relation with Abu Bakr is that of a close friend, Islamic brotherhood and faith until Allah raises us together."

He was the first Caliph and a great commander 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 youth, especially in the West where non-Islamic influences are very 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 youth.

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

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

Abdul Malik Mujahid

General Manager

October 2012

Dhul Hijjah 1433



Foreword

Most, if not all, human beings would think twice before accepting any idea or belief. They usually like to see evidence 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 to what extent the ideas by 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 society or has a power of intellect and high mentality that distinguishes him from other members of society.

That man is our hero, Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq ﷺ. He 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 Allah 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.

Throughout the progress of the Islamic call, Abu Bakr ؓ was a true believer. He 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 or being 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. The youth and the elderly 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 society.

The people of Arabia were largely idol worshippers. A number of Jews and Christians were scattered here and there, but their practice of their religions had greatly diminished. Every Arab tribe had its own deities and its own forms of worship. The Ka'bah itself surrounded with hundreds of idols which were considered by Makkans as gods.

Society urgently needed a Messenger from Allah to reform it and spread guidance throughout the Arabian Peninsula in particular and the world in general.

Advent of Islam

The child Muhammad grew up in an environment where a lot of evil and vice was practised. When he became a young man, he kept himself away from the evils and vices of the day. Like other youth, he used to graze his uncle's flocks. He was well behaved and was loved and respected by all those who came in contact with him. He was well

known to be sincere and trustworthy to the extent that he was called *Al-Ameen* (trustworthy) by people. He did not like the ways that his peers were following to satisfy their desires. He could not accept the idea of standing before any idol pleading for help. He sometimes engaged in trade on behalf of wealthy men. It is well known that he visited Damascus twice before he was commissioned with the message of Islam. On the way there, many signs of his Prophethood were seen by his Companions and even monks living in isolation. When he was twenty-five years old, he married a wealthy woman who preferred him to the chiefs of Quraish.

At the age of forty, he was blessed by Allah with Prophethood. He started preaching the new religion to his close relatives as ordered by Allah. After three years of calling to Islam, he was ordered by Allah to preach Islam in public. He met hard opposition and cruel oppression, especially by his tribesmen.

The Prophet ﷺ spent thirteen years in Makkah calling its people and its surrounding areas to accept Islam. However, he did not achieve much success. He visited some nearby towns like Ta'if to preach Islam and seek protection against oppression. His attempts did not meet success.

The Prophet ﷺ changed his way of preaching Islam. He began calling visitors of Makkah to provide him with protection to be able to proclaim the Word of Allah. A

group of visitors from a town called Yathrib believed in the message of Islam and pledged to provide the needed protection.

The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions migrated to Yathrib (Al-Madinah). There they could establish the Islamic State and propagate the 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 the worship Allah alone. He told people that the idols 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 Allah 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 leaders of 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 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 Allah 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 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 tried 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 refused all of their worldly proposals and continued preaching the message of Islam to all humanity.

Background

Abu Bakr was born in Makkah two years after the birth of the Prophet ﷺ. His parents belonged to a clan called Banu Taim, a branch from the Quraish tribe. As a boy, he was brought up in an environment characterized by excellence of chivalry, generosity and manliness.

In pre-Islamic times, this clan was assigned a function that made it well established within the Makkan society.



Blood money in murder cases was referred to Abu Bakr's father who in turn assigned the job to his son.

Before converting to Islam, Abu Bakr was well known for his excellent manners, wide knowledge and perfect wisdom. He was consulted on important matters and his decision was always final. He was even considered the greatest authority of his day on matters related to relations among clans and tribes.

After he converted to Islam, the Prophet ﷺ named him Abdullah instead of his previous name Abdul Ka'bah. He was popularly known among people as Abu Bakr followed by a quality that most Companions of the Prophet ﷺ confirmed was given to him by Allah through the Prophet ﷺ. That quality was 'As-Siddeeq' (the most truthful). He was also given another quality by the Prophet ﷺ which was 'Al-'Ateeq' (the liberated) from Hell- fire.

Abu Bakr ﷺ was a successful merchant and was highly respected for his fair dealings. While a young man, He lived a chaste and sound life and kept away from all wasteful activities that his peers were indulging themselves in. He resisted all temptations of wine and women. All society members knew about his high morals and fine treatment of slaves. He, moreover, could distinguish between right and wrong, especially when it relate to beliefs and customs.

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 of their lives, there were no contact between Abu Bakr and the Prophet ﷺ. However, it was clear that the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr became close friends after a while. 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 the most trusted man and the confidant of the Prophet ﷺ.

The First Muslim

After he was ordered to preach the new religion, the Prophet ﷺ invited Abu Bakr ﷺ 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 as soon as he met 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 Allah. 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 sacrifices and face many hardships. Moreover, his approach in convincing others to the truth of Islam brought so many to the fold of Islam. He used up his wealth to free slaves who converted to Islam, to save them from the agonies and oppression, which the Quraish inflicted on them. He, himself, suffered a lot at the hands of the tyrants, so much so that he was left once unconscious after he was beaten to near death. It did not bother him for his wealth to be used up for the sake of Allah and the propagation of the new light of Islam.

The True Believer

In every test of oppression, Abu Bakr ﷺ showed proof of his firm faith. He did not expect any material gains from his support of Islam. His protection of converts saved them from the mischievous acts of Quraish and provided them with a shelter to worship Allah in relative peace.

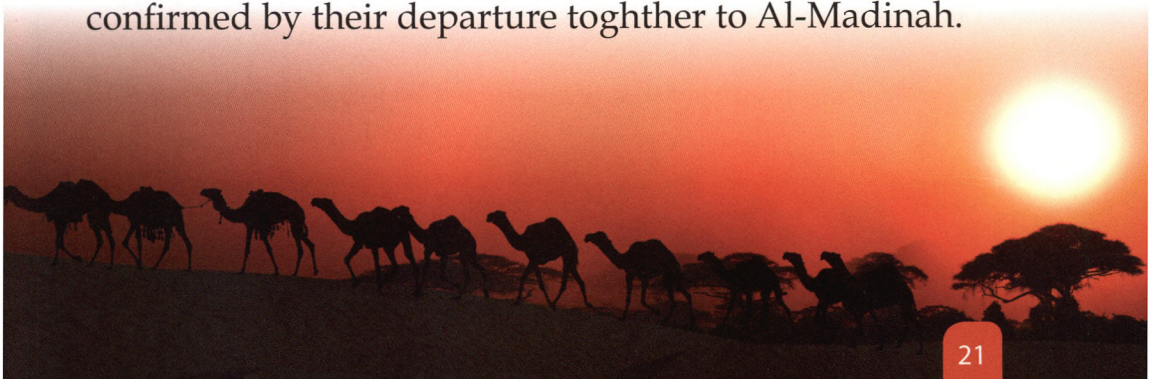
Migration to Al-Madinah

Desperate Efforts

No doubt that the way the Prophet ﷺ preached his message for thirteen years in Makkah had no parallel in history. His courage and determination in the face of bitter opposition will always be a source of inspiration to those who work in the cause of truth and justice. He began, single handedly with no visible means of protection, to meet the attacks of the barbarous tribes of Arabia. It was a really difficult mission to change those people, who were notorious for their worship of idols and criminal acts, into clean and civilized human beings.

Side by Side with the Prophet ﷺ

The assistance provided by Abu Bakr ﷺ in helping the cause and protecting weak converts created a strong bond between him and the Prophet ﷺ. This bond was further confirmed by their departure together to Al-Madinah.



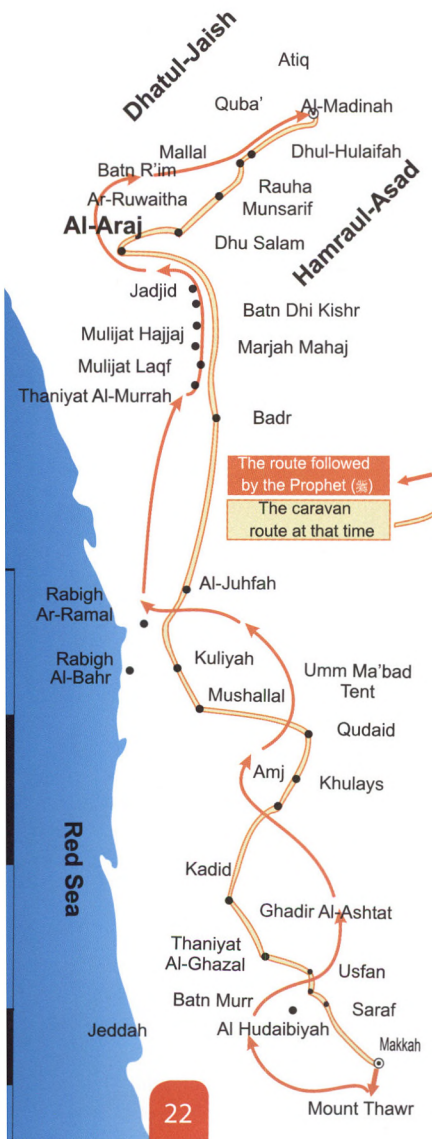
Change of Direction

As the Prophet ﷺ felt desperate to change the society of Makkah, he decided to address those who came from afar to participate in fairs outside the city. On many occasions, the response was negative in the beginning. But soon the Prophet ﷺ happened to see a group of visitors from Yathrib. They listened to his message on the very first

occasion and in the course of a couple of years a number of them accepted the Islamic Faith.

Protection Attained

The Prophet ﷺ caught this chance to provide his followers with a place of security. He already had held a pledge of protection with the chiefs of Yathrib. Hence, the Prophet ﷺ permitted his Companions to start migrating to Yathrib. He himself was preparing to leave the city to the new place where he could find peace to preach the message. His Companions began migrating to Yathrib in batches and groups until most of them left the city under the cover of darkness leaving behind their houses and property.



First in Everything!

Abu Bakr ﷺ himself expressed his wish on many occasions to leave Yathrib but the Prophet ﷺ was always asking him to wait for a while. The Prophet ﷺ said to him:

“Do not do so now. Maybe Allah will send a companion to be with you when you migrate.”

These words gave Abu Bakr ﷺ a strong feeling that the Prophet ﷺ would be his companion in his journey to Al-Madinah. At the same time, he was afraid lest Quraish would come to know that the Prophet ﷺ was planning to leave Makkah.

Four months had now passed since the first batches of Muslims had left Makkah and there were only a few people who for one reason or another could not leave the city including the Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr and Ali bin Abi Talib

The Plot to Murder the Prophet ﷺ

Quraish felt the danger of permitting Muslims to escape their control. Hence, they finally decided to put an end to the Prophet's life. They agreed to have about forty young men from each tribe to stand by the house of the Prophet ﷺ one night and tear his body with their swords.

Orders to Migrate to Al-Madinah

The Prophet ﷺ, however, was informed by Allah about the plot and was instructed to migrate. The Prophet ﷺ in turn told his close friend, Abu Bakr ﷺ, to be ready for the sacred voyage. Abu Bakr ﷺ had already bought two camels

to use in his journey to Al-Madinah. He had fed the two camels well in preparation for the long journey.

Leaving the Homeland

Before dawn, the Prophet ﷺ ordered his cousin, 'Ali ﷺ, 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 ﷺ who kept awake and ready to join the Prophet ﷺ. They both made for the cave of Thaur about five miles south of Makkah. Both the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr ﷺ stayed in the cave while Makkans were searching everywhere to find them after they had discovered that the Prophet ﷺ had escaped them. Quraish horsemen came very close to the cave and Abu Bakr ﷺ felt his body shivering for fear of being seen by pursuers. However the Prophet ﷺ whispered in his ear:

“Do not Grieve, Allah is with us.”

The pursuers came very close to the mouth of the cave and would have caught the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion had they gone into that cave. Thanks to Allah, they left in dismay and the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion escaped definite death. They were very sure that Allah protected them.

Sacrifices for the Prophet ﷺ

Abu Bakr ﷺ 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 ﷺ 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' ﷺ, brought news of the search efforts by Abu Bakr's son, Abdur-Rahman ﷺ.



Entrance of The Thore cave

The Reward

Quraish were not able to catch the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion. Therefore, they fixed a reward of one hundred camels for whoever could catch the two migrants. The Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr ﷺ, a guide and a servant left the cave and headed to Al-Madinah on varying paths to confuse 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 Quraish for the heads of the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr ؓ. The man got very near to them and was about to get hold of them. Abu Bakr ؓ told the Prophet ﷺ that someone had been following their steps. The Prophet ﷺ calmly prayed to Allah to save them. No sooner did the Prophet ﷺ finish his prayers than the horseman was thrown down from the back of his horse. He tried again to catch the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion, but once more his horse's feet went deep in the sand and could not move a step forward. Once more, the horseman did his best to come near the group of travelers, but his horse fell down and he was thrown off its back. Now he knew that the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion were out of his catch and that they were true in their Faith. He shouted to the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion asking them to forgive him and promised them to go back and even mislead other reward seekers. The Prophet ﷺ prayed to Allah to forgive him.

Signs of Prophethood

As the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion felt safe, they sought some rest and food. They stopped at a tent known to Arabs on the way to Al-Madinah. There lived a woman named Umm Ma'bad with her sheep. She was selling milk and food to travelers. Abu Bakr ؓ asked her to sell them some milk. She complained that she had no milk to sell. The Prophet ﷺ saw a very weak sheep beside the tent. He asked the woman permission to milk it. She did not object although she was sure the animal could not give any drop of milk. The Prophet ﷺ prayed to Allah, touched the sheep's

udder and began milking it. To the woman's surprise, he milked a full pot. He took some sips of milk, gave the pot to Abu Bakr ﷺ and the other two men to drink. All of them got enough milk and left the rest for the woman.

The People of Al-Madinah Welcome the Prophet ﷺ

News of the departure of the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion from Makkah reached Al-Madinah. They were expected to arrive on a certain day. All the people were waiting at the outskirts of the town for their arrival. On the day of the arrival, men, women and children were waiting under the heat of the sun until it was high noon. They were about to leave back to their homes but a Jew called them from the top of a palm tree telling them to wait. He told them that the migrants for whom they were waiting appeared in the horizon. The inhabitants of Al-Madinah and early migrants felt happy for the safe arrival of the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion. They welcomed the group with cheers of joy and praises to Allah.



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 ﷺ, after the death of the Prophet's wife Khadija ﷺ. As conditions in Makkah were not good to complete the marriage, the

Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr ؓ waited until they were safe and secure in Al-Madinah. As soon as they arrived in Al-Madinah, the Prophet ﷺ married 'Aishah ؓ. This marriage added to the strong relation between the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr ؓ.

Building the Islamic State

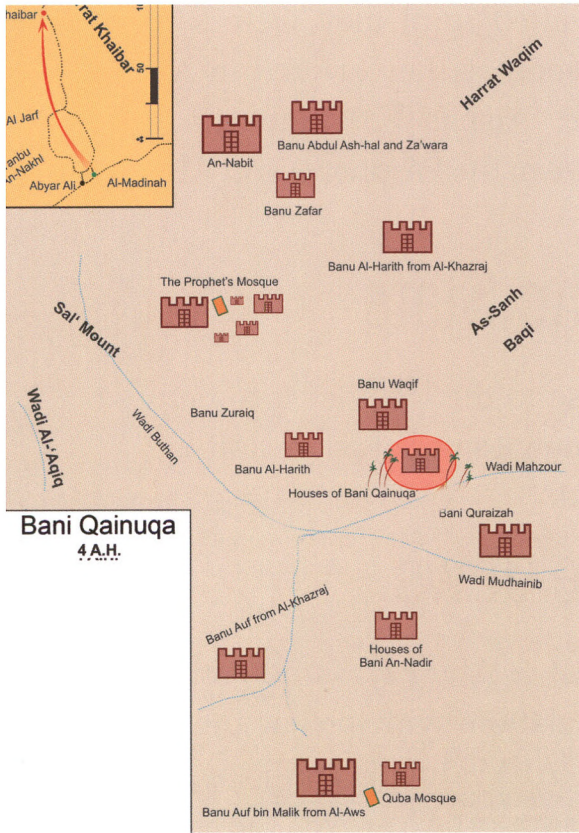
Abu Bakr ؓ always kept close to the Prophet ﷺ to help in matters of strengthening the new center of Islam and the influence of Muslim brotherhood.

Covenants with the Jews

During this period, the Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr ؓ 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 Quraish in Makkah, were increasing. Day after day, Muslims felt the need to strengthen their forces in order to stand fast against the forces of evil.

Challenges to the Message of Islam

Muslims settled in Al-Madinah under the protection of the Ansar. But Quraish forced and threatened the polytheists of Al-Madinah to provide help to them against Muslims. Upon this Allah allowed Muslims to fight the Quraish in



self-defense. Muslims began patrolling outside Al-Madinah for security purposes. They received the news of a Quraish caravan nearby. They went towards it to check it. Abu Sufyan, the loader of the caravan, got the news of Muslims coming towards them, fearing their attack, he changed his direction and managed to escape. He also sent a warning message to Quraish that their trade caravan was in danger. But when felt safe, he sent another man to deliver good news

to Quraish about the caravan. However, Abu Jahl, a leader of Quraish and a bitter enemy of the Prophet ﷺ and Islam, insisted on putting an end to any future threat from Muslims. He convinced other chiefs to march to Al-Madinah to destroy Muslims and Islam.

Preparations for Combat

Quraish deployed a strong army and marched to Al-Madinah. Muslims, on the other hand, did not have enough provisions for the coming battle. However, they were determined to stop the aggressors.

The Battle of Badr



The Defeated

The Prophet ﷺ, with the help of Abu Bakr ﷺ and other Muslim leaders, gathered an army one-third the number of the Quraish army. Both armies met at a place called Badr. There the Prophet ﷺ was provided with a shelter and guarded by Abu Bakr ﷺ to manage the battle. Abu Bakr ﷺ was standing behind the Prophet ﷺ while he was praying to Allah to grant Muslims victory over the disbelievers. Many times did the Prophet's cloak fall off his shoulders and Abu Bakr ﷺ picked it up. He was close to the Prophet ﷺ when he was praying:

“O Allah! If this small band is defeated, no one on earth will worship you.”

As the Prophet ﷺ received reassurance from above, he commanded Muslims to start action.

Throughout the battle, Abu Bakr ﷺ remained by the side of the Prophet ﷺ. He was again and again encouraging the Prophet ﷺ by words like:

“O Prophet of Allah! Why fear? Allah has promised you victory and support. He certainly will fulfil His Word.”

Witness to Allah's Help

No sooner did the battle become fierce that the Prophet ﷺ told Abu Bakr ؓ that the help of Allah had come. He said to him:

“Here is Gabriel riding a horse with its reins in hand and dust on its teeth.”

The volunteers of Islam won the much needed and much deserved victory. They took seventy soldiers of the Quraish army as captives. Some of these captives were eminent and even closely related to the Prophet ﷺ. These were the same people who had oppressed Muslims as much as they could and made their life in Makkah impossible. They expected that the Prophet ﷺ would take revenge on them. Therefore, they wanted to talk to Abu Bakr ؓ. Abu Bakr ؓ promised to help them. The Prophet ﷺ accepted the counsel of Abu Bakr ؓ and agreed to take ransom from some of the captives and release those who could not pay.

The New Challenges

The victory of Badr opened a new page in the history of Islam and Muslims. The Prophet ﷺ began planning future actions. The Jews and the surrounding tribes were not happy with this victory. Grudge and anger made them join hands against Muslims. In the face of such dangers, the Prophet ﷺ was always consulting Abu Bakr ؓ and other Companions from both migrants and supporters to create a sense of unity among all Muslims.

The Jews did not hesitate to announce their jealousy and

plans to defeat the cause of Muslims. They began harassing Muslims through plots to weaken them. One Jewish clan named Banu Qaynuqa' went very far in harming Muslims. The Prophet ﷺ had no choice but to make them leave their land to keep their plots away from Muslims.



The Battle of Uhud

Quraish, did not give up the idea of taking revenge for their defeat at the Battle of Badr. They collected a well-equipped army and marched near to Mount Uhud in the vicinity of Al-Madinah. Abu Bakr ﷺ and some other Companions of the Prophet ﷺ played a major part in preventing Quraish from achieving any gain from the partial defeat of Muslims. He and his brothers in Islam stood fast and protected the Prophet ﷺ. Abu Bakr ﷺ was second to none in fighting Quraish and protecting the life of the Prophet ﷺ in this battle.

Battle of the Trench

As Quraish were not satisfied with the results of the Uhud Battle, they plotted with the Jews and other tribes of Arabia called the 'confederates' to fight their last and deadly battle against Muslims. With an army numbering ten thousand soldiers, they marched to Al-Madinah to loot through the city and put an end to Islam and Muslims. The Jews, on the other hand, sent secret messages to Quraish that they would stand by their side against Muslims.

Muslims were not well prepared for this battle. They were well aware that if the Quraish army were allowed to occupy the town of Al-Madinah, they would destroy the whole message of Islam. The Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr ﷺ and other Companions discussed the best way to stop the attack. Finally, a Companion named Salman Al-Farisi ﷺ, originally from Persia, proposed to dig a trench around weak points of Al-Madinah to deter the attackers. The last attempt by the Quraish to kill Islam in its cradle was successfully foiled by this military trick which Quraish and Arabs had not known before.

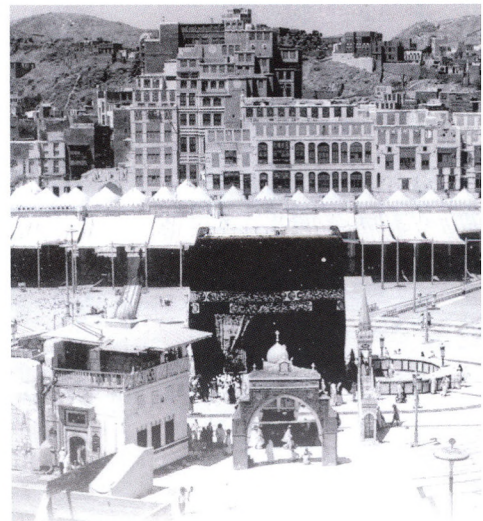
The Hudaibiyah

Peace Agreement

After the Battle of the Trench, the Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr ؓ and other Companions wished to visit Makkah. Fourteen hundred Muslims, barely armed, marched to Makkah. They were stopped by Quraish at a place called Hudaibiyah close to Makkah. Finally a peace agreement was held between Muslims and Quraish stating that Muslims should go back that year and come back next year for three days only. The Prophet ﷺ, supported by Abu Bakr ؓ, accepted the agreement. The next year, Abu Bakr ؓ was ordered by the Prophet ﷺ to lead Muslims on their trip to make pilgrimage.

The Conquest of Makkah

Quraish did not keep its word according to the Hudaibiyah Peace Agreement. They attacked a tribe that held alliance with the Muslims and killed some of them.



The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions were now released from the obligations of the agreement. The Prophet ﷺ, as promised by Allah, marched to Makkah at the head of an army of ten thousand soldiers. The Prophet ﷺ announced that the people of Makkah would be safe and secure if they did not challenge the advancing army. Anyone who kept inside his house or resorted to the Ka'bah would not be taken as a foe. The Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr ؓ and Muslims conquered Makkah peacefully. There, the Prophet 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 had known that the end of the Prophet's life came close.

The Prophet ﷺ Falls ill

A short period after performing pilgrimage, the Prophet ﷺ fell ill. Abu Bakr ﷺ 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:

“Allah 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 Allah.”

“Abu Bakr ﷺ understood what the Prophet’s statement implied. He began weeping bitterly. He asked:

“O Prophet of Allah! Our lives and children are sacrifices 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 ﷺ. He added pointing to Abu Bakr :

“I found no one better than Abu Bakr ﷺ as a Companion. However my relation with Abu Bakr is that of a close friend, Islamic brotherhood until Allah resurrects us together.”

The Leader of Prayers

During the Prophet's illness, Abu Bakr ﷺ was leading the prayers. In the Fajr (dawn) prayer, the Prophet ﷺ came in the mosque supported by two of his Companions. Abu Bakr ﷺ was leading that prayer. The Companions of the Prophet ﷺ were so happy to see the Prophet ﷺ. Abu Bakr ﷺ gave way for the Prophet ﷺ to lead the prayer. However, the Prophet ﷺ ordered Abu Bakr ﷺ to continue leading the prayer, sat to Abu Bakr's side and offered prayer. As the Prophet ﷺ completed his prayer, he came back to his house where he felt very sick. After a while his blessed soul ascended to Heavens.



A Wise and Balanced Muslim

Abu Bakr ﷺ, unlike other Muslims who were shocked by the news, entered to where the Prophet ﷺ was lying, kissed his face and said: “My father and mother be sacrificed for you. You are good in both states, alive and dead.”

Some Companions threatened anyone who would say that the Prophet ﷺ had died. Abu Bakr ﷺ came out stressing the fact that no one would live forever even the Prophet ﷺ. Now, all the Companions understood the reality and accepted the fact. So, Abu Bakr ﷺ controlled the situation and brought the people out of confusion. He saved the Muslim community from total disruption.

Abu Bakr ﷺ did not forget in this grave situation that Allah told the Prophet in the Qur’an:

“Verily you will die, and verily, they (too) will die.” (39:30)



Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه Selected as Caliph

Immediately after the Prophet ﷺ passed away, his prominent Companions met to choose a successor. At a place called Saqifa, Abu Bakr ﷺ was distinguished to be the man rightly suitable for the position. After lengthy discussions, 'Umar bin Al-Khattab and Abu 'Ubaidah bin Al-Jarrah ﷺ held the hand of Abu Bakr and announced him as the Caliph (ruler). All people, both migrants and supporters supported electing Abu Bakr ﷺ as a Caliph. On the next day, most people came to the mosque to pledge obedience to Abu Bakr ﷺ.

Abu Bakr ﷺ ascended the pulpit and expressed his sorrow for the Prophet's departure from this world. He added:

“O people! I swear by Allah that I never wanted to be a Caliph or wished to be so. It is a big task that you put on my shoulders. Obey me as long as I obey Allah and His Prophet ﷺ. When I disobey Him and His Prophet, do not obey me.”

By these words, Abu Bakr ﷺ set the rules for his government. He gave the people the right to dismiss him from power if he committed anything contrary to the principles of Islam.

The Trouble Ahead

Some Arab tribes defied the state and thought of returning to paganism. Some of them announced that they were no longer obliged to be Muslims after the death of the Prophet ﷺ while others said that they were not ready to pay Zakât. Such movements were mainly at places in Arabia where Islam had not struck deep roots in the soil. Several impostors appeared claiming to have received revelation from Allah.

Abu Bakr ﷺ, the new Caliph, had to face all these challenges and restore order. He was advised by some Companions, especially 'Umar ﷺ, to be lenient. However, Abu Bakr ﷺ was well aware of the dangers that were threatening Islam and the Muslim State. He was decisive to put an end to such rebels. He prepared several armies to fight apostates. Finally, he controlled all of the rebels and brought them back to Islam.

The most important challenge was Musailimah Al-Kadhab (the Liar), in Najd. He gathered a huge army to fight the Muslims and for a while he was resisting attempts to conquer his fortresses. However, he was finally conquered by an army led by Khalid bin Al-Waleed.

So, the decisions of Abu Bakr ﷺ to fight the apostates and restore order and peace were very wise. He would have been satisfied to keep Al-Madinah and hence go back to the days when Islam first established itself in that town.

An Expedition to be Completed

Days before the death of the Prophet ﷺ, an army was mobilized to go north to fight the Romans who were preparing to attack the Muslims. However, this expedition was suspended because of the death of the Prophet ﷺ.

Abu Bakr ﷺ always carried out the commands of the Prophet ﷺ. Therefore, he ordered Usamah bin Zaid ﷺ to lead the army as was originally commanded by the Prophet ﷺ. In spite of the fact that dangers were immense at home and although many Companions of the Prophet ﷺ preferred to abandon the expedition, Abu Bakr ﷺ was keen to carry out the orders of the Prophet ﷺ. He told those who objected to the expedition:

“Who am I to stop the army that the Prophet ﷺ had ordered to proceed. Even if I was snatched by animals, I will send this army.”

He gave his orders to the army to proceed and advised them to be true Muslims:

“Do not kill a child, an aged man or a woman. Do not cut trees or slay livestock except for your real needs. Do not bring harm to any monks. Now march forward in the Name of Allah.”

The expedition had placed fear in the hearts of Romans and apostates alike. They saw that, in spite of the death of the Prophet ﷺ, the Islamic State was still strong enough to send such a big army.

Conquests

Under Abu Bakr's Rule

As Abu Bakr ﷺ was finished with the apostates in Arabia and brought them back to Islam, he directed his intentions to deter the Romans and Persians who already began making problems for the Islamic State. Both powers were creating trouble on the Muslim borders. They had played a definitive role in making other tribes revolt against the new government.

Conquest of Iraq

Under the leadership of Khalid bin Al-Waleed ﷺ, the famous Muslim commander, an army was mobilized to march to Iraq as a help to Muthana bin Harithah Al-Shaibani. Arabs in the southern part of Iraq were badly treated by Persian landlords. Muslims came to this land to save them from the oppression of the Persians.

The Persians mobilized a huge army. Both armies engaged in a fierce battle. To the surprise of the Persians, their leader, Hurmuz, was killed on the spot. They immediately began fleeing the battlefield. The Muslim soldiers chased after them in a hot pursuit until they reached the River Euphrates.

Several other battles took place before the Muslims conquered all of Iraq. They followed the orders of their Caliph to be merciful to the people of Iraq. This way of treatment

made most people of Iraq and Madian embrace Islam.

Abu Bakr ﷺ felt that all such victories were due to Allah's help and not due to his or his soldiers' power. He thanked Allah for his favour upon the Muslims, allowing them to gain control over one of the two major empires of the time.

Expedition to Syria and Palestine.

The main objective behind such expeditions was self-defense. The Caliph wanted to strengthen his borders in order to prevent any attack from the side of the Romans. The Romans had already supported the apostates and were not happy to see the rebels fall one after the other.

Abu Bakr ﷺ mobilized a strong army and advised the soldiers to be just to people whom they conquer and to be sincere to their pledges. He was sure that the army would come back victorious.

He remembered when the Prophet ﷺ prayed to Allah at Badr for the small force of the Muslims to be victorious. Some of those men who fought at Badr joined this army to Syria.

They stopped at a place called Yarmouk. The leader, Abu 'Ubaidah bin Al-Jarrah ﷺ, saw how they were outnumbered by the Romans. He discussed the matter with his chiefs. They all agreed to inform Abu Bakr ﷺ of the conditions. Abu Bakr ﷺ ordered Khalid bin Al-Waleed ﷺ to leave the Iraqi front and speed up to Yarmouk. Under the leadership of Khalid, the army fought a big battle and defeated the Romans once and for all.

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 things 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 Allah 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'an

As a result of wars waged against the apostates, many prominent Companions of the Prophet ﷺ were killed. Among these people there were seventy persons who had memorized the Noble Qur'an. 'Umar ﷺ feared that the text of the Qur'an would be lost if such deaths continued. He asked Abu Bakr to order for the collection of the Qur'an.

Abu Bakr ؓ did not like to do something that the Prophet ﷺ did not himself do. However, 'Umar ؓ convinced Abu Bakr ؓ that such a job should be done; otherwise, the Qur'an would be lost over time. Abu Bakr ؓ accepted 'Umar's justifications and ordered Zaid bin Thabit ؓ to collect the text of the Qur'an.

Nomination of the Succeeding Caliph

Nearing his death, Abu Bakr ؓ wanted to leave this worldly life free from obligations toward the nation. He discussed the issue of succession with many companions. He suggested 'Umar ؓ to be the successor Caliph and they all agreed that it was a good choice. Hence he wrote a testament in which he named 'Umar ؓ as the next Caliph. In this very testament he advised the coming Caliph to take care of the nation and fear Allah when deciding on any matter related to the state.

Before Leaving

Abu Bakr ؓ felt that he was close to leaving this world. He called his daughter 'Aishah ؓ, the Prophet's wife. He asked her to calculate how much he had taken from the public treasury as post allowance. She told him that the total sum was six thousand dirhams. He ordered her to return the sum to the public treasury. Some reports say that he had left nothing for his children and relatives.

Joining the Prophet ﷺ in the Eternal Life

Toward the end of his rule, Abu Bakr ﷺ was stricken by fever. He fell ill for several days before leaving this earthly abode. He had now fulfilled all his obligations and longed to join the Prophet ﷺ in the hereafter. He passed away like any other human being.

On his deathbed, Abu Bakr ﷺ was seen several times weeping. He did not cry because of fear of death but because he might have neglected things that he was entrusted to do. After several days, Abu Bakr ﷺ passed away. The nation was very sad to lose the great Rightly Guided Caliph who fulfilled all of his obligations before Allah and toward Muslims. Abu Bakr ﷺ was buried beside the Prophet ﷺ in the room of 'Aishah ﷺ

May Allah bestow His mercy on Abu Bakr ﷺ for the services he gave to Islam and Muslims. Till today he is considered an example of dedication and sacrifice for Islam.

When you get older, you should follow the example of Abu Bakr ﷺ, especially at times of hardships. You should also follow his example when you need to take a decision in difficult situations. You should not bargain for your faith.