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ABU BAKR AS-SIDDEEQ

(May Allah be pleased with him)



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Note: The content of this book is based on the Qur'an, Hadith, and Islamic texts that have been written, verified, and approved by three scholars.

Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq is the first Caliph of Muslims after the death of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. His Caliphate spanned a period of two years. He was linked to the Prophet through his lineage, connecting back to Murrah bin Kaab, spanning six generations before him.

Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq was born in Makkah in the year 573 AD, approximately two years and several months after the birth of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq's father, Uthman Abu Quhafah, embraced Islam on the Day of Victory in Makkah. His mother, Salma bint Sakhar, who was also known as Umm Al Khair, had accepted Islam early and subsequently migrated to Madinah.

Abu Bakr was a slim white man with slight shoulders, a thin face, sunken eyes, a protruding forehead, and the bases of his fingers were hairless, as his daughter, 'Aishah, described him.

During his early childhood, Abu Bakr lived a typical life like other Arab children of his time. He spent his early years playing with camel calves and goats, and his affection for camels earned him the nickname “Abu Bakr,” which translates to ‘the father of the camel’s calf.’

In the year 591 AD, at the age of 18, Abu Bakr ventured into trade and chose to follow in his family's footsteps by becoming a cloth merchant. He started his business with an initial capital of forty thousand dirhams.

In the following years, Abu Bakr travelled extensively with caravans. Business trips took him to Yemen, Syria, and many other countries. He became the chief of his tribe due to his many qualities, such as knowledge about the history of Arab tribes, politics, trade, and others.

Even before Islam, Abu Bakr had made intoxicants forbidden for himself. Once a person asked him: "Have you ever drunk an intoxicant?" Abu Bakr replied: "I seek refuge in Allah; I never did it." He was asked: "Why?" He said: "I maintain my honour and preserve my dignity."

Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq never prostrated to idols before Islam. Once, in a gathering of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his Sahaabah, Abu Bakr said: "I have never prostrated to an idol."

Abu Bakr was remarkably virtuous. Before Islam, he acquired great values, high ethics, and good behaviour within an ignorant society. He was well-known among the people in Makkah as a leader in morality and values.

Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq accepted Islam after a long search for the true religion. In fact, he was the first man to respond to and believe in the Prophet ﷺ. His acceptance of Islam was a consequence of his steadfast friendship with the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Abu Bakr knew the Prophet as a truthful, honest, and noble person. When the Prophet ﷺ spoke to him about Islam, Abu Bakr had no doubt that he was telling the truth, so he believed immediately, and that gave birth to his nickname, 'As-Siddeeq'.

When Abu Bakr embraced Islam, the Prophet ﷺ was overjoyed because he knew that Abu Bakr would be a source of triumph for Islam due to his noble character and his intimacy with the Quraysh tribe.

In fact, Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq had always doubted the validity of idolatry and had very little enthusiasm for worshipping idols. So, when he accepted Islam, he did his best to attract other people to the worship of Allah Alone.

The Prophet ﷺ once said: “Abu Bakr was the only person who accepted Islam immediately, without suspicion.”

After his conversion, he spent his wealth in the service of Islam by giving alms, freeing slaves, and supporting the work of the Prophet ﷺ. He and his wife, Zaynab, had six children: Aisha, Abdullah, Asma, Abd Al-Rahman, Umm Kulthum, and Muhammad.

Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) said: 'Shall I not tell you the best of this ummah after its Prophet? (It is) Abu Bakr.' Then he said: 'Shall I not tell you the best of this ummah after Abu Bakr? (It is) Umar (may Allah be pleased with him).'"

Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq accompanied the Prophet during his Hijrah, participated in all the battles, and was with him during his stay in Madinah and his travels outside. Before the Prophet died, he was the one whom the Prophet instructed to lead the prayer.

When Abu Bakr died at the age of sixty-three years, his caliphate had lasted for only two years and three months. During his short reign as caliph, Abu Bakr put down rebellions by various Arab tribes and established the Caliphate as the ruling force in the region.

During his illness, Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq was deeply concerned about the future stability of Islam. After consulting with many well-known companions of the Prophet, he made the decision to confer the caliphate on Umar bin al-Khattab. The people unanimously agreed with this choice, recognising Umar's qualities and leadership abilities.

REVIEW YOUR READING

1. Who was the first Caliph of Islam?
2. Which companion was known for his close friendship with the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ?
3. Who was known for his title 'As-Siddeeq'?

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