

Sayyidna Uthman

1. Describe his Early life

- i. His name was Uthman ibn Afan bin Abdul `As. He was from Umayyah tribe of Quraish. He bears the title “Dhun-nurain” (the man with two lights).
- ii. He was born in 573CE in Mecca, five years after the birth of the prophet (saw).
- iii. He was one of the few persons in Mecca who knew reading and writing.
- iv. He was a cloth merchant and always helps poor.
- v. He was soft natured and kindhearted man.
- vi. He married Ruqayah (RAA) the daughter of the prophet (saw), when she died after the battle of Badr, he was given another daughter by the prophet (Ummul-Kulthum), thus the reason for the title he was given by the prophet (saw) of “Dhun-nurain” (the man with two lights).

2. Discuss his conversion to Islam

- i. He was among the early convert to Islam through the effort of Abu-Bakr (RA).
- ii. When the life in Mecca became unbearable for Muslims, he went to the prophet (saw) and sought permission to migrate to Abyssinia, accompanied with his wife Ruqqayah. They stayed there for two months.

3. Discuss his accession to caliphate

- i. Sayyidna Umar before he died he appointed a panel of six persons (who were the remaining ones out the ten whom the prophet promised paradise for them), to select caliph from amongst themselves and then get his approval through the pledge of loyalty (Baiyat) by Muslim public. They are: Sayidna Uthman bin Affan ,Ali bin Abi Talib ,Zubeir binul Awwam , Talha bin Ubaidillah , Sa`d bin AbiWaqqaas , Aburahman bin Auf
- ii. Aburahman bin Auf withdrew his candidature and consulted each member individually in order to decide the matter.
- iii. Uthman proposed Ali`s name and Ali proposed Uthman`s name, Zubeir and Saad (RA) were more in favor of Uthman than Ali.
- iv. After more consultation with other companions, Abdurahman gave his decision in the morning of the fourth day in favor of Uthman (RA).

- v. All the Muslims present took pledge of loyalty (Baiat) at the hand of Uthman. In this way Sayidna Uthman (RA) was declared the third caliph.

4. State the achievements of Sayidna Uthman (RA)

- i. During his caliphate the territories of the Islamic empire were immensely extended.
- ii. During his caliphate the Muslim navel was developed.
- iii. He reproduced several copies of the Quran from the manuscript which was under Hafswa.
- iv. He expanded the mosque of the holy prophet (saw).
- v. Through his effort many people embraced Islam.
- vi. He constructed new building for offices
- vii. He constructed bridges and roads.

5. State the challenges faced by Uthman (RA) as a caliph

- i. Expanding and defending of the Muslim territory.
- ii. He was accused of practicing nepotism by appointing governors from his clan
- iii. Suppressing the riots and revolts in Egypt and Basra.
- iv. Making the citizens accept the governors he had appointed from Banu Ummayad.
- v. Bringing to justice the assassins of caliph Umar (RA).
- vi. Consolidating the unity of Muslims, especially after the assassination of Umar.
- vii. Standardizing the Quran as it was discovered that there were different in reading the Quran hence making it have different meanings.

6. Mention the allegation against Sayidna Uthman

- i. They alleged that Sayidna Uthman was removing Hashimites from the big offices to create room for the Ummayads.
- ii. They alleged that Sayidna Uthman was extravagant and he gave away money to his relatives, thus squandered the Baitul-Maal.
- iii. They alleged that Sayidna Uthman that he burnt the Holly Quran.

- iv. He was accused of mistreating recognized companions i.e. Amar ibn Yasser and Abdullah Ibn Masoud and that he forced Abu Dhar al-Ghafar(RA) to live in village.
- v. He was accused of calling back his uncle
- vi. Hakim bin A`s to Medina who was exiled by the prophet (saw).

7. Describe the conspiracy of Abdullah bin Saba

- i. Abdullah bin Saba was a Jew from south Arabia who took leading part in the allegation against Uthman (RA). He accepted Islam only to create disharmony among the Muslims.
- ii. He intended a few beliefs among which is the love of the Holly prophet (saw) and his family (Ahl-Bait). Some of these beliefs are:
 - a) Every prophet left a “wasi”. Consequently Prophet Muhammad (saw) must have a “wasi” and his “wasi” is Ali (RA).
 - b) He said that it was strange for Muslims to believe that Jesus (AS) would descend from heaven to follow Islam and fight for Muslims against non-Muslims and not to believe that the holly prophet Muhammad (saw) could come back.
 - c) He started to give wrong commentaries of various verses of the Quran and twisted their meaning in favor of his belief.
- iii. He incited people to forge complaints against the governors and the caliph himself.

8. Describe the martyrdom of caliph Uthman

- i. Sayidna Uthman (RA) was assassinated on Friday 17th Dhul-Hijjah 35AH (17TH July 656 AD) by rebellion who came to Medina
- ii. The assassins asked Uthman to resign due to those allegations against him but he refused.
- iii. They surrounded his house for some days. They climbed into the house of Uthman from the next house and assassinated him while he was reading the Quran.
- iv. At that time of assassination Sayidna Uthman (RA) was 82 years old. He had saved the in the office for 12 years.

9. Mention the effects of assassination of Uthman

- i. Loss of unity
- ii. The fitna period set in
- iii. The election of next caliph was not organized, causing more problems.
- iv. It also led to assassination of Sayidna Ali (RA).
- v. It led to eventual break up of Islam in caste.

God bless his soul

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