

# **CHAPTER 7: HISTORY OF ISLAM**

## **Sayyidna Abu-Bakr**

### **1. Discuss the early life of Sayyidna Abu-Bakr**

- i. Sayyidna Abu-Bakr real name was Abdul Ka`aba (slave of the ka`aba), but the prophet gave him the name of Abdullah on his conversion to Islam.
- ii. He is widely known as Abu-Bakr (The father of camels) because of his great interest in camels. He bears the title “Assiddiq” (The truthful).
- iii. He was born in 574 CE, two and half years after the year of Elephant.
- iv. His father was Uthman surnamed Abu Quhafa, and his mother was Salma surnamed Umm-ul-Kheer. He was belonging to Banu Tamim branch of Quraish.
- v. His family engaged in the caravan trade and himself traveled to Syria and Yemen when he was eighteen. Later he set up his own business and became a wealthy merchant.
- vi. Though he was brought up in an Idolatrous society, known for wine, women, and gambling, Sayyidna Abu-Bakr resisted these temptations and led a discipline life.
- vii. He was a man of simple character and kindness. He was wise and always avoided evil deeds. He was also a good public speaker.
- viii. He married four wives:
  1. Qutaila bint Abdul-Aziz she gave birth to Abdullah and Asma
  2. Umu ruman she gave birth to Abdul-Rahman and Aisha
  3. Asma bint Umais (widow of Jafar bin Abu-Talib) she gave birth to Muhammad.
  4. Habiba she gave birth to Ummu-Kulthum

### **2. Discuss Abubakar’s conversion to Islam**

- i. At the age of eighteen Abu-Bakr made friendship with the prophet (saw) who was twenty, because the characteristic of the two matched each other.

- ii. The friendship that developed at the prime youth later proved to be the formation of closer relationship that lasted as long as they lived and became a legend of lasting love and lighten.
- iii. When the prophet declared his mission secretly to his relatives and friends, Abu-Bakr was the first person to accept the prophet`s message (saw).
- iv. The conversion of Sayyidna Abu-Bakr set the pace for the extension of Islam. He persuaded his intimate friends to accept Islam.

**3. Mention Those who accepted Islam at hands of Abubakar :**

- i. Uthman bin Affan
- ii. Zubeir bin Awam
- iii. Talha bin Ubaidillah
- iv. Abdur-Rahman bin Auf
- v. Saad bin Abi Waqas
- vi. Abuubaidah bin Al-Jarrah
- vii. Abdullah bin Abdu-Asad
- viii. Abu-Salamah
- ix. Khalid bin Saeed
- x. Abu Hudhaifah.

**4. Discuss the companionship to the prophet (saw)**

- i. Abu-Bakr was a true companion of the prophet (saw). He often spent his own money to free the slaves who were tortured for embracing Islam, when they were persecuted he reprimanded the Quraish
- ii. He worked as an advisor to the prophet: The prophet (saw) in many times sought his advice in different occasions.
- iii. During Hijra he accompanied the prophet and thus became his closest companion in the cave of Thaur.
- iv. He participated in all the battles which were fought during the time of the prophet. During the battles he remained close to the prophet to protect him.
- v. At the time of treaty of Hudaibiyah, he fully supported the prophet. After the fall of Mecca in 8AD. Abu-Bakr met his father who was nearing ninety years of age. The old man embraced Islam with the rest of the family.

- vi. When the prophet became very weak from his illness and unable to lead prayers in the mosque, he asked Abu-Bakr to act as the Imam.
- vii. He was a father-in-law of the prophet, who married his daughter Aisha.

**5. Discuss Abubakar Accession to caliphate**

- i. Immediately after the death of the prophet (saw) problem of succession was eminent as the prophet had not left procedures for electing a caliph.
- ii. The Ansar insisted that in view of their services to Islam, the office should go them. They held a meeting at a place called Saqif and they wanted to choose their leader named Saad bin Ubaidah.
- iii. The Muhajirin wanted the caliphate to be among the Quraish.
- iv. The Ansar by way of compromised proposed that they might have two leaders, one from the Ansars and one from the Quraish.
- v. The proposal went against the solidarity of the Muslims and was not agreed to by Quraish.
- vi. After a good deal Sayidna Abu-Bkr was able to relinquish the caliphate in favor of the Quraish. He himself wanted either Umar or Abu-Ubaidah, but these two companions withdrew in favor of Sayidna Abu-Bakr.
- vii. There upon, the Ansars group offered elegancy to Sayidna Abu-Bakr as the new leader and matter settled.

**6. Mention the lessons that a Muslim leader can learn from Abu-Bakar`s speech**

- i. A head of state is not above the law.
- ii. A head of state is answerable to God and people.
- iii. A head of state should be just and fair.
- iv. A head of state should obey the laws of God and prophet (saw).
- v. A head of state should be God fearing.
- vi. A head of state should be simple, approachable and humble.
- vii. A head of state should accept the advice of the Ummah.
- viii. A head of state should be give equal treatment to all his subjects without discrimination.
- ix. A head of state should be elected democratically.

x. A head of state should only be obeyed when he is on the right path.

**7. Discuss the reasons why Abu-Bakr was the right person to succeed the prophet**

- i. He was a closest friend of the holy prophet (saw) before and after prophethood.
- ii. He was with the prophet (saw) during migration
- iii. He actively participated in the spread of Islam.
- iv. He led the Muslims to the pilgrimage during the lifetime of the prophet (saw).
- v. He led in the prayer during the time of the sickness of the prophet (saw) with the order from the prophet.

**8. State the achievements of Sayidna Abu-Bakr (RAA)**

- i. Expansion of the Islamic empire: he confronted the two super powers (Byzantine and Persia) and conquered parts of Iraq and Syria.
- ii. Missionary activities : Through his efforts many young men among the Quraish joined the fold of Islam
- iii. Liberation of slave: He purchased those slaves who were tortured by their masters because of embracing Islam.
- iv. Preservation of the Quran: Sayidna Abu-Bakr sponsored the compilation of the Quran (Mushaf).
- v. Persecution by the Quraish: whenever the Quraish maltreated the prophet Abu-Bakar intervened to protect the prophet (saw).
- vi. He accompanied the prophet (saw) during migration from Mecca to Medina and he met all the expenses of the journey.
- vii. He purchased a land in Medina for construction of the mosque (Masjid Nabawi).

**9. Mention the challenges faced by Abu-Bakr (RA) as a caliph**

- i. Uprising by Arab tribes who felt that the death of the prophet (saw) was a chance for them to dissociate from caliphate.
- ii. Problem of groups that refused to pay Zakat.
- iii. False prophets who intended to disintegrate Islam.

- iv. The problem of fulfilling the prophets mission of revenging the death of one of the ambassadors sent by him and was killed by Syrians.
- v. Threat from the Roman Empire and the Persian Empire, who wanted to invading Medina, they thought it was no longer protected after the death of the prophet (saw).

**10. Discuss Abu-Bakr`s death**

- i. Abu-Bakr fell sick as a result of taking a cold bath in cold weather, he gathered the leading companions for consultations. He convinced them for suitability of Umar being his successor to which they agreed.
- ii. He then asked them to write an ordinance appointing Umar the next caliph. When this was read to the people, they accepted it and took the oath of allegiance to Umar.
- iii. Abu-Bakr died in the year 13AH (634AD) at the age of sixty three, the same age at which the prophet died and buried beside his friend (saw).
- iv. His caliphate lasted for two years three months and ten days.

*God bless his soul*

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