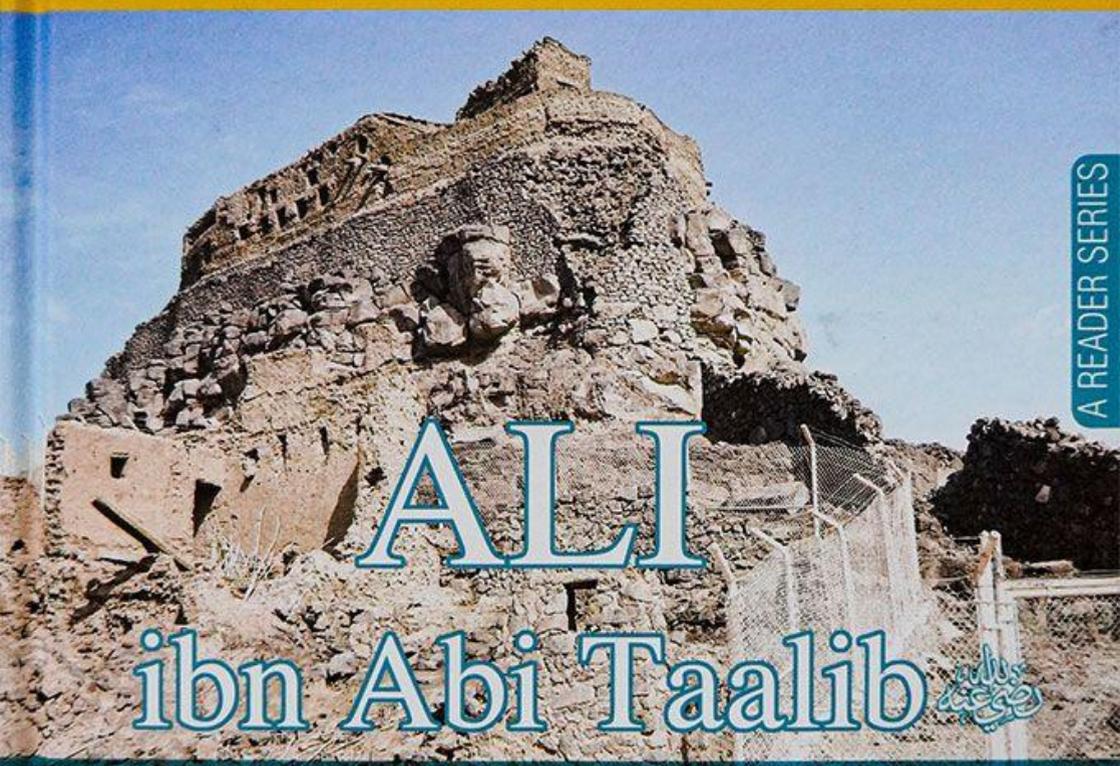


HISTORY OF ISLAM

The Age of the Rightly-Guided Caliphs
AL-KHULAFĀ AR-RASHIDŪN

A READER SERIES



ALI

ibn Abi Taalib

The Last of the Four Rightly-Guided Caliphs



Maulvi Abdul Aziz



Publisher's Note

In the Name of Allah, the Lord of Grace, the Ever Merciful.

For many years, I have been looking for textbooks on the History of Islam for English-speaking students, yet I have found very few. Most did not overcome a common problem: they did not go beyond the era of the Four Rightly-Guided Caliphs, may Allah be pleased with them all.

Bearing this in mind, we at Darussalam have resolved to present the entire History of Islam to our youth in language that appeals to them, in a simple yet lucid manner. The first four volumes in this series explore Islamic history during the period of the first Four Rightly Guided Caliphs. Later volumes will be devoted to the History of Islam, down through the ages to modern times, In Sha'Allah.

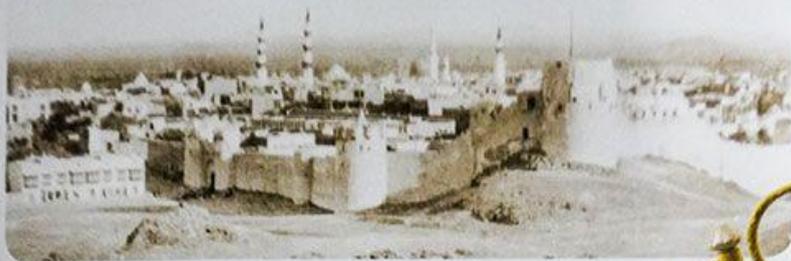
Our past, present, and future are interconnected and interdependent. Therefore, knowing and understanding our history is not optional; it is essential.

This is the fourth volume from this series, which deals with the life of the fourth of the Four Rightly-Guided Caliphs, Ali ibn Abi Talib. He was the first male to accept Islam at the young age of approximately nine years. He was the Prophet's cousin, the son of Abu Talib, the Prophet's supportive and loving uncle who protected him during the worst trials of his early Prophethood.

Ali's devotion to the Prophet is best evidenced during the *Hijrah* (migration) when he acted as the Prophet's decoy in Makkah while the Prophet left under the cover of night and migrated to Madinah, accompanied by Abu Bakr.

We would like to thank the author, Maulvi Abdul Aziz; the editor, Umm Khadijah Kathrada; and the designer, Mr. Shahzad Ahmed for their diligent efforts in preparing this volume. We hope this work will inspire our youth to form a personal relationship with Ali ibn Abi Talib and encourage them to commit their lives sincerely to his mission of selflessness and unparalleled courage, which he has left behind as our common heritage.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
Darussalam, Riyadh
Muharram 23, 1433
December 18, 2011



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The Oath of

Allegiance to Ali



The

rightly-guided Caliph Uthmân ibn Affan was martyred on Friday, 18 Dhul Hijjah 35 AH/ 656 CE, at the hands of rebels. These men had come to Madinah from various regions and different tribes. They were not known for any service to Islam or any good achievements in this world; and for political reasons, they cruelly murdered Uthmân (ﷺ) unlawfully and without any just cause.

After this, all the Companions of the Messenger of Allah who were present in Madinah gathered together to consider who would make the best caliph after Uthmân. They unanimously agreed that there was no one better than Ali (ﷺ) at that time, and they all swore allegiance to Ali as the new *Khalifah* (Caliph).

Ali, the father of the Prophet's grandsons, was not eager for this position of leadership. He only accepted it after strong urging from those of the Companions who were present in Madinah. They feared that the turmoil would increase and spread further.

The Companions of the Prophet (ﷺ) came to Ali and said, 'The Commander of the Faithful has been killed, and the people must have a leader. We do not know of anyone who is more deserving of that than you; or who is more senior in Islam, or close to the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ).'

Ali demurred, 'Do not do it. I would rather be an adviser to you than a leader.'

They insisted, saying, 'No, by Allah, we will not do anything until we swear allegiance to you.'

Ali replied, 'Then do it in the Mosque. Allegiance to me should not be hidden. It should only be with the approval of the Muslims.'

When Ali entered the mosque, the *Muhâjirîn* (Emigrants) and the *Ansâr* (Helpers) came and swore allegiance to him, as did the rest of the people.

Ali had defended Uthmân most strongly during the time of the siege, and he never sought out or desired the Caliphate, even though he was the most deserving of



it. The *Muhâjirûn* and the *Ansâr*, including the decision-makers and most prominent of the Companions, all recognized that Ali was most qualified to be the next Caliph. They went to him and insisted that he accept their oaths of allegiance until he finally relented. The only reason Ali accepted the loyalty and allegiance of the people was because he felt that the position had become an obligation upon him, in order to prevent greater harm from coming to the *Ummah*.

Ali was indeed the best suited and most deserving of the Caliphate at the time. In fact, if the people had not hastened to swearing allegiance to him, it would have led to further disorder and division throughout the Muslim regions. It was in the best interests of the Muslims for Ali to accept the oath of allegiance. None of the Companions

who were present in Madinah held back from swearing allegiance to him. All the Companions in Madinah elected Ali as *Ameer Al-Mu'minîn*, the Commander of the Believers.

The four men most deserving to be Caliphs were Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthmân, and finally, Ali ibn Abi Talib. This fact was recognized not only by the other Companions, but was predicted by the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) himself.

It is important to realize that the Caliphate of Ali came about as a result of the general agreement of the community, and by the consensus of the Companions. After the death of Uthmân, Ali was the natural choice for the position of Caliph. He was one of the earliest Muslims and one of the first emigrants. He showed exemplary courage on the battlefield and exhibited great intelligence in every situation. He was knowledgeable and possessed rare wisdom in judgment. He was able to tackle new situations and emergencies while being also far-sighted in handling his affairs. He was firm in adhering to the truth.

These were all factors which made Ali the only suitable candidate to lead the Muslims during the crucial period of their history.



Ali ibn Abi Taalib

(باللغة الإنجليزية)

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