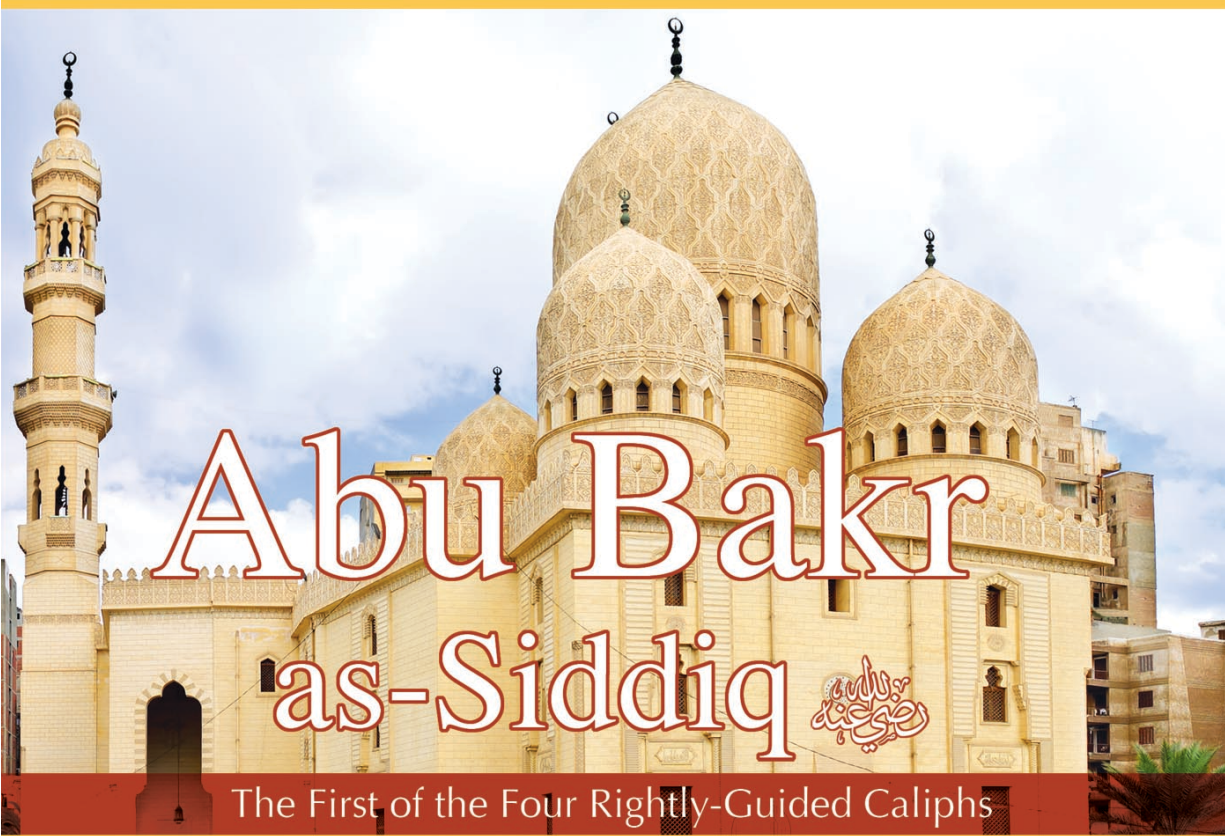


HISTORY OF ISLAM

The Age of the Rightly-Guided Caliphs
AL-KHULAFÀ AR-RASHIDÙN



Maulvi Abdul Aziz



DARUSSALAM
GLOBAL LEADER IN ISLAMIC BOOKS

Riyadh . Jeddah . Al- Khobar . Sharjah
Lahore . London . Houston . New York

History of Islam “A Reader Series”

Al- Khulafa ar-Rashidun

Abu Bakr As-Siddiq

(May Allah be pleased with him)

The First of the Four Rightly-Guided Caliphs

By: Maulvi Abdul Aziz

Published By: Darussalam Publishers & Distributors

Copyright: Darussalam Publishers

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the written permission of the publisher.



Contents

Publisher's Note	5
Chapter 1: The D e a t h of the Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)	6
Completion of the Task	6
The Prophet's (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) Final Illness.....	7
Abu Bakr's Return.....	9
Umar Realizes the Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) Had Indeed Died	10
Men of Madinah Meet to Elect a Chief	10
Chapter 2: The Caliphate of Abu Bakr as-Siddiq May Allah be pleased with him	12
Abu Bakr's Inaugural Address	12
The Funeral Prayer & Burial of the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)	12
Abu Bakr the First of the Four Rightly-Guided Caliphs	13
Usamah ibn Zayd's Army.....	13
Chapter 3: Abu Bakr as-Siddiq.....	16
His Name, Ancestry, Titles, Family, and His Life	16
As-Siddiq	16
Al-Atiq.....	17
3. As-Sahib	17
His Birth and Physical Description.....	17
His Family	18
Asma bint Abu Bakr	18
Ai'shah the Mother of the Believers (May Allah be pleased with her).....	19
Umm Kulthum	19
Abu Bakr as-Siddiq's Life in Makkah.....	19
The Quraysh Loved Him	19

Abu Bakr's Acceptance of Islam	20
Abu Bakr Preaches the Message of Islam	20
Trials and Tribulations.....	20
Abu Bakr Spent his Wealth to Purchase the Freedom of Muslim Slaves	21
Abu Bakr's Emigration [al-Hijrah] with the Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) to al-Madinah	22
Chapter 4: Abu Bakr's Faith in Action	25
Abu Bakr: The First of the Four Rightly-Guided Caliphs.....	25
Progress of Islam does not stop with the death of anyone.....	26
Challenges and Problems Faced by Abu Bakr as-Siddiq as a Caliph:	27
Abu Bakr's War Against Apostates.....	27
False Prophets.....	28
Aswad al-Ansi	28
Saj'ah bint al-Harith ibn Suwaid	28
Musaylamah: The Liar.....	29
The End of Musaylamah, the Liar	30
Gathering the Glorious Qur'an in a Single Book	30
Chapter 5: The Spread of Islam	32
The Conquest of Iraq	32
The Roman Empire and the Iranian Empire.....	32
The Conquest of Iraq	33
The Conquests in ash-Sham.....	34
Abu Bakr Appoints Umar ibn al-Khattab as His Successor and Abu Bakr's Death	36
Abu Bakr's Time to Depart Draws Near	36
Abu Bakr's Character: Extremely Simple Life	37

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 please with them).

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 would 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 first volume from this series, which deals with the life of Abu Bakr as-Siddiq, the first of the Four Rightly-Guided Caliphs. No other person in the History of Islam can be compared to him when it comes to truthfulness, insight into Islamic teachings and devotion to Allah and His Messenger. He was outstanding and unique in his commitment, sincerity, and whole-hearted support and assistance to the Prophet.

We would like to thank the author Maulvi Abdul Aziz, the editor 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 Abu Bakr as-Siddiq and encourage them to commit their lives sincerely to the mission of 'the Champion of Truth', which he has left behind as our common heritage.

Abdul Malik Mujahid

Muharram 23, 1433

Darussalam, Riyadh, December 18, 2011

Chapter 1: The Death of the Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)



Completion of the Task

When Islam reached the peak of perfection, these words were sent down upon the Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), by Allah Most High (which mean):

﴿الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتِمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا﴾

'Today I have perfected your religion for you, completed My grace on you and approved Islam for your religion.' [Al-Ma'idah 5:3]

The Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) had conveyed the Message truthfully. He had fulfilled the trust placed on him and striven in the cause of Allah as he should. Allah had favored His Prophet, when people entered Islam in throngs. At this point, Allah (SWT) gave His Prophet leave to depart from this world. As the hour of departure drew close, Allah (SWT) announced (what means):

﴿إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ ۖ وَرَأَيْتَ النَّاسَ يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجًا ۖ فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَاسْتَغْفِرْهُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ تَوَّابًا﴾

'When comes the help of Allah and victory, and you see people entering Allah's religion in throngs, then glorify the praise of your Lord and seek His Forgiveness. He is indeed Ever-turning.' [An-Nasr 110: 1-3]

Upon returning from Hajj in the month of Dhul Hijjah, the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) remained in Madinah for the remaining months of al-Muharram and Safar in the year 11 AH/632 CE. Soon after, his attention turned towards the north. In the last days of Safar, the second month of the year, he began to prepare a huge army. He decided that the time had come to reverse the defeat of Mu'tah. He commanded that preparations be made for an expedition against those tribes of Syria, which had sided with the Roman troops on the day when Zayd ibn Harithah, Ja'far ibn Abi Talib, and Abdullah ibn

Rawahah were killed. He called Zayd's son Usamah to him and placed him, despite his youth, in command of the three-thousand-strong army. Usamah was only seventeen years old at that time.

The Prophet's (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) Final Illness



The Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was taken ill shortly before the end of Safar, 11 AH/632 CE.

One night, not long after the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) had ordered preparations for the Syrian Campaign and before the army had left, he called his freedman Abu Muwayhibah and said, 'I have been ordered to seek forgiveness for the people of the cemetery, so come with me.' It was midnight. They went out together. When they reached al-Baqi, a graveyard in Madinah, he (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) supplicated for forgiveness for the people at the graveyard. Then he turned to Abu Muwayhibah and said, 'I have been offered the keys of the treasures of this world and everlasting stay therein, followed by Paradise. I have been given the choice, between that and meeting with my Lord and Paradise.'

Abu Muwayhibah said, 'May my father and mother be ransomed for you! Take the keys of the treasures of this world and immortality [the state of being immortal; that lasts or lives forever] therein, followed by Paradise.' The Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) answered him saying, 'I have already chosen the meeting with my Lord and Paradise.' Then he supplicated for forgiveness for the people of al-Baqi. Then he returned to Ai'shah's house.

It was at dawn, or perhaps the next day, that he (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) developed a headache. His head ached as never before, and he became severely ill. He developed a burning fever that was so high that the heat of the fever could be felt over his headband.

Even so, he still went to the Mosque and continued to lead the Prayers as usual. He tried to continue with his regular routine as best as he could, but his illness increased, until the hour came when he could pray only in a sitting position.

He gave his last Khutbah or sermon five days before his death. He mounted the pulpit and invoked blessings on the martyrs of Uhud, as if he were doing so for the last time. He then said, 'There is a slave amongst the slaves of Allah unto whom Allah has offered the choice between this world and that which is with Him; and the slave has chosen that which is with Allah.' When he said that, Abu Bakr wept, for he knew that Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was speaking about himself and that the choice meant approaching death. Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) saw that Abu Bakr had understood. He told him not to weep and then said, 'O people, the person who has favored me the most with his companionship and wealth is Abu Bakr, and if I were to take from all of mankind a bosom friend, he would be Abu Bakr, but for brotherhood [in Islam].' Before leaving the pulpit, he said, 'I go before you, and I am your witness. Your appointment with me will be at the Pool, which surely I see from here where I now stand. I fear not for you that you will set up deities besides Allah; but I fear for you this world, lest you seek to rival each other in worldly gains.'

From the Mosque he went to the apartment of Maymunah, whose turn it was to receive him. The effort of delivering the Khutbah to the congregation had increased his fever and his pain. Then, in the apartment of Maymunah, he called his wives and asked them to permit him to be looked after in Ai'shah's apartment. All of them agreed. He came out walking between two men of his household, Fadhl ibn Abbas and Ali ibn Abi Talib. His head was wrapped tightly, and his feet were dragging as he entered Ai'shah's house. [Remember 'bin' and 'ibn' both mean 'son of'].

Ai'shah said that during his final illness, he told her, 'Ai'shah, I still feel pain from the food I ate at Khaybar. I feel my aorta [the main artery that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body] being cut because of the poison.'

Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) had commanded Usamah ibn Zayd to lead an expedition to the Syrian borders. Many of the prominent Emigrants and Helpers were in his army, the most eminent being Umar ibn al-Khattab. Preparations were hastened, and Usamah went out with his army as far as al-Jurf, where they encamped, about three miles to the north of Madinah. However, the Prophet's (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) illness took a serious turn when the army was at al-Jurf and Usamah broke camp. After his (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) death, Abu Bakr sent forward the army under Usamah, to fulfil the Prophet's (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) last wishes and his command.

At the next call to Prayer, Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) could no longer lead it, even though he remained seated. He, therefore, said to his wives, 'Tell Abu Bakr to lead the people in Prayer.' Ai'shah feared that it would immensely grieve her father to take the place of the Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), so she said, 'O Messenger of Allah! Abu Bakr is a very sensitive man. He is not strong of voice and is given to weeping when he recites the Qur'an.' However the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) insisted, 'Tell him to lead the Prayer.' Thus, for the rest of his illness, Abu Bakr led the Prayer.

Fatimah, the daughter of the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) used to come to visit the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). At one of these visits, Ai'shah saw him whisper something to his daughter. Thereupon, Fatimah began to weep. Then he confided to her another secret, and she began to smile through her tears. Later, Ai'shah asked her what he had said, and she answered, 'The Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) told me that he would die in that illness,

whereof he died, and so I wept. Then he told me that I would be the first from his household to follow him, and so I laughed.’

Allah’s Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) suffered great pain in his illness. Umm Ayman was in constant attendance. She kept her son Usamah informed of his condition. On one of those days, during which the Prophet’s (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) condition worsened, he (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said concerning the Ansar, ‘I advise you to take care of and be kind to the Ansar [Helpers]. They are very close to me. So accept from those among them who do well, and pardon those among them who do wrong.’

Jabir says, ‘Three days before the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) died, I heard him say, “Let no one among you die except while he is having good thoughts about Allah, the Possessor of Might and Majesty.”’

It was early morning on Monday, 12 Rabi al-Awwal, 11 AH, when the Prophet’s (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) fever lessened. The call to Prayer made him decide to go to the Mosque. The Prayer had already begun when he entered. When Abu Bakr realized that the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was approaching, he stepped back without turning his head. But Allah’s Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) placed his hand on his shoulder and pressed him forward again in front of the congregation, while he himself sat on the left of Abu Bakr and prayed seated. Thus, the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was leading the Prayer and Abu Bakr became his Mukabbir [a person who lends his voice to the followers].

Not long afterwards, the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) lost consciousness. Ai’shah thought that it was the onset of death, but after some time he opened his eyes. Then she heard him murmur: “With the Supreme Companion in Paradise, with those upon whom Allah has showered His Favors, the Prophets and Siddeeqs [those who testify to the truth] and the martyrs and the righteous -- most excellent companions are they!” These words were the last words she heard him (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) speak. After this, Ai’shah laid his head on a pillow.

The Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) died after midday on Monday, 12 Rabi al-Awwal, 11 AH/632 CE. He died at the age of sixty-three. The day of his death was the darkest and the saddest day that the Muslims had ever seen.

Abu Bakr’s Return

It was a little after midday when the Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) died. The Muslims were shocked, bewildered and confused. Some of them sat down and were not even able to stand. Others lost their ability to speak. Yet others were in complete denial, refusing to believe that the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) had really died.

Among this last group was Umar ibn al-Khattab. In fact, no one was in greater denial than him. He began to threaten anyone who claimed that the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) had died. He said, ‘He has not died. Rather, he has gone to his Lord, just as Musa ibn Imran went, remaining absent from his people for forty nights, after which he returned to them.’ When Abu Bakr heard about the news of the Prophet’s (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) death, he mounted his horse and rode from his house in al-Sunh until he reached the Mosque. His house was in the upper residential district of Madinah.

He crossed the courtyard, not paying any attention to Umar ibn al-Khattab. He entered Ai’shah’s chamber and headed straight for the Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), who was

covered in a garment. Abu Bakr removed the part of the garment that covered the Prophet's (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) face. Bending down, he kissed the Prophet's (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) forehead and began to cry. He then said, 'May my father and mother be sacrificed for you! Allah will not combine two deaths upon you. As for the death that was decreed for you, you have just tasted it.'

When Abu Bakr said, 'Allah will not combine two deaths upon you,' he was proving false what Umar was claiming that the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) would come back to life. Abu Bakr knew that even if that were the case, the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) would still have to die again; which meant that he would have to die two deaths. Abu Bakr knew that the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) enjoyed too high a status with Allah for that to happen to him.

Umar Realizes the Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) Had Indeed Died

Abu Bakr came out of the Mosque, Umar was speaking to the people. He was still in a fit of rage. Abu Bakr said, 'O Umar, sit down.' Abu Bakr then stood up to deliver a sermon to the people. He praised Allah, glorified Him and then said, 'Whoever worships Muhammad, then indeed Muhammad has died. And whosoever worships Allah, then Allah is Ever-Living and He does not die.' He then recited an Ayah (Verse) of the Noble Qur'an (which means):

﴿وَمَا مُحَمَّدٌ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ أَفَإِنْ مَاتَ أَوْ قُتِلَ انْقَلَبْتُمْ عَلَىٰ
أَعْقَابِكُمْ وَمَنْ يَنْقَلِبْ عَلَىٰ عَقْبَيْهِ فَلَنْ يَضُرَّ اللَّهَ شَيْئًا وَسَيَجْزِي اللَّهُ الشَّاكِرِينَ﴾

'Muhammad (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) is no more than a Messenger and indeed Messengers have passed away before him. If he dies or is killed, will you then turn back on your heels? And he who turns back on his heels, not the least harm will he do to Allah, and Allah will give reward to those who are grateful.' [Al-ImrAn 3: 144]

Umar later said, 'No sooner did I hear Abu Bakr recite that Verse, than I fell to the ground. My legs could no longer carry me. And I came to know that the Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) had indeed died.' This incident is the strongest proof of Abu Bakr's bravery. He had a firm and steadfast heart during times of hardships and misfortunes. There was no calamity greater than the death of the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), at which Umar claimed that the Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) had not died, Uthman lost the ability to speak and Ali secluded himself. The community was on the verge of plunging into utter chaos, but Abu Bakr brought calm to the situation with this Verse of the Glorious Qur'an. It was as if people did not know that Allah had revealed this Verse, until Abu Bakr recited it. In doing so, Abu Bakr as-Siddiq saved the Muslim nation from many hardships and solved many of the problems that afflicted Muslims. He understood the truth on occasions when no one else did – not even Umar.

Men of Madinah Meet to Elect a Chief

The assembly in the courtyard of the Mosque had quieted down, when a messenger ran up, breathless with a report that the Ansar, the citizens of Madinah, had assembled to choose a caliph from amongst themselves. The Ansar had gathered in the courtyard of Banu Sa'idah on the very same day, which was Monday, 12 Rabi al-Awwal, the year 11 AH/632 CE.