

Abu Bakr As-Siddiq: A Man of Great Character



The Life of Abu Bakr by: Aisha Patel

"O Allah, You know me better than I know myself, and I know myself better than these people who praise me. Make me better than what they think of me, and forgive those sins of mine of which they have no knowledge, and do not hold me responsible for what they say."

These are the humble words of one of the greatest men to have ever lived. Abu Bakr Siddiq, the first man to freely accept Islam and the closest companion of the Prophet SAW, was a wealthy merchant who belonged to a noble family, yet he lived his life with modesty, simplicity, and compassion. Abu Bakr Siddiq was a friend of the Prophet SAW since early childhood. Throughout his life he was kind hearted, honest, and trustworthy. Whether it was helping out a poor man he passed on the streets or freeing a slave, Abu Bakr did not think twice of how much he would have to spend. People trusted him with dealings of their money and sincere advice. No doubt such a noble character became one of the strongest advantages to the Prophet SAW and his mission of spreading Islam.

Abu Bakr was the first man to accept Islam. Similar to any other words that came from the mouth of the Prophet SAW, Abu Bakr believed him without any doubts. He immediately embraced Islam and began to invite all of his friends including Usman RA. He stood by the Prophet's side during all hardships, big or small. Many times he risked his life to save the Prophet SAW's. During the migration to Abyssinia, the battles against the kuffaar, and even the verbal assaults against the Prophet SAW, Abu Bakr RA was by his side, defending him at the risk of his own life.

Abu Bakr RA lived a very simple and modest life himself. He did not care for the comfort of his own in this world. He lived to service the Prophet SAW and Islam. Once, when the Prophet SAW asked the companions to help out with the battle of Tabuk, Abu Bakr brought everything he had and heaped it at the feet of the Prophet SAW. When the Prophet asked him what he has left behind, Abu Bakr RA answered "for me and my family, Allah and his apostle are sufficient." He not only contributed financially, he was also among the bravest during the battles. For the sake of Allah and the protection of the life of the Prophet, Abu Bakr, the kind, soft hearted man would stand up front and give his all on the battlefield.

Abu Bakr gave the Prophet SAW his companionship, his love, his support and even married his daughter Aisha RA to the Prophet SAW. To him, no one's opinion of himself but the Prophet's had any importance. To him, no comfort but that of the afterlife mattered. Instead of worrying of himself, of his wealth, of his health, his focus was only to help the cause of Islam and help with the mission assigned to his beloved friend. After the Prophet SAW, Abu Bakr, became the first khalif of Islam. He was the closest and most trusted man near the Prophet, and no doubt, he carried out this responsibility to the best of his knowledge.

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The title of "Siddiq" was given to Abu Bakr by Prophet Muhammad (S). The word "Siddiq" means truthful, faithful, and veracious and is a very high honor indeed. Abu Bakr was a man who always spoke the truth and was therefore given this surname.

Lessons from the Life of Abu Bakr

“If you expect the blessings of God be kind to His people”

–Abu Bakr As-Siddiq

Just by mentioning the name of Abu Bakr (RA) ignites love and affection in many people's hearts. The reason for this is because when we hear the name of Abu Bakr we are reminded of his exemplary character and vast contributions to the cause of Islam. The Prophet Muhammad (S) said that out of all his companions no one has been a better companion to him than Abu Bakr. There are many lessons that we can derive from the life of Abu Bakr and a few of them will be discussed here. Inshallah this will allow us to reflect on our own lives and think about how we ourselves can contribute more to the cause of Islam whether it's with our spiritual support or material support.

1. His level of faith: Abu Bakr had the highest level of faith in the Prophet (S) and in Islam. As stated in the first article, Abu Bakr undoubtedly accepted what the Prophet had to say. This was one of the most prominent features of Abu Bakr. He entered the folds of Islam without any doubt and many years later the Prophet said: “Whenever I offered Islam to anyone, he always showed some reluctance or hesitation and tried to enter into an argument. Abu Bakr was the only one who accepted Islam without any doubt or hesitation and without any argument.”

2. His courage, dedication, and support: Abu Bakr was always supportive of his religion especially during the difficult times in Makkah when Muslims were attacked for their faith. He was the first to speak out when these types of events would occur. He would counsel his companions and say: “Do not be critical but hold fast to the allegiance of the Holy Prophet.”

3. His good judgment: Abu Bakr was a man of high intelligence and was able to make sound judgments because of his wisdom. Shah Wali Ullah of Delhi has said the following about Abu Bakr's judgment: “He was just like other scholars among the Companions in his knowledge of the Quran and the Sunnah. In what he excelled others was that whenever he was faced



“There is no one to whom I am obligated and have not repaid my debt except Abu Bakr, for I owe him much for which Allah will compensate him on the Day of Judgement”

Hadith of the Month

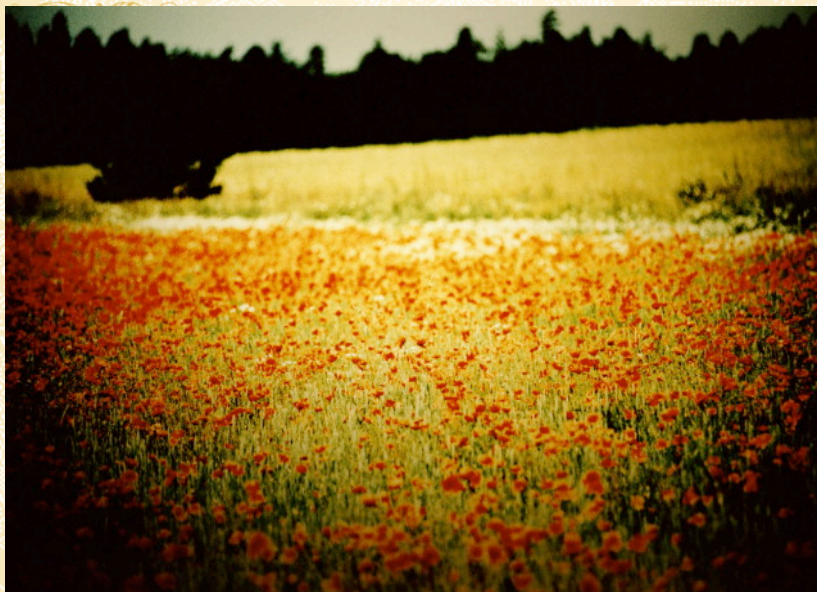
The Prophet (S) said this amongst many other praising remarks regarding Abu Bakr (RA). This quote displays the deep amount of respect the Prophet had for Abu Bakr and furthermore depicts the amount Abu Bakr contributed to Islam. The Prophet is the leader of this Ummah. We as an Ummah owe him everything for his sacrifice and for everything he has taught us about Islam. But here the Prophet is saying that he is obligated and is indebted to the generosity of Abu Bakr. This goes to show how much Abu Bakr really gave and is yet another exceptional example of his character. In this quote the Prophet goes on to say that Allah SWT will compensate Abu Bakr on the Day of Judgment. Indeed, this is the best way to be compensated. In another quote the Prophet says: “Allah will show his glory to the people in a general way, but He will show it to Abu Bakr in a special way.” This shows how special and respected Abu Bakr will be in the eyes of Allah SWT.

with a difficult problem, he would exercise his judgment and deeply ponder over it. The Almighty would cast a ray of enlightenment on his heart and would reveal to him the truth. As the manifestation of this enlightenment was connected with the excellence of the heart it impressed itself in the form of determination and not a mere idea".

4. His attitude towards the poor: Being a man of great wealth and status he never felt too proud to help out the needy. In fact, he would always make an attempt to fulfill the wants of the poor. One example, is that there was a blind old lady in Medina and Umar (RA) would go to her house every morning. But when he would get there he would see that someone else had already helped the lady. So one day Umar (RA) went to the house earlier than usual and found that it was Abu Bakr that had been visiting and helping the old lady every morning.

5. His humbleness: Abu Bakr was a very humble man and would never take praise from others in a proud way. In fact he would make dua'a to Allah SWT to protect him from such praises. One story regarding his humbleness is that before becoming the Caliph, Abu Bakr used to milk the goats in the neighborhood. After becoming the Caliph Abu Bakr passed the street and one of the women said that since he had become the Caliph he would no longer milk the goats for them. Abu Bakr heard this and said that the caliphate made no difference to him, and that he would continue to milk their goats.

6. His wisdom and steadfastness: The death of the Prophet (S) was a very sad experience for all Muslims during his time. People experienced a feeling of deep sorrow and emptiness. Abu Bakr being the closest companion of the Prophet of course felt a deeper sorrow that we can not even imagine. However, he stood in front of everyone and addressed them stating the following:



"Let those who worshiped Muhammad know that Muhammad is now dead! As for those who worshiped God, let them know that God is alive and does not die."

Then he went on to say, "Muhammad is no more than a messenger, many were the messengers who passed away before him. If he died or was killed, will you then turn back? If any did turn back, not the least harm will he do to God. But God will reward the thankful." This message is full of wisdom and was to inspire the Muslims to stay steadfast in their Islam even though they were experiencing a great loss. Such were the words of a great man.

7. His generosity and selflessness: Abu Bakr was a very wealthy man and was first to donate his money. There were Muslims during his time who gave large amounts of their wealth in support of their faith but Abu Bakr was the first person to give everything he had. When he was asked what was left for his children he replied: "Allah and his Prophet." After hearing this Umar (RA) stated that "No one can surpass Abu Bakr in serving the cause of Islam." We can take Abu Bakr as an example when we want to donate money for the sake of Allah SWT. He was willing to sacrifice everything he had and that is something very difficult to do. But because of his strong faith and devotion he was able to do it with ease. May Allah SWT make us all this generous as well in our time and money so that we may contribute as much as we can for the sake of Islam. The following verses in Surrah Al-Lail refer to Abu Bakr: "Those who spend their wealth for increase in self-purification and have in their minds no favor from any one, for which a reward is expected in return, but only the desire to seek the countenance of their Lord, Most High and soon will they attain complete satisfaction." (Qur'an 92:18-21)

✽ The Prophet gave glad tidings of paradise to ten of his companions and Abu Bakr was at the head of this list. Addressing The Prophet said to Abu Bakr: "Abu Bakr, you will be the first of my people to enter paradise."

