



'Umar Al Farooq The 2nd Caliph of Islam

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A brief look at the life of the one
who spread Islam to the corners of
the world.

Introduction:

It is an agreed-upon tenet of faith of the Ahle Sunnah that after the Prophets (May peace be upon them), the Companions (May Allah be well pleased with them) enjoy the highest status. These are those personalities who had the honor of seeing the blessed face of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) with their physical eyes in a state of faith, as Muslims, and passed away as such. The 4 Righteous Caliphs are superior to all other Companions. Their excellence and accomplishments are also in the order of their caliphate.

Allah Most High has promised paradise to all the Companions as given in the Holy Quran:

Those of you who spent (their wealth in the way of Allah before Meccan Victory) and fought (in their defence), they (and you) cannot be equal. They are far higher in rank than those who spent their wealth afterwards and fought. But Allah has promised the most pleasing end (i.e., Paradise) to all in the Hereafter. Surah Hadeed (57:10)

The 2nd Caliph of Islam, the differentiator of truth and falsehood, the father of Hadhrat Hafsa, Hadhrat 'Umar bin Khattab (May Allah be well pleased with him) has

been given special glad tidings apart from this general one as well. Allah Most High spread Islam through him and has let truth emanate on his blessed tongue and has made him the one to demarcate between truth and falsehood.

Hadhrat Umat Farooq (May Allah be well pleased with him) is the 2nd caliph of Islam. Through him, Allah Ta'ala promoted the message of Islam. Allah Ta'ala established truth on the tongue of Hadhrat Umar and made him the line of demarcation between truth and falsehood.

His birth

Imam Nawawi (May Allah shower His mercy on him) has written that Hadhrat Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) was born 13 years after the Year of the Elephants (which is described in Surah Feel). (Tarikh Ul Khulafa, Vol. 1, Pg. No. 43)

His name and Kunniyah

His name is “Umar,” Kunniyah is “*Abu Hafs*” and he is famous as “*Farooq*.” (the just).

His lineage is this:

Hadhrat 'Umar bin Khattab bin Nufail bin 'Abdul 'Uzza bin Rayah bin Qarat bin Razah bin 'Adi bin Ka'ab bin Luai

Embracing Islam

Hadhrat Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) embraced Islam 3 days after Hadhrat Ameer Hamzah embraced Islam in 6th year of Prophethood (6 Nabawi). Then his age was 27 years. (Tarikh Ul Khulafa, Vol. 1, Pg. No. 43; Al Kamil Fi Asmair Rijaal)

There is a Hadith in Jame' Tirmidhi:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Abdullah Bin 'Umar that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) prayed: O Allah! You grant dominance to Islam through either Abu Jahl or Umar Bin Khattab, whomever You love more. (Jame' Tirmidhi, Hadith No. 4045)

In Sunan Ibn Majah, it is mentioned that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) prayed specially for Hadhrat 'Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him):

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Aisha Siddiqua (May Allah be well pleased with her), she said that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa

sallam) prayed: O Allah! You grant dominance to Islam by guiding 'Umar to Islam. (Sunan Ibn Majah, Hadith No. 110)

The heavenly beings celebrated Hadhrat Umar's embracing Islam

There is a Hadith in Sunan Ibn Majah:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Abdullah Bin 'Abbas (May Allah be well pleased with them), he said: When Hadhrat Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) embraced Islam, Hadhrat Jibreel (May peace be upon him) came to the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and said: O Hadhrat Muhammad (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), indeed the heavenly beings celebrated Hadhrat Umar's embracing Islam. (Sunan Ibn Majah, Hadith No. 108)

How he embraced Islam

The incident of his embracing Islam is that once he was going angrily with a bare sword in hand. On the way, he met Hadhrat Na'eem Bin Abdullah (May Allah be well pleased with him). Hadhrat Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) did not know that Hadhrat Na'eem had embraced Islam. He asked him: O Umar! Where are you going with a bare sword in hand? He

said: Today I want to settle the affair of the Founder of Islam. Hadhrat Na'eem said: First look into your own house. Your sister Fatima Bint Khattab and brother-in-law Sa'eed bin Zaid (May Allah be well pleased with them) have embraced Islam.

He changed his course and went to his sister's house and knocked at the door. Both of them were reciting the Holy Quran. Immediately, they stopped the recitation and the sister answered the door. Hadhrat Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) angrily said: Have you also become a Muslim? Then he turned to his brother-in-law and threw him to the ground. He then sat on his chest and started beating him. When the sister intervened, Hadhrat Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) gave her such a slap that her face started bleeding. His sister said in a strong voice: Umar! No matter what you do, Islam cannot leave our hearts now. The face of the sister and her words which were full of faith moved Hadhrat Umar. He was silent for some time. Then he said: Whatever you were reading, show it to me. His sister said: You are impure. Unless you purify yourself with a complete bath, you cannot touch the blessed pages of the Holy Quran. Hadhrat Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) immediately took a bath. When he took the pages of the Holy Quran, his eyes fell on a verse from Surah Taha. On reading this verse, his hair stood on end. At

this time, the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) was in “*Dar Arqam.*” When Hadhrat Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) reached there with a sword in hand, the door was closed. The Muslims had received the news as to why he was there and there was a delay in opening the door. Hadhrat Hamza (May Allah be well pleased with him) said: Open the door! If he has come with good intentions, he will be welcomed. If not, his head will be severed from his body with his own body.

Presenting himself to the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)

Hadhrat ‘Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) entered the house. The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) asked: O Umar! Is it not time? Will you not give up? Embrace Islam! Hadhrat Umar recited the Kalima in a loud voice. Out of happiness, all the Muslims shouted “*Allahu Akbar.*” On this occasion, Jibreel (May peace be upon him) came to the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and said: O Prophet of Allah! On ‘Umar’s embracing Islam, all the heavenly beings greeted each other and made celebrations.

Then on Hadhrat Umar’s request, Muslims openly offered Salaat in the Ka’aba. (Al Mawahib Al Ladunniya

Ma'a Hashiya Zurqani, Vol. 2, Pg. No. 4-5; Subul Ul Huda War Rashad, Vol. 2, Pg. No. 372)

After embracing Islam, his anger remained the same. Love of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and attachment to Islam had entered so deep into his heart that he would be always ready to defend Islam and the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam). In the Battle of Badr, he gave such an example of his faith that it will remain fresh until the end of time. His maternal uncle A'as bin Hisham stepped forward to fight in the battlefield. Hadhrat 'Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) himself went forward to do battle with him and gave him a blow that sent him to hell. (As Seeratun Nabawiyya Li Ibn Katheer, Vol. 2, Pg. No. 446)

The justice of Hadhrat 'Umar Farooq

Allah Most High has granted various distinctions to the 2nd Caliph of Islam, Hadhrat 'Umar Farooq (May Allah be well pleased with him). His life is an illustration of truth and is a touchstone of justice. Even non-Muslims acknowledge his justice and consider his caliphate a shining example. His caliphate is like a living picture of this verse of the Holy Quran. Allah Most High says:

O believers! Holding fast to the cause of Allah, bear witness based on justice. And let not (even) the extreme hostility against a people provoke you into abstaining from justice (in their case). Always do justice, (for) it is closer to piety. And fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is Well Aware of your works. Surah Maida (8)

Hadhrat 'Umar Farooq (May Allah be well pleased with him) didn't discriminate between his close ones and others when implementing the laws of Islam. He granted security and protection to non-Muslims. It is given in Musannaf Ibn Abi Shaiba:

Translation: When he would take a decision, he would gather his household and tell them: I have forbidden people from such and such a thing and people will observe you the way a bird observes a piece of meat. If you commit that forbidden act, others will also indulge in it. If you stay away from it, they will also stay away. By Allah! If anyone of you ends up committing that forbidden act, your punishment will be double than that of others. (Musannaf Ibn Abi Shaiba, Hadith No. 30643; Sharh Sahih Bukhari Li Ibn Battaal; Ar Riyadh Un Nadhra Manaqibil 'Ashra)

Hadhrat 'Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) passed by a house where a person was begging. He

was blind and very old. Hadhrat 'Umar held him by the arm and talked to him thus:

Translation: What has brought you to this state in which I am seeing you? He said: I have to pay Jizya. I am needy and have become old. Hadhrat 'Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) took him to his house, gave him something and sent a message to the treasurer of the public treasury: Look after him and all other non-Muslims like him. If we collect Jizya from them in their youth and abandon them in their old age, then by Allah, we haven't been just." Then he waived Jizya of all such old non-Muslims. (Kitab Ul Khiraj, Pg. No. 150)

His superiority and excellence

There is a Hadith in Jame' Tirmidhi and Sunan Ibn Majah:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Hudhaifa (May Allah be well pleased with him), he said that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam): Follow the 2 (caliphs) after me i.e. Abu Bakr and Umar (May Allah be well pleased with them). (Jame' Tirmidhi, Hadith No. 4023; Sunan Ibn Majah, Hadith No. 102)

The reason for this is that Allah Most High has set forth springs of truth from his tongue and heart. That he would swerve from the path of truth cannot even be imagined, because the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said about him:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Abdullah Bin 'Umar (May Allah be well pleased with them) that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Verily, Allah Most High has prompted truth on the tongue and in the heart of 'Umar. (Jame' Tirmidhi, Hadith No. 4046)

This was the reason why even Iblees, the accursed, couldn't face him and wherever Hadhrat 'Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) would be, Satan would flee from that place. There is a Hadith in Sahih Bukhari:

Translation: Hadhrat Muhammad Bin Sa'ad (May Allah be well pleased with him) narrates on the authority of his father that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: O Ibn Khattab! Glad tidings to you! By Him who holds my life in His hands, Satan doesn't meet you anywhere but that he leaves that path and takes another. (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith No. 6085)

By virtue of his special relationship with the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and by the

blessings of his justice and fairness, in his caliphate, wherever Muslims went, victory followed them.

Translation: Once he sent an army under the leadership of Hadhrat Sa'ad Bin Abi Waqas to Ctesiphon (*Madaain*). The commander of that army was Hadhrat Khalid Bin Walid (May Allah be well pleased with him). When the army reached the river Tigris and didn't find any boat there, Hadhrat Sa'ad and Hadhrat Khalid (May Allah be well pleased with them) went forward and addressed the river thus:

O river! Verily you flow with the command of Allah. For the sake of Hadhrat Muhammad (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and for the sake of the justice of His Caliph, Hadhrat 'Umar Farooq (May Allah be well pleased with him), make way for us!

Then the whole army including the horses and camels entered the river and safely crossed it and reached Ctesiphon so much so that the hooves of the horses had not become wet. (Ar Riyadh Un Nadhra Fi Manaqibil 'Ashara)

Glad tidings of martyrdom

There is a Hadith in Sahih Bukhari:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Anas Bin Malik (May Allah be well pleased with him), he said: The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), Hadhrat Abu Bakr, Hadhrat Umar and Hadhrat Uthman (May Allah be well pleased with them) graced the mountain of Uhud with their presence. Out of happiness, the mountain started swaying. The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) tapped it with His foot and said: O Uhud! Steady! The Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), 1 Faithful (*Siddiq*) and 2 martyrs (*Shaheed*) are on you. (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith No. 3686)

Frequently, Hadhrat 'Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) would supplicate for dying in Madina and for being martyred, as given in this Hadith of Sahih Bukhari:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Zaid bin Aslam who narrates on the authority of his father who heard Hadhrat 'Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) say: O Allah! You grant martyrdom in Your path and give me death in the land of Your Beloved. (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith No. 1890)

His passing away at the age of 63 – a sign of his close relationship with the Holy Prophet

There is a Hadith in Sahih Muslim:

Hadhrat Mu'awiyah (May Allah be well pleased with him) said: When the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) passed away into the presence of Allah, His age was 63. Then Hadhrat Abu Bakr (May Allah be well pleased with him) passed away, his age was also 63. Then Hadhrat Umar (May Allah be well pleased with him) passed away and his age was also 63 years. (Sahih Muslim, Hadith No. 3244)
