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SHINING STARS

Among the Prophet's Companions

Vol. 1

By
Abdul Basit Ahmad
Edited by
Muhammad Ayub Sipra



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In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

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Publishers Note

All praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists. May Allâh’s peace and blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, his family and his Companions.

Darussalam is pleased to present this valuable book, ‘Shining Stars among the Prophet’s Companions’, in two volumes. The purpose of this book is to enlighten our youth about the lives of the greatest Companions of the Prophet ﷺ. Also, we wish to increase the enthusiasm of the Muslim youth for following and adhering to their religion. In this way, these books achieve two very important tasks: educating our youth and encouraging them to be good Muslims.

First volume is in your hands. You will see that the author has selected the nine top rank Companions of the Prophet ﷺ. Although these were all given the good news of Paradise even then they played an active role in their life till the last.

They are humble, just, tender and dedicated to the support of the Prophet ﷺ and Islam. Their rank among the Companions was very high to the extent that the Prophet ﷺ told them that they were given the good news of Paradise.

In the description of the lives of the Companions, we find example for ourselves and our youth as to how they strictly

Background

Abu Bakr was born in Makkah two years after the birth of the Prophet ﷺ. His parents belonged to a clan called Banu Taim, a branch from the Quraish tribe. The boy was brought up in an environment characterized by excellence of chivalry, generosity and manliness.

In the period before Islam, this clan was assigned a function that made it well established within the Makkan society. Blood money in murder cases was referred to Abu Bakr's father who in turn assigned the job to his son.

Before conversion to Islam, Abu Bakr was well known for his excellent manners, wide knowledge and perfect wisdom. He was consulted on important matters and his decision was always final. He was even considered the greatest authority of his day on matters related to relations among clans and tribes.

After he converted to Islam, the Prophet ﷺ named him Abdullah instead of his previous name Abdul Ka'bah. He was popularly known among people as Abu Bakr followed by a quality that the most Companions of the Prophet ﷺ confirmed it was given to him by Allâh through the Prophet ﷺ. That quality was 'As-Siddiq' (the most truthful). He was also given another quality by the Prophet ﷺ which was Al-'Ateeq (the liberated) from Hellfire.

Abu Bakr ﷺ was a successful merchant and was highly respected for his fair dealings. All society members knew about his high morals and fine treatment of slaves.

Conversion to Islam

Relation to the Prophet ﷺ

Abu Bakr lived in the same neighborhood where the Prophet ﷺ lived. Before the Prophet ﷺ was twenty-five years old, no contacts were made between him and Abu Bakr. However, it was clear that both the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr became close friends after that time. They were nearly of the same age, their natures were uniform, both of them abhorred the corrupt beliefs and practices of the Quraish and both of them kept themselves away from the evil habits of the day. Hence, Abu Bakr became the most trusted man and a confidant of the Prophet ﷺ.

The first Muslim

After he was ordered to preach the new religion, the Prophet ﷺ invited Abu Bakr to accept the new faith. Abu Bakr did not avoid him or ask him to give him time to think it over. The Prophet ﷺ said:

“Whenever I invited anyone to accept Islam, he argued with me and rejected my words at the outset except the son of Abu Quhafa (Abu Bakr). He accepted it immediately and stayed steadfast in it.”

At the beginning of the call, Abu Bakr ﷺ was on a trade journey in Yemen. On his return to Makkah, some chiefs of the

Quraish came to see him. They told him that Muhammad ﷺ had declared himself to be the Prophet. They were waiting for his return to help them find ways to stop the call. Instead of plotting with them against the Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr hurried to the Prophet ﷺ, asked him about the Divine Message and immediately accepted Islam at the very meeting with the Prophet ﷺ. Abu Bakr did not have any doubts about the themes presented by the Prophet ﷺ. He directly believed the claims of the Prophet ﷺ of an angel (Gabriel) bringing down revelation to him from Allâh. He knew from the very beginning that worshipping idols had been an act of silliness. On the other hand, he recognized the truthfulness, honesty, nobility and piety of the Prophet ﷺ. Hence, he, from the first instance, supported his Message because it satisfied the demands of his reason and soul.

Thus, Abu Bakr ﷺ was destined to be the first believer of Islam. His zeal for upholding truth, right and justice prepared him to make great sacrifices and face many hardships. Moreover, his approach in convincing others of the truth of Islam brought so many to the fold of Islam. He used up his wealth to free slaves who converted to Islam and to save them from the agonies and oppression, which the Quraish inflicted on them. He, himself, suffered a lot at the hands of the tyrants, so much so that he was left once unconscious after he was beaten to near death. It did not bother him for his wealth to be used up for the sake of Allâh and the propagation of the new light of Islam.

The true Believer

In every test of oppression, Abu Bakr ﷺ gave firm proof of