

The end of our trip with the first of the ten companions promised Paradise – Abu Bakr As-Sidiq

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on 24 October 2008. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God

“The Shaykh started with quick summary of the previous reminders about Abu Bakr As-Sidiq that are all on the masjid website”

At the time of the treaty of Hudaibiya many of the Muslims were not satisfied with the terms of the treaty that took place between the prophet (pbuh) and Quraish. (One of the greatest muslims of those dissatisfied with those terms was) Omar bin Khattab and he conveyed his dissatisfaction to the prophet (pbuh) and then to Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq. (In contrast to the rest of the muslims), Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq gave the same positive response as the prophet (pbuh) (to this event as it was happening) and proved that Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq was the firmest among the companions in the times of chaos and disasters.

This event also shows that Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq was the one who knew the prophet (pbuh) the best and the one who understood the meaning and content of the prophet’s speech the best. Towards the end of his life, the prophet (pbuh) once said: “God gave a slave the choice between this world and that which is with Him and that slave chose that which is with God”, Upon hearing this Abu Bakr wept as he understood that the Prophet was describing his own nearness to the end of his life (pbuh), while the rest of the companions were unaware as they didn’t understand what Abu Bakr understood.

When the prophet (pbuh) died, Muslims were in shock. Omar denied his death and said, ‘if anyone dares to say he’s dead, I’ll cut his neck off. He just went to meet his Lord and will come back.’ Abu Bakr came and uncovered the face of the prophet (pbuh), kissed him and said, ‘Let my mother and father be sacrificed for you, you are good in life and in death. By God in Whose Hands my life is, God will never make you taste death twice.’ He then went to address the Muslims with a firm heart and said: ‘Whoever worshipped Muhammad, then Muhammad is dead, but whoever worshipped God, then God is Alive and shall never die, he recited the verses “Truly you will die (one day), and truly they (too) will die (one day) [Az-Zumar 39:30] and “Muhammad is no more than an apostle: many Were the apostles that passed away before him. If he died or were slain, will you then Turn back on your heels? If any did turn back on his heels, not the least harm will he do to God. But God (on the other hand) will swiftly reward those who (serve Him) with gratitude.” [Aal-e-Imran 3:144].

After the death of the prophet (pbuh), some of the Arab tribes refused to pay the Zakat (to the muslim treasury that collected it). The Caliph, Abu Bakr felt compelled to declare war on them. When some companions including Omar disagreed with him, Abu Bakr said: ‘By God, if they refused to pay me even a tying rope which they use to pay to God’s Messenger [as Zakah on their wealth], I would fight them for withholding it’. The Muslim army moved decisively to fight those tribes and although it was a tragic event which shook the Arabian Peninsula, it brought people back to Islam by the will of God the almighty and the steadfastness of Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq.

Once Abu Bakr became sick because he had a shower on a cold day which kept in bed for fifteen days. He stopped leading the prayers and ordered Omar to do so. People who visiting him asked: shall we bring a doctor? His reply was: the doctor already saw me and said: I am Doer of what I will. While he was dying, Aisha (may God be pleased with her) sat next to him and read some poetry (roughly meaning wealth is in not benefiting anyone in the time of

death). He said: 'not like that oh mother of believers, but recite the saying of God "And the stupor of death will bring Truth (before his eyes): "This was the thing which you were trying to escape!" [Qaf 45:19]. He then asked for cloths that were old be washed and used as his shroud and said: 'indeed, the one who is living is in more need to the new clothes than the one who is dead'.

He passed away on the night of Tuesday 23rd of Jumaada al-Thaani of the year 13 hijri, he was 63 years old. He was buried next to the prophet (pbuh) and his head was put next to the prophet's shoulder.

His time as Caliph was very short, roughly 2 years and 7 months but God blessed that time and made it very beneficial for calling to God and strengthening Islam in the eyes of its enemies. Amongst the greatest blessings during the time of Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq as Caliph was the first written collection of Quran. People used to write Quran on palm leaves, flat white rocks (tablets), shoulder bones of camels, and leather pieces but when the number of people who memorised Quran started to decrease, Abu Bakr ordered the collection of Quran which was completed in his life time, with the blessing and generosity of God. Another great blessing of Abu Bakr time was choosing Omar to be the Caliph after him (may God be pleased with both of them and the rest of the prophet's companions).

Second khutba

It was narrated that Ali bin Abi Talib said about Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq: 'May God have mercy upon you. You were the closest friend of the prophet (pbuh), the one who he found his comfort with, the one who he trusted with his secrets and his consultant. You were the first to accept Islam, the one who had the most sincere belief, the one who gave him the best company and the one who kept the example/Sunnah of the prophet (pbuh) the most. You were the best successor/Caliph for him as you stood firm like the mountain which doesn't move by storms. So humble in your own eyes and so great in the eyes of God. The nearest people to you are those who obey God.'

These are the people who were raised by the prophet (pbuh) and the graduates of his school. Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq is a master and a shining star among them. Does the earth see people like them today? People saw in them truthfulness, honesty, sincerity, loyalty, spending for the sake of God, seeking what is with God, loving to bring the good for people and treating them with mercy. As a result, those who lived around them loved the religion which raised such people and accepted it.

So what about you, oh Muslim? Do you see yourself as a good representative of Islam? Do you hold the message of Quran? Do you bring people closer to Islam by your good manner and speech? Do you think that you have a share from the verse "The vanguard (of Islam)- the first of those who forsook (their homes) and of those who gave them aid, and (also) those who follow them in (all) good deeds, - well-pleased is God with them, as are they with Him: for them He has prepared gardens under which rivers flow, to dwell therein for ever: that is the supreme joy" [At-Taubah 9:100]

We ask God to make us from those who follow the footsteps of the prophet (pbuh) and the way of his noble companions. We ask him to make us among "Those who listen to the Word, and follow the best (meaning) in it: those are the ones whom God has guided, and those are the ones endued with understanding" [Az-Zumar 39:18] - Aameeen