

### Omar bin Al-Khattab (raa) Part 3

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on 14 November 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

Being responsible of something that you will be asked about is a very difficult thing so how about being responsible of the whole Muslim nation, the nation of Muhammad (pbuh)!

The son of Omar (May God be please with him and his father) said: I heard the prophet (pbuh) saying: "every one of you is a shepherd and every one is answerable with regard to his flock. The Caliph is a shepherd over the people and shall be questioned about his subjects. A man is a guardian over the members of his family and shall be questioned about them. A woman is a guardian over the household of her husband and his children and shall be questioned about them. A slave is a guardian over the property of his master and shall be questioned about it. Beware, every one of you is a guardian and every one of you shall be questioned with regard to his trust [Agreed upon].

Muaqil bin Yasar said: I heard the prophet (pbuh) saying: "No slave is given responsibility over some people and dies in a state in which he is treacherous to them, except that God forbids him from Paradise" [Agreed upon].

Aisha (May God be please with her) said: I heard the prophet (pbuh) saying: "Oh God, be kind to him who has any charge over my people and deals with them kindly. Oh God, cause distress to him who has any charge over my people and causes them distress"

These are the prayers of the prophet (pbuh) for those who takes charge of Muslims' public and private affairs.

When Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq was about to die he wrote a covenant for Omar to be the next Caliph saying: 'In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. From Abu Bakr to Omar bin Al-Khattab while I am (Abu Bakr) in the last hour of the world, and the first of the next; Omar! I have nominated you my successor on the nation of Muhammad (pbuh). If you be truthful and just then that is what I think of you but if you follow your desire then I know nothing about the unseen. Remember, Omar, the duties you own to God are to be discharged at the proper time. Some of these are to be discharged at night and some during the day time. First things must come first. Remember that the nafl/superogatory good deed is not accepted unless the fard/compulsory is established first..... Till he said: if you stick to my will then you shouldn't like to meet something more than death which is inevitable but if you go astray of my will then you shouldn't hate to meet something more than death which you won't be able to defeat. Oh Omar, fear God before He takes your like as He took mine, wasallam.

Omar became the Caliph on the day Abu Bakr died; he started looking for the inheritance of Abu Bakr which he found as two pieces of cloth and a mule! He started crying and said: in deed, you have made it difficult for your successors.

Omar stepped up the minbar and delivered his great sermon in which he clarified his policy and made clear the duties he accepted towards his people. His era was full of goodness and kindness which people have never heard of since.

Omar used to take the whole world in his hand one day and pass it to the poor the next day. Convoys used to enter Madina loaded with gold, silver and bounties while Omar was leading the prayer wearing a cloth with fourteen patches different from each other.

He didn't find barley bread to eat. When people sleep, he used to take his his Durrah (small stick) and go through the streets of Madina hoping to find a weak person to help, a poor person to give or a criminal to punish.

One night Talha saw that and he followed him till Omar entered one house. In the morning, Talha went to the house he saw Omar entering at night. He found a blind old woman who was handicapped and debilitated. He asked her "Who is the man that visited you last night?" She replied "He has been taking care of me for such a long time now. He brings me whatever I need, and then he removes the adverse." Talha said himself 'May your mother mourn you and be bereaved of you O Talha are you spying on Omar and questioning and his deeds?'

Omar's salary for being a Caliph was two dirhams for himself and his family! He was ill once and honey was prescribed to him as medicine. There was some honey in Bayt al-Mal "royal treasury" so Omar went and stepped up the minbar and asked for people's permission to take it till they gave him permission.

In the year of Ramadah (Year of Ashes) when people started dieing from hunger, Omar had an oath not to eat butter until it becomes available for Muslims. He built a tent for himself with other Muslims to supervise the distribution of food. A woman bought him some butter so he asked her: what is this? She replied: it is from my own money not from the money I get from you. He then said: by God, am not going to taste it till the situation of people become well.

He stood up on the minbar one day to address people with his patched cloths and his stomach started to gurgle. He said to it: I don't care of you gurgle or not, by God you won't get full till the stomachs of Muslim children become full.

Whenever he gave orders to stop people from something he used to gather his family and relatives and say: I have stopped people from such and such and they are looking to you as birds (trained to hunt) look to the meat. If one of you does what I stopped people from doing I would multiply the punishment for him.

When AlHurmuzan, the adviser of Kisra, came to Madina wearing a crown full of gold and aquamarine asking about the Caliph: where is the palace of the Caliph? They replied: he doesn't have one! He asked: where is his house? So they took him to Omar's house which was built of clay and said: this is his house. He asked: where are his guards? They replied: he doesn't have guards! AlHurmuzan knocked on the door and Omar's son came out and told him to look for Omar at mosque. They didn't find him there and kept looking for him till AlHurmuzan found Omar sleeping under a tree, wearing his patched cloths, using his hand as pillow with his Durrah next to him. AlHurmuzan was amazed at his humility and austere lifestyle, a sleep which leaders nowadays can't taste! AlHurmuzan declared his famous saying: "You ruled by justice, therefore you became safe; only because of that, you are now able to sleep peacefully anywhere"

Those were bright and luminous images of the life the noble master Omar bin Al-Khattab, a life which was full of lessons and wisdoms. Those righteous and noble people, who grew up in the school of faith by the hands of the greatest human being, knew the true meaning of this life and the fact that it will end one day, so they strived for the hereafter and they were aware of God in all of their actions. They have been true to their covenant with God so they became the best of example for us.

