

Chapter – 02

## Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique

(573 - 635 AD)

His name is Abdullah. His family name is Abu Bakr. He is commonly known with his family name. Allah's Prophet gave him a special name as Atique, means free from Hell-Fire. When the Noble Prophet had gone with Jabriel on the divine journey of Shab-e-Mi'raj, he asked Jabriel that who will accept about this divine journey? The answer was "Siddique Abu Bakr". In this way he got a title of "Siddique" (*the truthful one*) which later became a part and parcel of his family name. He was born in Makkah in the year 573AD. He was two year younger than the Noble Prophet. He was having thin body, fair complexion, with prominent forehead and black and white beard. He was a medium height person.

Abu Bakr belongs to the tribe of the tribe of Quraish. His father, 'Uthman Abu Quhafa accepted Islam on the occasion of Conquest of Makkah, Ramazan 8AH/630AD. He was one of the wealthiest persons in Makkah. His mother's name was Um al-Khair Salama. His mother converted to Islam in 6AH/628AD.

Although he was the son of a rich father, and the environment of that period was subversive, but he always stayed away from all the moral evils of Arab Ignorance. Drinking alcohol was common at that time but he forbade it by himself. Because of his good nature and almost of equal age with the Prophet, he had a deep friendship with Muhammad Mustafa (*PBUH*), from the very beginning.

Abu Bakr's initial training was in accordance with the noble practice of Quraish tribe. He was significantly influenced by the values of the education of that time. He also accomplished complete technique in poetry and debate. By profession he was a trader. He had made several trips to Syria and Yemen in connection with the clothing trade. He was also accompanied with Khadijah while she was travelling in connection with the trade towards Syria. He also acted as a middle man during the arrangement of marriage between the Noble Prophet and Khadijah.

Abu Bakr Siddique has the privilege of being the first person to accept Islam among free men. His taking this lead has been considered as a good commemorative in Islam. His decision of accepting Islam had proved to be a torchlight for others and were inclined to convert to Islam. Many of the Companions were converted to Islam by his efforts. The prominent names of those Companions are Uthman Ghani, Zubair bin Awam, Abdur Rahman bin Auf, Sa'ad bin Abi Waqas and Abu 'Ubaida bin Jarrah.

One of the important features of Abu Bakr Siddique is that, he became the right hand of the Noble Prophet after accepting Islam. No Companion could take his position while spending money in the way of Islam as well. In addition, every event which had gone with the Noble Prophet, such as his becoming the Messenger of Allah, his Divine Journey towards High Heaven and his decision on the occasion of Hudaibiya, all were accepted by Abu Bakr immediately and without any hesitation. For all these events he never ever demanded any physical evidence. This special attribute of Abu Bakr was mentioned by the Noble Prophet in these words: " .... All of you people had denied to accept me, but Abu Bakr acknowledged me without any reluctance ...."

From the time of accepting Islam, till the last breath of the Noble Prophet, Abu Bakr did not leave the company of the Prophet in any circumstances. Abu Bakr always remained on the front line against every oppression of the nonbelievers. As a result of the continued torture of the people of Makkah and their violence against the Muslims, the Holy Prophet kept Abu Bakr with him when he intended to emigrate to Madinah. In this journey, the first stopover of these gentlemen was the cave in the mountain of Thawr, where they stayed for three nights. At this juncture, Abu Bakr apprehended that the nonbelievers may come and harm to the Prophet. So the Noble Prophet comforted Abu Bakr and assured him of the support of Allah. This happening is mentioned in the Qur'an (*Surah Tawbah, Verse 40*). Upon arriving in Madinah, first they stationed at Quba where they stayed for two weeks and then they reached to Madinah. When the Noble Prophet announced the construction of the Mosque at Madinah, Abu Bakr paid for the purchased land. He also got the privilege of working with other Muslims in the construction of the Holy Mosque.

After the emigration, various battles and armed clashes started against the infidels in general and especially with the Quraish. Among them Badr, Uhad, Hudaibiya, Khyber, Fatah-Makkah, Hunain and Taif were the prominent battles occurred. Abu Bakr participated prominently in all of them and offered his notable services. On these occasions, he was always consulted by the Prophet and his Companions and took the advantage of his wise ideas and vision.

Makkah was conquered in 8AH/30AD. The next year, when the occasion of Hajj came, the first Hajj was performed under the leadership of Abu Bakr and he gave a sermon on this Hajj. After Safar 11AH/635AD, the Prophet fallen seriously ill, which continued for 13 days. In those days, when the weakness increased, it was difficult for the Prophet to come to the mosque

and pray. As a result, Abu Bakr lead a total of 17 prayers during the lifetime of the Prophet.

As per narration of Imam al-Bukhari, the Noble Prophet gave a sermon while he was facing his last illness, in which he specially admired the services of Abu Bakr in respect of his company and help for Islam and through his wealth. Following were the words of Prophet Muhammad for him:

*“Among all of you, I owe Abu Bakr's favour to me. Apart from my God, if I had chosen anyone as my closest friend, I would have taken Abu Bakr. But in Islam, there is brotherhood and love. So from now onwards all the small windows and doors in our Mosque should be closed except Abu Bakr's door.”*

In this way the Noble Prophet gave an indication that his successor and Caliph would be Abu Bakr Siddique.

In connection with the matter of the Prophet's successor a well-known event is on record. At the last moments of the Noble Prophet, Abdullah bin Abbas was standing much closed to him. He stated that the Prophet is telling, “Bring pen and ink so that I may give you my verdicts in writing through which you will not be misguided in the future.” On this point 'Umer expressed that, "No! Presently the condition of the Prophet is very serious. He is repeatedly going unconscious. You have Quran with you. This Book of God is enough for you." With this answer, a controversy started over there. Some said that pen and ink must be arranged so that the Prophet may give in writing to us. And some emphasized for what 'Umer had told. When their demands moved out loudly then the Noble Prophet said, “All of you should leave me alone.” ---- Now, Banu 'Abbas believes that the Prophet was writing about the caliphate for Banu Abbas, while other people say that it was the caliphate of 'Ali. ---- The truth is the opposite. There are several Hadiths that have been said on more than one occasion about Abu Bakr.

There is also a significant event exists. In the history of al-Khalifa-al-Suyuti it is mentioned that the foundation of the Mosque was being laid. At this juncture the Noble Prophet had laid the first foundation of the Mosque, followed by Abu Bakr and then 'Umar. And after that, the Prophet said:

هُنُولَاءِ الْخُلَفَاءِ مِنْ مِ بَعْدِي

{*They are the Caliphs after me*}.

The Caliph Abu Bakr started his tenure with great difficulties and major revolts in Arabia. With the departure of the Holy Prophet, many Arab tribes suddenly became apostates. On the other hand, many false prophets also prophesied. Some tribes refused to pay Zakat. But he overcame all of them with great agility, vision and religious insight.

In 8AH/30AD, in the battle of Mautah, the enemy had assembled a large army which led to the martyrdom of three eminent Muslim soldiers, Zaid bin Haritha, Jafer, and 'Abdullah bin Rawaha. In response to that, the Prophet had ordered that it should be avenged. But this could not be done as its preparation was not complete. Despite the difficult circumstances, Abu Bakr decided to comply with this order first and he dispatched an army under the leadership of Usama, the son of Zaid ibn Haritha. Forty days later the army returned with a victory. Abu Bakr came out of the city of Madinah and received them. In such a critical situation, Abu Bakr's decision to send his army was apparently looked strategically not favorable, but on the contrary its effect remained very good. With this a factor of fear was imposed on the enemy and simultaneously with this the internal revolutionary elements had refrained from revolt to a great extent.

After the expedition of the battle of Mautah, Abu Bakr turned his attention to the false prophets. Khalid bin Walid was assigned to deal with Taliha bin Khwailid. Shirjeel was

appointed to crush Musailamah. Musailamah's 40,000 followers came out to compete. Since Khalid bin Walid had just returned from his expedition so he was deputed to assist Shirjeel, after which the enemy was defeated. Musailamah's wife Saja also became a prophetess. When her husband was killed she ran away. The claimant of the third prophecy, the group of Aswad Anasi fell into divisions on their own.

Some of the apostates also became independent rulers in their own place. So after this, Abu Bakr took the step of dealing with these apostates. For this, he sent 'Ulaa to Bahrain to crush Nauman bin Manzir, and he also sent Huzifah to 'Oman to deal with Laqet bin Malik. They both subdue these people and re-established them to Islam.

The most important and critical of these matters was the rejection of payment of the Zakat. Since these people were just deniers of Zakat, while living in Islam, the Companions disagreed about carrying a sword on them. On this occasion, Abu Bakr said the following words with his religious vision.

***"By Allah! whoever gave a small goat as Zakat in the life of the Messenger of Allah, if now they refuse to give it, I will fight against them."***

'Umar also had to agree with his opinion because if they do not pay Zakat today, tomorrow they would be in denial of Prayers and Fasting as well. Nevertheless, Abu Bakr's insistence and perseverance made all the deniers of Zakat in a straight line. ---- Thus, due to the insights of Siddique Akbar, his useful opinions and perseverance, all the afflictions that arose at that time broke down, and it was as if Islam had come to a new life.

After solving internal problems, Abu Bakr turned his attention towards external enemies. At that time, this Arabian Island was surrounded by two large kingdoms. Sasanian Empire in Iran and Roman in Syria. Both of them were enemies of the

Arabs from the beginning and sought to snatch their independence. In those days Iran was ruled by Ardeshir, and in Iraq Hormuz was ruling, who was basically designated by Iran. Two Muslim leaders of the Arab tribe of Iraq, viz., Mathna And Swede 'Ajali, decided to mount on the Hormuz, but it was not so easy. Thus, Mathna went to Abu Bakr to seek his permission for a regular attack on Iraq as well as his help. Abu Bakr accepted the desire of Mathna and also sent the army under the leadership of Khalid bin Walid to Iraq for his help. After arriving in Eelah, Khalid bin Walid wrote a letter to Hormuz which reads: "... *Accept Islam or pay tax, otherwise you will have to fight a nation who is as desirous of death as you wish for life....*". Hormuz sent the letter to Ardeshir in Iran and he himself left for the fight. At the place of Kazimah, the two armies fought and Hormuz was defeated and he was killed. On the other hand, after receiving the letter, Ardeshir send off his army for help. On the way, when the defeat of Hormuz was reported, the Iranian army stopped at a place named 'Nadar'. Khalid reached himself to Nadar. Both had hard fight and the Iranians were defeated. When Ardeshir was informed he sent another troops but Khalid had defeated them also with all his tactics and good strategy. Before returning from here, Khalid bin Walid also contacted the local tribal chiefs. All agreed on reconciliation and paying the due taxes. Thus, almost all of the southern Iraq was totally occupied by Muslims.

Syria, the northern neighbor of Arabia, was ruled by Hercules. The Syrians did not view the Arabs with such dislikes as the Iranians do, yet there was a rivalry between the two nations. Especially after the emergence of Islam they became the fiercest enemies of the Muslims. At the time of the Noble Prophet , they had once been confronted with war in the battle of Mautah. Abu Bakr had taken revenge of the failure of the war as soon as he took office. But the Muslims had not yet received full satisfaction from the Romans, so it was important

to deal with them as well. That is why, after consulting all the Companions, Abu Bakr Siddique decided to invade Syria in 13AH/635AD. Separate troops were dispatched to every part of it. In Damascus, Yazid bin Sufyan, Abu 'Ubaidah bin Jarrah on Homs, Shirjeel bin Hasanah towards Jordan and 'Amr bin al-A'as left for Palestine. The total number of these troops was around 27,000.

Hercules was in Homs. He defended there with great number of troops. It was at once reported to Abu Bakr. He ordered Khalid bin Walid, who was just returning from Iraqi battle, to reach Syria immediately. He first reached in the aid of 'Amr bin al-A'as. After the victory, he besieged from there to Abu 'Obadiah in Damascus. This siege continued for complete 3 months.

The siege was continued that Abu Bakr became ill. When his illness intensified, he summoned all the Companions and took advise from them of his successor. He himself suggested the name of 'Umar bin Khattab. Some of the Companions acknowledged the competence of 'Umar but had reservations of his strict temperament. Abu Bakr replied to them, "*When he will bear the burden of the Caliphate he will be soften.*" Then he wrote a will through 'Uthman and told to the audience, "*I did not make any of my loved ones as a caliphate, but I chose the one whom I thought the best to me.*"

Abu Bakr was a statue of the Noble Prophet, so he did not like to cross the line of the Prophet in any work. So in his time, all matters remained on the system of the Prophet. For all important matters, his usual practice was to consult the Quran and his Companions. This consultation was generally conducted through 'Umar, 'Uthman, 'Ali, 'Abdul Rahman bin 'Auf, Mu'adh bin Jabal, Ubi bin Ka'ab and Zaid bin Thabit. For the positions of government, he used to select only those seniors who were already trained by the Prophet.

The country, which had no administrative separation, was divided into seven different provinces by Abu Bakr. These provinces were: Madinah, Makkah, Taif, Sana'a Nijran, Hadaramout, Bahrain and Daumat al-Jandal.

Zakat, Usher, Jizya, and war incomes increased greatly during his tenure. But he didn't set up a Treasury. Rather, only after the essential needs of the government, whatever was left after the expenditures, that was distributed without discrimination. However, in the last days, State Treasury was established. Its building was built, but no money could be collected.

When Huffaz were martyred in various wars, 'Umar was worried that a large part of the Quran may be lost. As a result, he put emphasis on Abu Bakr to compile the Quran as a regular book. Abu Bakr first had the excuse of how to do something that was not done in the period of Allah's Prophet. But soon he realized the usefulness of the proposition given by 'Umar. And then, with immediate steps, he converted the Quran into a complete book.

Abu Bakr Siddique passed away on 21 Jamadi-at-Sani, 13AH/635AD and he was buried on the side of the Noble Prophet.

Remember! The Prophets are innocent and true persons. So they are all 'Siddique'. But in the Quran, Bi-Bi Maryum (*the mother of Prophet Isa*) is also called as "Siddiqua". This indicates that the Non Prophets may also be "Siddique". In the Holy Quran (*Surah Al-Nisa, Verse 69*), "صديقين" (*the steadfast affirmers of truth*), martyrs and the righteous people are mentioned along with the Prophets. Thus "Siddique", attains a high rank after the "Prophets" In fact, "Siddique" receives all the teaching of religion from the Prophet and the righteous people receive it from 'Siddique'.

The Noble Prophet has declared " صدیقیت " in many places as a position and status, like prophecy and martyrdom. Imam Bukhari reports the narration of Malik bin Anas that Allah's Prophet once visited the hill of Uhad. Along with him, Abu Bakr, 'Umar and 'Uthman were also with him. Suddenly the mountain shacked, so the Prophet said: "O Uhad! Wait! You have a prophet, one Siddique and two martyrs at this time." Among them, "Siddique" was Abu Bakr, while "Shaheed" (martyrdoms) were referred to 'Umar and 'Uthman.

There is a complete consensus on the Ummah of Muhammad (PBUH) that Abu Bakr Siddique, after the Prophets, is the "Best of the people". Thus the Friday sermons of all mosques remind us since last 1500 years that:

سَيِّدَنَا أَبَا بَكْرٍ صِدِّيقُ أَفْضَلِ النَّاسِ بَعْدَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ

محمدؐ مصطفیٰ کا جانشین صدیق اکبرؓ ہے

{The successor of Muhammad Mustafa is Siddique Akbar}

بجز پیغمبروں کے سب سے اعلیٰ سب سے برتر ہے

{Except Prophets, among all he is on crest and is the best}

محمدؐ کی نبوت میں نہ شک آیا کبھی ہرگز

{He never ever had any doubt on Muhammad as a Prophet}

وہی اسلام میں سابق وہی رتبہ میں اکبر ہے

{He is the first in Islam, so his rank is also on top of the list}

اٹھایا صدق نے بارِ نبوت اپنی گردن پر

{He took the responsibility of the prophecy on his neck}

وہی تو تانی اثنتین اور ہمراہِ پیغمبر ہے

{He was "One of the Two" and the Companion of the Prophet}

خدا نے شان میں صدیقؓ کی اتنی ہی فرمایا

{Allah has given his name as "the Righteous"}

وہ اتنی ہی ہے، وہ عند اللہ اکرم اور بہتر ہے

{He is the Righteous, and to Allah he is most honorable and the best}