

# THE CLOSEST CONFIDANTS: (ABU BAKR & UMAR RA)



Shaykh Abdullah Waheed

## The Closest Confidants (Abu Bakr & Umar (RA))

- In the fourth session, Shaykh Abdullah Waheed focused on the latter half Umar ibn Khattab's life (RA). He in particular wanted to focus on his virtue of justice, as he dealt with everyone fairly. He may have been rough at times, but he never oppressed anyone. Islam has space for all types of personalities and what binds them together is taqwa; God-consciousness.

## Umar ibn Khattab's Migration

- When most of the Companions were scared of publicly going out when they were preparing to migrate (as they were being persecuted), only Umar ibn Khattab (RA) was able to go without any fear. This is a time where everyone was looking for protection. He grabs his spear, bow, and equipment and is fully geared. He announced he was going to go behind a mountain, if anyone wished to fight him, they should meet him there, to which no one answered. His personality was to be unafraid of others.

## His Humility and Justice

- In terms of the Companions, they were always competition with Abu Bakr and Umar (RA), in terms of their goodness. They both, including Umar (RA), were always supporting the Prophet SAW. His humility as one of greatest figures in Islamic history is what made him so revered.
- As he walked through the streets during his caliphate, a woman started to lecture him. She told him to be fair and fear God and know that the Day of Judgment is near, among other things. One of Umar's students is with him and tries to explain who he is to the woman. He then told him to stop, noting that her dua was one that Allah SWT answered, and the Prophet SAW received revelation due to it.
- Umar (RA) would go onto the pulpit and deliver a sermon saying that if he is to do something wrong, then correct him. As people we will be wrong at times, so it is better to accept that the truth and not reject. Shaykh Abdullah would note that it is important to have someone to mentor you as it can help us keep track.
- During one of his sermons, he limited the amount of dowry a woman can have. A woman rose up and yelled about how he cannot make that restriction. Instead of rebuking her, Umar (RA) asked her why. She responded with an ayah, being bold and knowledgeable. Umar (RA) acknowledged she was right and he reversed his decision.

## His Softness

- In Medina, during his caliphate, women would receive stipends after they are done breastfeeding their children. For that reason, would want to wean their children earlier and get the financial benefit as a result. He was asked by a woman, “how many children have you killed by trying to get them weaned earlier?” Umar (RA) would cry all night at this and cried at the pulpit the next day. He then announced that they would receive a stipend from the day they were born.
- There was a woman speaking couplets about love of the Prophet SAW, asking for all the salutations from the pious upon him. The environment of Medina was such that they did not need to teach newcomers how to act at night, they were reading Qur’an and crying by example. She asked to be reunited with the Prophet SAW in Jannah. Umar (RA) seeing this was crying and then asked the mother to include him in that dua.
- At a different point, he sees smoke in the distance and visits a household with a toddler and infant crying with their mother taking care of them. There is no husband to help because like many, he passed away on the battlefield in service of the Prophet SAW. The mother would just heat her pan and act like she was preparing food for her children, so they would fall asleep thinking they were about to receive food.

- With Umar (RA) being present, she remarks and says that she wishes the leader of the believers could know about their hardship. Without her knowing who he is, he asks her how the leader of the believers could know about them and their situation, being that they lived far from Medina. She responded by saying that regardless of that fact, he was responsible for them. In response, Umar (RA) heads to the welfare trust, fills up a sack with food and carries in his back to the family. He personally prepares the meat, food, and cooks it to their family. He stayed there to see the kids smile after they ate the food, as he thought about Allah SWT asking him about seeing those same kids cry. Ironically, he says that he should have been the leader of the believers.
- One day he was giving a khutbah and his stomach growled. He responded to his stomach by saying, “make as much as noise as you want, but I will not fill you until I fill the stomachs of all of the children.” When money and goods would come, Umar (RA) would almost empty it immediately, giving it to people. He was asked why he does not invest it, but he responded by saying that Allah SWT has brought the sustenance today and He will bring it tomorrow.
- One of the first things he said when he got on the pulpit was, “Oh Allah, I am rough, so soften me. Oh Allah, I am weak, so strengthen me. Oh Allah, I am stingy, so make me generous.”

## The Peaceful Conquest of Palestine

- The great Umar ibn Khattab (RA) would lead a simple lifestyle. He ate the simplest of food and would have clothes that would have patches on them. As they were about to meet the Roman emperor, Abu Ubaydah Ibn Jarah (RA) said that he should wear something a little more formal, as these were the type of people to chastise clothing. Umar (RA) responded with distaste, indicating that these were his principles as a believer. People at times may have a hard time accepting you (as a Muslim or something else), but it doesn't mean they don't respect you for your principles. The Roman emperor indicated that someone with tattered clothing would come and ask for Jerusalem, and he was subsequently given the keys to Baytul Maqdis, where the different religions coexisted for many years.

## The Dua For Martyrdom in Medina

- Umar (RA) made dua to die as a martyr within Medina, as both of those statuses were sought after. Umar (RA) was stabbed, he laid for three days on his deathbed. He tells his son to put his head on the dirt, instead of his lap, and starts rolling his face in the dirt. He says to himself, "Woe to you Omar, if your Lord does not forgive you."

- Ali and Hasan (RA) walk in while Umar (RA) was on his deathbed and ask him why he is crying. Umar (RA) is remorseful at the fact that if he is going to paradise or the fire. Ali (RA) reaffirms him by saying that he is going to Paradise, as the Prophet SAW indicated. Umar (RA) responds by asking if he will stand by the fact that he heard that narration from the Messenger of Allah SAW on the Day of Judgment, and even asks Hasan (RA) to testify to this. Ali (RA) responds by saying that he will stand for him on the Day of Judgment.
- Umar Ibn Khattab (RA) led a virtuous life with examples of how to be a true leader. Although we may not all be leaders of entire communities, we are leaders of families, coworkers, and different organizations. May we all benefit from learning from his characteristics and we ask Allah to bless Shaykh Abdullah Waheed for sharing Umar ibn Khattab's (RA) life with us.

## FAQs

- Who was the person who could migrate to Madinah in broad daylight without any fear?
- Why did Umar (RA) tell his student to not scold Khawla bint Tha'labah for admonishing him?
- When Abu Bakr decided to make Umar (RA) in charge of the believers, one of the companions worried that Umar (RA) would be too harsh. What was Abu Bakr's (RA) reply?

- What is something that was important to Umar (RA) during his rule regarding his inner circle?
- What led Umar (RA) to give stipends to mothers of children, regardless if the child finished breastfeeding or not?
- What did Umar (RA) say to his stomach when it would growl from hunger?
- What a unique dua that Umar (RA) made regarding his death?

