

MIFTAAH SEMINAR

UMAR IBN AL-KHATTAB



Mufti Sultan Mohiuddin

Introduction

- Much of our deen goes back to Umar, which is why we have to love him and you cannot love him until you know him.

His Physical Description

- Umar was very tall
 - When he would sit on an animal, his feet would touch the ground
 - He was abnormally tall among the people
- He was very muscular
 - Umar was very against obesity
 - One day, Umar saw a Bedouin whose stomach was protruding and he tapped his belly and said, "What is this?" The Bedouin said, "This is a blessing from Allah." Umar said, "No, this is a punishment from Allah."
 - The Prophet ﷺ used to say, "O Allah, I seek protection in you from laziness."
- There is a difference of opinion regarding his skin tone
 - Some say he was a little brown
 - Some say he had white reddish skin
 - What we know for a fact is that his skin tone did change.
 - During a plague, Umar swore not to eat in solidarity with the Muslims. Because of this, his skin tone became pale

- His eyes were large and deeply set in his face
 - Abdullah ibn Abbas would say that Umar had tunnels carved into his eyes because of all of the crying he did.
- He had a large beard and thick mustache
 - Whenever he got tense or was thinking, he would play with his mustache
- He naturally had a loud voice
 - Aisha said when Umar spoke, everyone could hear it
 - Umar was one of the sahaba who got scared when Allah revealed the ayah, "Do not raise your voices over the voice of the Prophet," because he had a loud voice.
 - It was common to see exceptionally loud voices during that time
- His full name: Umar ibn al-Khattab ibn Nufayl ibn Abd al-Uzza
 - Zayd ibn Nufayl was Umar's uncle and he was one of the people who accepted a monotheistic faith early on
 - The Prophet ﷺ said about Zayd that he will be raised as an entire ummah on his own on the Day of Judgement.
- Umar was from a small Qurashi tribe called Banu 'Adī
 - Banu Adi was significant enough for people to recognize, but it was not large enough to be a very prestigious tribe

His Family

- His brother, Zayd, converted before Umar
 - He passed away in the reign of Umar in the battle against Musaylamah al-Khadhdhab.
 - When Umar went to his brother's body, he noticed that there was a fragrance coming from it and he continued to smell it later on in his life.
- His wives:

- Zaynab bint Madh'un
 - She converted before Umar without telling him
 - She gave birth to Abdullah and Hafsa
- Aatika bint Zayd ibn Nufayl
 - Marrying someone from your ancestry was not weird at that time
- Umm Kulthum bint Ali
 - Umar wanted to be tied to the Prophet ﷺ by blood
 - She is the granddaughter of the Prophet
- Umm Hakim bint Harith
 - She is the widow of Ikrimah ibn Abi Jahl
 - No matter how far gone people think you are, Allah's mercy will always help you find a place in society

Early Life

- When Umar was in his early twenties, he worked as a camel herder working for his dad
 - His dad was known to be harsh
- Umar traveled to the Byzantine lands and Persian lands and tried doing business, but he was not successful
 - One of the strengths of Umar was seeing what he is not good at
- Umar then went to his aunt and herded sheep for her. He would take a handful of dates in compensation.
- After all of these attempts, Umar decided to participate in organized wrestling matches. This went well for him because no one ever beat him due to his strength.
 - This built his character and personality
- Then, Umar moved on to learning the art of poetry and participated in poetry competitions.
 - These competitions got very ruthless
 - Quraysh loved that Umar was so brave and eloquent

- Quraysh appointed Umar as the representative of Quraysh. They called Umar to defend them against others.

His Islam

- When Islam came, Umar was still figuring his life out. He was still formulating what was right and wrong.
- The narrative of Islam was that it seeks to divide. Umar did not want division among his people, so he went against Islam at first. He thought that he was doing good by defying Islam.
 - Umar's passion was not coming from a place of evil. Umar did not see Islam for what it was, he only saw it for what it was doing at first.
- Umar was sleeping near the Ka'bah one day and a person came all of a sudden and started speaking about an eloquent man who is very successful. Because it was so unexpected, the people all ran away except for Umar. Umar followed that voice and concluded that whomever he was speaking about had to be a prophet. Then, Umar walked away.
 - A seed was planted at this time, but it did not come to fruition in the form of him accepting Islam
- In another incident, Umar decided to go get some alcohol and drink with his friends. But, he did not find any alcohol or any of his friends. So, he decided instead to make tawaf. As he was doing that, he heard the Prophet reciting Quran. He snuck into the Ka'bah until there was nothing between him and the Prophet except for a curtain. As he was listening to the Quran, he thought to himself that the Prophet must be a poet. The Prophet was reciting Surah al-Haqqa and he recited the verse, "And it is not the speech of a poet—little do you believe." This frightened Umar even more and he thought to himself that the Prophet must be a fortune teller because he read his thoughts.

- The Prophet recited the next verse, "Nor is it the speech of a soothsayer—little do you take heed." Umar could not take it anymore, so he left. Umar decided to get rid of the Prophet before he begins to think as he thinks.
- In another incident, Umar passed by a woman named Umm Abdillah who was packing her bags and leaving Makkah. Umar saw her and asked what she was doing. She explained to Umar that she was leaving with her husband because of all of the persecution they were facing as Muslims in Makkah. Umar felt bad and said, "May Allah be with you." Umm Abdillah was shocked and she told her husband about what Umar said later. Her husband said, "His father's donkey will become Muslim before he does."
 - Umar's heart softened up towards Iman
- Abu Jahl offered a reward to whoever would take the life of the Prophet ﷺ. So, Umar decided to take up the offer. He put on his sword and headed for the Prophet. He bumped into Nuaym ibn Abdillah on his way there and Nuaym asked him where he was going. Umar told him the truth and Nuaym questioned Umar. So, Umar asked him if he was a Muslim too. Nuaym told Umar that his own sister became Muslim, so Umar went straight to his sister's house. Khabbab ibn al-Aratt was teaching them Quran and when he heard Umar knocking at the door, he hid in a closet. Umar came in and beat up his brother-in-law, Said ibn Zayd. Umar's sister came and tried to stop him from hurting her husband and Umar accidentally hit her. She began bleeding and when Umar saw this, he felt bad and calmed down. She admitted that they were Muslim and Umar asked her for what they were reading before he came into the house. His sister, Fatima, told him to take a shower because he was a Mushrik. So, he did and he came back and began reading the Quran directly. He read the beginning verses of Surah Taha.

- Umar was very similar to Musa and the first story he read in the Quran was that of Musa.
- Umar cried and asked to be taken to the Prophet, so he was taken to Dar al-Arqam. When he knocked on the door, the sahaba inside got scared. Hamza ibn Abdul Muttalib got up and said, "If he came with bad intentions, I will kill him with his own sword." So, they opened the door for Umar and the Prophet held onto him and put him down on his knees. He said, "Umar! What are you waiting for?" Umar accepted Islam in that moment. The sahaba all said takbeer and it could be heard from people by the Ka'bah.
 - The Prophet was generally soft with people, but he knew how to talk to Umar based on his personality.
- When Umar got up from that gathering, he said, "Aren't we on the truth? Then why are we hiding?" He took the Muslims with him to the Ka'bah and Hamza led one group and they all prayed publicly.
- Umar wanted to let the people know that he was Muslim. He thought to himself, "Who is the person who cannot hold anything in their mouth and always speaks about what they hear?" When he thought of this person, Umar went and told him and this man announced that Umar was Muslim to the people. The people began attacking Umar and he beat up everyone one by one until he got tired. He pinned someone down and said, "I will gauge his eyes out if you all do not stop." So, they stopped.
- Umar went to Abu Jahl and gave him the news that he was Muslim. Abu Jahl thought that Umar had killed the Prophet, so he was happy to see him, but Umar told him that he had accepted Islam. Abu Jahl got angry and slammed the door in his face.
 - Umar's theatrics served a purpose and served as a deterrent so the people knew that the Muslims were people not to be reckoned with.

Migration to Madinah

- All of those who migrated at this point had done so secretly because it was dangerous for them to be leaving Madinah.
- Umar did not care about consequences as long as he knew that he was on the right path.
- Umar intended to travel and did tawaf around the Ka'bah. When he was done, he went to each of the chiefs of Quraysh sitting around the Ka'abh and said, "Whoever wants their mom to lose her child or their wife to become a widow, or their child to become an orphan, meet me behind this valley. I am going to do hijrah."
- Umar migrated to Madinah and began his life there

Testimonial About Umar

- A'isha reported Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) as saying: There had been among the people before you Muhaddathun and if there were any such among my Umma, Umar ibn al-Khattab would be one of them.
 - Possible meanings of "Muhaddathun":
 - A person who truth naturally flows on their tongue
 - A person who is spoken to by righteous angels (i.e. he is always receiving good thoughts from them)

Muwafiqat of Umar

- Muwafiqat refers to verses that were revealed confirming the opinion of Umar alone, even if the Prophet was on the opposing side.
- Maqam Ibrahim
 - Umar suggested that the Muslims should pray at Maqam Ibrahim and Allah revealed a verse affirming that.

- Captives of Badr
 - The Prophet and Abu Bakr wanted to let the captives go, but Umar did not want to let them go because he knew that would come back stronger.
 - Allah revealed an ayah affirming his opinion was the correct one.
- Prohibition of Alcohol
 - Umar made dua and said, "O Allah, give us a clear explanation about alcohol."
 - Allah revealed an ayah inferring that alcohol is bad, but Umar wanted a clearer verse.
 - Umar made dua again for it to be clear and another ayah was revealed.
 - Umar made dua a third time and Allah revealed an ayah explicitly telling the people to stay away from it.
- Funerals of Evil Souls
 - The Prophet wanted to pray Janaza on Abdullah ibn Ubayy ibn Salul
 - Umar told the Prophet not to pray on him because he was a hypocrite and Allah revealed an ayah corroborating his thoughts.

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SESSION 2

- The Prophet ﷺ once saw a dream in which milk was coming out of his nails and Umar was drinking from the milk.
 - Milk in dreams represents knowledge
- In another dream, the Prophet ﷺ saw everyone in his ummah wearing garments and the size of each garment was different for each person. He saw Umar dragging his garments.
 - Akhirah things seem to contrast that which is prohibited on earth
 - Men are not allowed to wear pants below their ankles, but in the akhirah they will be
 - Garments represent guidance and knowledge
- The Prophet ﷺ saw in another dream that he was getting buckets out of a well and distributing it. He gave a bucket to Abu Bakr and he held it and dropped it. Then, Umar grabbed it in such a way that even the animals gathered around the bucket he was holding.
 - Water represents guidance and the dream represents Umar's khilafah.
 - Abu Bak's khilafah was very short and Umar's was much longer
 - During Umar's khilafah, he allowed the justice to be enjoyed by every species, not just humans.

- The Prophet said he was roaming about in Jannah and he heard Bilal's footsteps and then he passed by a beautiful palace. He thought it was his own palace. He saw a woman inside making wudu. The Prophet asked who it was for and it was said that it was for Umar. The Prophet remembered the ghīra (self-dignity) of Umar and turned away from it. Umar cried and said, "Would I have ghīra with you, O Messenger of Allah?"
- Umar used to say, "A truly successful person is one who has been saved from their desires, greed, and anger."
- Abdullah ibn Hisham reported: We were with the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, and he was holding the hand of Umar ibn al-Khattab. Umar said to him, "O Messenger of Allah, you are more beloved to me than everything but myself." The Prophet said, "No, by the One in whose hand is my soul, until I am more beloved to you than yourself." Umar went home and thought about it and said, "Indeed, I swear by Allah that you are more beloved to me now than myself." The Prophet said, "Now you are right, O Umar."

Shaytan With Umar

- The Prophet was sitting with the sahaba and a woman came to him and said, "I made a promise to myself that if someone in my life goes my way, then I will play the duff for you." The Prophet allowed her to and she started playing it. Abu Bakr came and she continued to play the duff. Uthman came and she continued to play. When Umar walked in, she put the duff under her to hide it. The Prophet laughed and said, "Even Shaytan is scared of you O Umar."
 - The Prophet ﷺ used to joke around, but there was still truth to it.

- The Prophet was once sitting around a group of women and their voices were getting loud. Umar walked in and all of the women dispersed. The Prophet laughed and Umar asked what made him laugh. The Prophet told him about the women dispersing when he walked in and Umar said, "O enemies of yourselves! Why is it that you have more fear of me than the Prophet?" One woman said, "You are harsh Umar." The Prophet smiled and said, "If Umar takes a path, Shaytan would take another path."
- Hafsa, Umar's daughter said, "Shaytan never met Umar ever since he became Muslim."
- One of the reasons Shayatin stay away from people is because there is a protective garb around them of a spiritual nature and this takes place through adhkar.
 - There was never a moment when Allah was absent from Umar's life
 - Keep your tongue moist with the dhikr of Allah and this trait of Umar is something that Allah can grant to us too.

Umar's Personal Spirituality

- Aisha said, "There was no one (from amongst the sahaba) who prayed more tahajjud than Umar."
 - Umar was very busy as the khalifah, but he still prioritized his tahajjud salah
- Every time Umar recited Quran, he would always cry.
- When Umar opened the register for public allowances, and allowed stipends for children as well, he laid down the condition that the children were not to get any allowance until they were weaned. In their desire to get allowances for the children, the parents cut down the period of weaning. One night Umar went on his rounds as usual. As he was patrolling a street, he heard the voice of a baby crying. Umar stood outside the house for some time, but the baby did not stop crying.

- Umar knocked at the door and was admitted inside the house. He saw that a woman held a small baby in her lap and the baby continued to cry. Umar turned to the lady and said, "What sort of mother you are. The baby is crying, and you do not feed it with you milk." The woman said, "Go and ask Umar as to what sort of Caliph he is He has ordained that a child would not get a stipend until it was weaned. In order to secure the stipend for our child we are trying to wean it." Umar argued that it was cruel to wean a baby at such an early age. The woman retorted, "The blame for such cruelty rests on Umar who has created artificial distinction between child and child. Justice demands that every child should get a stipend, weaning or no weaning." Umar said, "All right. Feed your baby with your milk, and rest assured you will get the stipend for your baby even though it is not weaned." The following day Umar passed orders that stipends would be allowed for children from their date of birth. These orders were given a retrospective effect and the previous orders were rescinded.
- Umar's tahajjud made him soft. He used to make dua and say, "O Allah, I am weak, give me strength. I am harsh, make me soft. I am miserly, make me generous."
- Umar said, "May Allah have mercy on the person who gifts me my flaws."
 - A woman criticized Umar as he was giving a khutbah, which was not standard etiquette. She said, "Umar, you said that women should not increase their dowry so much. God did not restrict us, so why are you restricting us?" Umar said, "The woman is right. Umar is wrong."
- As soon as Umar heard the words of Allah, he would stop in his tracks and close his mouth.

- Nothing could break Umar. The one time that he was broken was at the death of the Prophet ﷺ. Umar was in denial and refused to believe that the Prophet had died. When Abu Bakr recited the ayah, "Muhammad is no more than a messenger. Messengers have passed on before him. If he dies or gets killed, will you turn on your heels? He who turns on his heels will not harm God in any way. And God will reward the appreciative," Umar said it was as if he never heard that ayah before. The Quran instantly snapped him out of his state.

His Justice

- In the middle of Umar's khutba, Salman al-Farisi once spoke up and said, "We will not obey you." Umar calmly asked him why and he said, "Because when you were distributing spoils of war, you gave everyone one garment. But, I see two on yourself." Umar called his son Abdullah and asked him to explain what happened to Salman. Abdullah explained that his father is a large man and his shirt did not fit him, so he gifted his own shirt to his father and Umar stitched the two garments together. Salman understood this and listened to Umar.
- Umar not only displayed justice himself, but he also rewarded others when they displayed justice, thereby creating a culture of justice.
- Umar appointed Shurayh as the judge due to his display of fairness after he ruled against Umar, rather in ruling in favor of him just because he was the khalifah.
- Umar once saw an old Jewish man begging and he said, "We took a lot of taxes from you when you were young. I will not leave you alone when you are old." He took the man to Bayt al-Maal and let him take whatever he needed.

- One of Umar's sons drank alcohol one time. The people thought that Umar would let it go because he is his son. Umar's son lived in Egypt at the time. Amr ibn al-As, the governor, decided not to punish him publicly in order to stop it from becoming a large scandal. Umar received news of what happened and he set up a court again and got his son the punishment of lashes in public in order to be fair.
- Umar used to say, "Whoever does not try to stay safe will not be safe."
 - Umar always erred on the side of caution
 - He wanted to stay far from the gray areas
- Umar used to say the hadith of the Prophet often, "Whoever does not have mercy will not be shown mercy."

His Humility

- Whenever someone said to Umar, "Fear Allah," he would instantly get a physical fever.
- Umar did not just give out advice, he took it too.
- The more just Umar became, the more humble he became.
- Umar was sitting with a group of veterans of war after the Battle of Yamama and Tufayl ibn Amr al-Dawsi was among them. Tufayl had lost his arm in a battle. Tufayl left the gathering while they were eating and sat by himself. Umar saw him and called him over to sit by him. Umar noticed that a little bit of blood was oozing from his arm and Tufayl said that he did not want Umar to feel bad while he was eating, which is why he sat away. Umar said, "There is not a single man here who has a little piece in Jannah already except for you."
- Umar used to say, "A person's loud roar should not fascinate you. The sign of a true man is the one who fulfills their obligations and stays away from harming the honor of people."

- Hormuzan, a Persian emperor, realized that the Arab caliphate was growing and becoming more powerful. He wanted to visit Madina and see Umar for himself. When he got to Madina, he could not find Umar and he asked around for him. A child pointed to Umar who was sleeping under a tree and using his sandals as his pillow. Hormuzan saw this and said, "You ruled. You were fair. People secured you, so you slept."
 - No one had anything against Umar, so he had nothing to fear. He did not need any bodyguards.
- Umar used to say, "Sleep on your bed one night and sleep on the floor one night."
 - This helps you stay humble
 - Umar understood that human beings get comfortable very easily.
- Umar said, "If I wanted to, I could have the finest meat and amazing clothes. But I do not because I want to save my good deeds because Allah described a nation by saying, "You took all of your pleasures in this world and enjoyed it."
 - You can use up all of your good deeds by Allah giving back to you in this dunya
 - Umar did not want to use up his good deeds by taking from the dunya
 - If you want to live a good life in the akhirah, then understand that it has to be a little difficult here in the dunya.
- Umar used to say, "Take yourself into account before you are taken into account."
 - Rabi ibn Khutaym made a fake grave under his bed and would lay down in it every night before sleeping. He would remind himself that there will come a time when he won't be able to just come out of that hole and there will be no going back and it would motivate him to work harder.

- Umar had fear and hope for himself.
 - He said, "If a caller came and said that everyone is going to Jannah except for one person, I would think that person was me. And if a caller came and said that everyone is going to Hellfire except for one person, I would be hopeful that that person is me."
- As Umar was passing away, his head was in his son's lap. Umar told his son to put his head on the ground. His son asked why and Umar said, "If this head is going to Paradise, then I want you to put it in the ground faster. But if this head is going to Hellfire, then you should not tarnish your light with a head from the Hellfire."

Conquering Palestine

- When Umar went to al-Quds, he went with one servant, one animal, and one pair of clothes. He would switch the ride with his servant.
- As they entered, his servant was riding the animal.
- Umar was wearing a white thobe. As they were entering al-Quds, he tripped and his thobe got dirtied with mud.
- When people saw him, they tried offering him some clothes. Umar said, "We are a nation that has been gifted honor through Islam. If we ask for honor from others, Allah will disgrace us."
 - Umar did not want to change his beliefs and values for others
 - Today, we often follow Islam using the Islamification of people who have nothing to do with Islam.