

MIFTAAH SEMINAR

THE END OF AN ERA



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The End of an Era – Martyrdom of Umar (RA), Uthman (RA), and Ali (RA)

Allah's Praise of the Companions:

وَالسَّابِقُونَ الْأُولُونَ مِنَ الْمُهَاجِرِينَ وَالْأَنْصَارِ وَالَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ
وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ وَأَعَدَّ

“And the first forerunners [in the faith] among the Muhajirun and the Ansar and those who followed them with good conduct – Allah is pleased with them, and they are pleased with Him, and He has prepared for them gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever. That is the great attainment.” (Surah At-Tawbah: 100)

Introduction: The Lives of the Companions

- **Role Models for the Ummah:** Allah chose the companions as the closest to His Messenger ﷺ their lives exemplifying the standard of Iman (faith) and Hidayah (guidance).
- **Purpose of Discussion:**
 - Familiarizing with their lives, particularly their final moments, to understand their legacy and derive guidance for our own lives.
 - Reflecting on what defines true success—both in life and in death.

- **Focus on Legacy:**
 - The **believer's legacy** is not in material wealth but in:
 - a. Khayr (goodness) left behind.
 - b. Iman and guidance shared with others.
 - c. Deeds carried to the Hereafter.
- **Reminder of Mortality:**
 - Each person is a traveler in this world, transitioning to the next.
 - The critical questions to ponder:
 - *What am I leaving behind?*
 - *What am I taking with me?*

Umar ibn Al-Khattab (RA)

Umar's Conversion to Islam

- **Impact of His Islam:**
 - Umar (RA)'s acceptance of Islam was seen as a great victory for the Muslims.
 - He brought strength, justice, and the ability to challenge oppressive powers, providing hope to the oppressed.

The Prophet's Esteem for Umar (RA)

- Prophetic Sayings About Umar (RA):
 - **"If there were to be a prophet after me, it would be Umar."**
 - This highlights his exceptional faith and unique qualities.
 - **"In every nation, there are people inspired by Allah. If there is anyone like that in my Ummah, it is Umar."**
 - This refers to Umar (RA)'s ability to make decisions aligned with divine wisdom.
 - **"Oh Umar, any path you take, Shaytan runs away from it."**
 - Signifying Umar's immense spiritual strength and the fear he instilled in Shaytan.

Prophetic Foretelling of Umar's Martyrdom

• The Trembling Mountain:

- *Narration from Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim:*
- The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ stood on Mount Hira with Abu Bakr (RA), Umar (RA), and Uthman (RA). The mountain began to tremble. The Prophet said:

"اثبت حراء، فما عليك إلا نبي أو صديق أو شهيد"

 - *"Stay still, Hira, for upon you is a Prophet, a Siddiq, and two martyrs."*
- *Another narration from Sahih Muslim places the event on Mount Uhud with the Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali, Talha, and Zubair (RA). Again, the Prophet said:*

"اثبت أحد، فإنما عليك نبي، وصديق، وشهيد"

 - *"Stay still, Uhud, for upon you is a Prophet, a Siddiq, and martyrs."*
- This foretold the martyrdom of Umar (RA), Uthman (RA), and others present except Abu Bakr (RA).

Lessons from Umar (RA)'s Life

1. Courage and Leadership:

- Umar's (RA) acceptance of Islam brought protection and confidence to the Muslim community, paving the way for their growth.
- His leadership demonstrated fairness, wisdom, and a dedication to the principles of Islam.

2. Martyrdom and Divine Acceptance:

- The Prophet's ﷺ words confirmed Umar's (RA) status as a Shaheed (martyr), reflecting his lofty rank in the sight of Allah.

3. A Legacy of Faith:

- His contributions to Islam left a lasting impact, inspiring generations to follow his example of courage and devotion.

Takeaways for Reflection

- **Preparation for Death:**
 - Life is temporary, and the real measure of success is the legacy of goodness and deeds that benefit others even after death.
 - Evaluate personal priorities: What am I investing in for my Hereafter?
- **Drawing Strength from the Companions:**
 - Their lives exemplify faith, resilience, and unwavering commitment to Allah's pleasure.
- **Emulating Umar (RA):**
 - Stand firm for justice.
 - Lead with courage and sincerity.
 - Strive to leave behind a legacy that serves others and earns eternal rewards.

The Leadership of Umar ibn al-Khattab (RA)

Conquests and Expansion

- Umar (RA) led Islam's most significant period of expansion during his 10-year caliphate:
 - **Regions Conquered:** Sham (Damascus, Jerusalem, Aleppo, Homs), Persia, Egypt, Sind, and parts of the Indian subcontinent.
 - Despite vast expansion, Umar managed these regions with meticulous care, emphasizing:
 - **Financial and Economic Planning:** Established Bayt al-Mal (treasury) and systems for fund distribution.
 - **Infrastructure Development:** Organized law enforcement, judiciary systems, and public utilities.
 - **Education and Religious Guidance:** Sent knowledgeable companions like Abdullah ibn Mas'ud (RA) to educate new Muslim communities.
 - Maintained Medina as the spiritual and administrative center by retaining senior companions.

Governance and Justice

- Maintained strict discipline and ethics among governors and leaders:
 - Vetted appointees for piety and simplicity, ensuring they did not indulge in luxury or corruption.
 - Examples of simplicity:
 - **Hudhaifah ibn al-Yaman (RA)**, governor of Madain, lived modestly despite access to wealth and power.
 - Letters issued to governors emphasized justice and humility.
- **Balancing Security and Inclusivity:** Umar sought to balance the presence of non-Muslims in Medina, following the Prophet's (S) actions of expelling Jews and Christians from the Arabian Peninsula. However, in cases of necessary labor, he allowed skilled workers to assist in Medina's development, like **Abu Lu'lu'ah**, a Persian slave skilled in masonry and carpentry.

Dedication to Prayer and Worship

- Exemplary emphasis on *Salah*:
 - Personally led Fajr prayer and ensured the community's participation.
 - Known for his frequent recitation of Surahs Yusuf, An-Nahl, and others in Salah.
 - Prioritized Salah even on his deathbed, stating:

لا حظ في الإسلام لمن لا صلاة له
 - "There is no share in Islam for someone who does not have Salah."

Martyrdom of Umar (RA)

- **Assassination Incident:**
 - Abu Lu'lu'ah, a Zoroastrian slave, fatally stabbed Umar (RA) during *Fajr* prayer in the Masjid.

- As Umar was fatally wounded, his concern remained with the **Salah**. Even while bleeding profusely, he asked to pray, illustrating his commitment to the faith.
- Fulfilled his wish for martyrdom while in Medina, a seemingly impossible request granted by Allah.

Selection of His Successor

- Refused to name a successor directly, balancing between precedents of the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr (RA).
- Formed a council of six senior companions to select the next caliph:
 - Ultimately, **Uthman ibn Affan (RA)** was chosen as the next Khalifah by **Abdul Rahman ibn Awf (RA)**, marking a rare moment of unanimous consensus.

Final Moments

- Displayed humility and fear of accountability before Allah:
 - Requested burial next to the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr (RA), but only with Aisha's (RA) explicit permission.
 - Spent his final moments in worship, reflection, and advising his people on adhering to the Sunnah.
 - While near death, Umar (RA) noticed a young man leaving with trousers below his ankles. He called him back, advising him to raise them, emphasizing that it pleases Allah and keeps clothes cleaner, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to upholding the Sunnah.

Umar's Contribution to Islamic Society

- **Codifying the Quran:** Umar's leadership was instrumental in the collection and compilation of the Quran, which he suggested to **Abu Bakr (RA)**, leading to the official compilation of the Quran under the leadership of **Zayd ibn Thabit (RA)**.

- His life epitomized a balance of strength, humility, and devotion to Allah.

Uthman ibn Affan (RA)

Virtues of Uthman (RA)

- **The Prophet's Companion in Jannah:** The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said every prophet has a special companion in Jannah, and Uthman (RA) would be his.
- **Shyness and Modesty:** The Prophet ﷺ displayed a special level of modesty in Uthman's (RA) presence, saying, "Should I not be shy of someone whom even the angels are shy of?"
- **Glad Tidings of Jannah:** Uthman (RA) was one of the ten promised Jannah. The Prophet ﷺ foretold Uthman (RA) would face trials but maintained his faith through them.
- **Dhul-Nurayn ("The Possessor of Two Lights"):** Uthman (RA) was married to two of the Prophet's ﷺ daughters. This unique honor was unmatched in history.
- **Trust of the Prophet ﷺ:** Chosen as the Prophet's ambassador at Hudaibiyyah, Uthman (RA) was entrusted with critical negotiations. The Bay'ah of Ridwan was taken on his behalf, demonstrating his esteemed status.

Contributions of Uthman (RA)

- **Generosity:**
 - Pledged 300 fully-equipped camels for the expedition of Tabuk. The Prophet ﷺ declared, "No action will harm Uthman after this."
 - Purchased the Well of Ruma and made it a waqf public endowment for the Muslims.
 - Contributed to the Masjid al-Nabawi expansion.
 - Gave 1,000 gold dinars to the Prophet ﷺ, earning his heartfelt dua for blessings in this life and the next.

- **Migration:** Uthman (RA) migrated twice—for Abyssinia and Medina—earning the title *Sahib al-Hijratayn* (The Companion of Two Migrations).
- **Preservation of the Qur'an:** During his caliphate, Uthman (RA) compiled and standardized the Qur'an, unifying the Muslim Ummah on one script.

Challenges and Trials

- **Rumors and Propaganda:**

- Opponents questioned Uthman's (RA) absence from key events like Badr, Uhud, and Bay'ah al-Ridwan. These were clarified:
 - He was excused from Badr to care for his sick wife, Ruqayyah (RA) who later passed away. Despite not being physically present, Uthman (RA) was still considered among the participants of Badr by the Prophet (S), and he received a share of the spoils of war.
 - Allah pardoned those who retreated at Uhud.
 - The Prophet ﷺ took the pledge of allegiance on his behalf at Hdaybiyyah.

- **Abdullah ibn Saba's Fitnah:**

- A Yemeni Jew who claimed conversion to Islam, **Abdullah ibn Saba** spread divisive beliefs, alleging Uthman (RA) usurped Ali's (RA) rights.
- Fabricated letters and rumors about dissatisfaction among senior Sahaba created discontent.
- The rebel leaders, backed by Abdullah ibn Saba, manipulated the grievances of the masses, creating a division among the Muslims. Some of Uthman's (RA) actions, such as his choice to pray four rakahs during Hajj, were cited as evidence of his alleged deviation, though Uthman (RA) had valid reasons for his actions.

- **Accusations of Nepotism:**
 - Critics claimed favoritism in Uthman's (RA) appointments. His half-brother, **Walid ibn Uqbah**, and others from his clan were accused of benefiting unduly. These allegations spread rebellion in Egypt and other regions. However, Uthman (RA) prioritized competence and was willing to address legitimate concerns.
- **Change in Policies:**
 - Differences from Umar's (RA) centralized governance approach led to misunderstandings. Uthman (RA) allowed senior Sahaba to settle in distant lands to spread Islam.

The Apostates and Policy Evolution

1. Abu Bakr's Policy:

- Apostates (murtads) who returned to Islam were prohibited from participating in battles. This reflected the seriousness of apostasy and its consequences for loyalty.

2. Umar's Policy Adjustment:

- Due to the expanding Islamic empire, Umar (RA) allowed apostates to fight but limited their leadership to smaller groups (no more than 100 men).

3. Uthman's Leniency:

- After many years, Uthman (RA) allowed some of these individuals and their descendants into leadership roles. However, some harbored resentment due to past restrictions, which contributed to unrest.

The Siege of Uthman (RA)

• Propaganda and Division:

- Protesters, largely from Egypt, Sham, Iraq, and Bedouins within Arabia, gathered under the guise of justice but had ulterior motives to destabilize the Caliphate.

- They spread misinformation and incited unrest by accusing Uthman (RA) of favoritism and other baseless claims.
- **Refusal to Use Force:**
 - Despite having the military strength to suppress the rebellion, Uthman (RA) chose to avoid bloodshed, emphasizing unity over conflict.
 - He told his companions, "If you believe I have any rights over you, then leave me," highlighting his selflessness.
- **Martyrdom of Uthman (RA):**
 - Uthman (RA) endured a siege where he was deprived of food and water.
 - He dreamt of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, who reassured him, "You can have your iftar with us."
 - On the 18th of Dhul Hijjah, besiegers broke into his home, and while he recited the Quran, *فَسَيَكْفِيكَهُمُ اللَّهُ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ* "Allah will suffice you from them, For He is the All-Hearing, All-Knowing (Surah al-Baqarah, 136); they martyred him.

Uthman's (RA) Legacy

- **Contributions:**
 - He preserved the Quran through its standardization and distribution to the Islamic world.
 - His leadership saw economic prosperity, the expansion of the empire, and improved trade relations.
- **Final Warning:**
 - Uthman (RA) declared, "If you kill me, you will never have true love among yourselves, you will never be united again."
 - His prediction of perpetual division within the Muslim Ummah proved tragically accurate.

Lessons and Reflection

1. **Unity vs. Division:**

- The disunity leading to Uthman's (RA) martyrdom reflects the destructive power of internal strife.

2. **Sacrifice for Unity:**

- Uthman's (RA) restraint teaches the value of sacrificing personal safety for the greater good of the Ummah.

3. **Modern Parallels:**

- The spread of misinformation today, amplified by technology, mirrors the rumors that fueled the unrest in Uthman's (RA) time.

4. **Accountability in Speech:**

- The Quran prohibits spying, bad assumptions, and spreading rumors, urging Muslims to maintain dignity and integrity in their dealings.

Lessons from Uthman's (RA) Life

1. **Unmatched Generosity:** His financial sacrifices showcase the importance of giving for Allah's cause.
2. **Endurance through Trials:** Despite facing intense opposition, Uthman (RA) remained steadfast in his principles.
3. **Legacy of Unity:** His efforts in compiling the Qur'an ensured the unity of the Muslim Ummah for generations.