

The Companions of the Prophet ﷺ surpassed all those who come after them in conviction and strength of faith; others can never equal them nor come near to them, the Prophet ﷺ has said, “Do not abuse my companions for if any one of you spent gold equal to Uhud (in Allah’s Cause) it would not be equal to a Mudd or even a half Mudd spent by one of them. [Bukhārī]

WE ARE INDEBTED TO THE SAHĀBAH

The reality is that we are indebted to them, it is through their sacrifices, firmness, and resolve that we are believers today, and they too will receive a share of our Hasanāt (good deeds). When a person sits close to a fire, he places his hands close to the fire to warm them up. After sometime the heat from the fire causes his hands to warm up, to such an extent that if another person who was not seated before the same fire were to touch his hands, he will benefit from the warmth. Similarly, the Sahābah remained close to the Prophet ﷺ and benefitted from his spirituality, such were they radiated by the light of Nubuwwah that those who met them after the demise of the Prophet ﷺ were also able to benefit from that spirituality. This is described in a Hadīth from the Prophet ﷺ, “The Fire shall not touch the Muslim who saw me, or saw one who saw me.” [Tirmidhī]

THE TEN PROMISED JANNAH

These were the men who were praised in the Noble Qur’ān, which will continue to be recited until the Last Day. The Prophet ﷺ too on a number of occasions, gave them the glad tidings of Paradise, either collectively or individually, and most famous of those glad tidings is the guarantee of Paradise made for the ten Sahābah, who thereafter became known as the Asharah Mubasharah. The Prophet ﷺ said, “Abū Bakr is in Jannah, 'Umar is in Jannah, 'Uthmān is in Jannah, 'Alī is in Jannah, Talhah is in Jannah, Zubayr is in Jannah, 'Abd al-Rahmān ibn 'Awf is in Jannah, Sa'd ibn Abī Waqqās is in Jannah, Sa'īd is in Jannah, and Abū 'Ubaydah ibn al-Jarrah is in Jannah.” [Tirmidhī] These ten individuals enjoyed precedence to Islam. Their sacrifice was the greatest and their jihad was the most superior. They were, thus, deserving of being guaranteed Jannah due to these and other services. At the head of them was Sayyidunā Abū Bakr.

SAYYIDUNĀ ABŪ BAKR ﷺ

Abū Bakr ﷺ was the first adult male to embrace Islam, and as the Prophet ﷺ stated the only one who embraced Islam without any deliberation, and accepted immediately when the Prophet ﷺ presented it to him. [Dalā'il al-Nubuwwah] And it is through his efforts that the esteemed Companions: 'Uthmān ibn 'Affān, Sa'd ibn Abī Waqqās, Abū 'Ubaydah ibn al-Jarrāh, Zubayr ibn al-'Awwām, Talhah ibn 'Ubayd Allāh, 'Abd al-Rahmān ibn 'Awf—six of the Asharah Mubasharah—in addition to others, came into the fold of Islam. [Tārīkh al-Tabarī]

AL-SIDDĪQ (THE TRUTHFUL)

Abū Bakr ﷺ has been awarded different titles by the Prophet ﷺ on account of his various praiseworthy traits: The first of these, by which he is most famous, is Al-Siddīq. The word Siddīq is derived from the word Sidq, which means truthfulness and is used to convey a meaning of intensiveness in attesting to the truthfulness of someone or something. In this case the title is used to indicate Sayyidunā Abū Bakr’s attestation to the veracity of the Prophet’s ﷺ Nubuwwah and integrity. Sayyidunā Abū Bakr ﷺ was the first adult male to embrace Islam; however, his faith was tested on the occasion of Mi'rāj. A few of the Quraysh immediately proceeded to Abū Bakr ﷺ to inform him of what the Prophet ﷺ had said, hoping it would weaken the faith of Abū Bakr and possibly bring him back to their faith. “Did he indeed say that,” Abū Bakr ﷺ enquired when he was told about this, “Yes,” they answered, convinced that they had managed to achieve their aim. But to their utter dismay, Abū Bakr ﷺ responded, “If he has said that, then undoubtedly it is the truth.” Abū Bakr ﷺ added, “I believe him in matters that are even more amazing than that: I believe him about revelation that comes to him from the heavens in the early morning and afternoon.” It is because of the unrelenting determination of faith that he showed at this juncture that he was awarded the title of al-Siddīq. [Mustadrak al-Hākim]

AL-AWWĀH (THE COMPASSIONATE)

He was also known as al-Awwāh, due to the compassion and mercy which he showed towards others. [Tabaqāt Ibn Sa'd]



All those who embraced Islam had to endure untold persecution and torture, but none more than those poor slaves who answered the call of the Prophet ﷺ. They were savagely beaten, the polytheists having no fear of repercussion or retaliation from any tribe. Sayyidunā Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ would spend his wealth purchasing these Muslims and setting them free for the Pleasure of Allah, amongst them Sayyidunā Bilāl and Sayyidunā 'Āmir ibn Fuhayrah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. [Ibn 'Asākir] Such was the open-handedness of Sayyidunā Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ in this regard that it is reported that in the period before hijrah alone he spent approximately 35000 coins on the welfare of the Muslims. [Tārikh al-Khulafā']

AL-ATQĀ (THE GOD FEARING)

This generosity of Sayyidunā Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ would be scoffed at, and even the father of Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ—who had not yet embraced Islam at that time—regarded this spending to be nothing more than a fruitless venture. One day he said to his son, “I see that you are freeing weak slaves. If you have to do what you are doing, then you should at least free strong men who can protect and defend you.” Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ responded, “My father, I am doing this for Allah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ only.” Allah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ revealed verses attesting to the sincerity of Sayyidunā Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ:

The God fearing one will be far removed from it (Hell), who gives his wealth (in charity) to become purified, And he had in his mind no favour from anyone for which a reward is expected in return, but (he gave his wealth in charity) only to seek the Countenance of his Lord, the Most High. And he surely will be pleased (when he will enter Paradise). [Ibn Hishām, 1/319]

AL-'ATĪQ (EMANCIPATED FROM THE FIRE)

The Prophet ﷺ gave Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ the glad tidings of Paradise on various occasions. Sayyidunā Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ is amongst the participants of Badr, those about whom the Prophet ﷺ said, “Allah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ glanced at the participants of Badr and said, “Do as you please for I have indeed forgiven you.” [Bukhārī] And amongst those who pledged their allegiance at Bay'at al-Ridwān and received the glad tidings of the Prophet ﷺ, “None of those who gave the pledge under the tree shall enter the Fire.” [Tirmidhī]

These glad tidings are general and include all of the Sahābah; however, the Prophet ﷺ also said to Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, “Rejoice, for you are the 'Atīq (emancipated one) from the hell fire. [Tirmidhī] This is how he was awarded the title of al-'Atīq, the one who has been freed from or guaranteed protection from Jahannam.

AL-SĀHIB (THE COMPANION)

This title was given to Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ in the Qur'ān by Allah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, with reference to the incident that transpired during their hijrah to Madīnah. The hijrah of Sayyidunā Abū Bakr al-Siddīq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ with the Prophet ﷺ as his comrade and companion is one of the fruits of his sincerity, and of the greatest proofs of Allah's رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ love for him, as Allah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ selected him to accompany His Prophet ﷺ on this momentous journey. Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ had made all the necessary arrangements for their journey, prepared the camels and provisions. Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ relates to us what transpired in the cave, “I was with the Prophet ﷺ in the cave, when I heard the footsteps of the polytheists, so I submitted, “O Messenger of Allah, if only one of them were to lift his feet, he will see us.” The Prophet ﷺ pacified me, “What do you think of two, with whom Allah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ is the third!” [Bukhārī] Allah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ makes mention of this incident in His glorious Book, the Qur'ān, which will be recited till the Day of Qiyāmah. Allah—the Most Honourable—declared:

If you do not aid the Messenger - Allah has already aided him when those who disbelieved had driven him out [of Makkah] as one of two, when they were in the cave and he said to his Companion, “Do not grieve; indeed, Allah is with us.” And Allah sent down his tranquillity upon him and supported him with angels you did not see and made the word of those who disbelieved the lowest, while the word of Allah - that is the highest. And Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise. [Tawbah: 40]

Thus, the Companionship, devotedness, and sincerity of Sayyidunā Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ has been forever immortalized in the Noble Qur'ān, his accolades will continue to be remembered with every recitation of the noble Qur'ān. He is the leader of the Sahābah, the most virtuous of them, loved by Allah and His Messenger ﷺ. Such was his service and assistance to the Prophet ﷺ throughout his life, that the Prophet ﷺ declared: I have repaid all the good that others have shown to me except for Abū Bakr, as his is of such an extent that Allah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ Himself will repay and reward him on the Day of Qiyāmah. No person's wealth has benefitted me as much as the wealth of Abū Bakr. [Tirmidhī]

The Prophet ﷺ also said: No one has shown me kindness as Abū Bakr has; he aided me with his wealth and person, and even gave his daughter to me in marriage. [Ibn 'Asākir]

May Allah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ grant us true understanding of the status that these illustrious Companions of the Prophet ﷺ enjoy, and inspire us to follow in their footsteps so that we too can earn the pleasure of Allah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ.

