

# Abū Bakr Al-Ṣiddīq

Nabī 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 ﷻ 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]*



## Al-Ṣiddīq (The Truthful)

The first of the titles, by which he is most famous, is Al-Ṣiddīq. The word Ṣiddīq is derived from the word Ṣidq, 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 Abū Bakr's ﷺ attestation to the veracity of Nabī's ﷺ Nubuwwah and integrity. Abū Bakr ﷺ was the first adult male to embrace Islam; however, this faith was put to the test on the occasion of Mi'rāj. A few of the Quraysh immediately proceeded to Abū Bakr ﷺ to inform him of what Nabī ﷺ had said, hoping it would weaken the faith of Abū Bakr and possibly bring him back into their own. "Did he indeed say that," Abū Bakr ﷺ enquired when he was told about this, "Yes," they answered in glee, 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-Ṣiddīq. [Mustadrak al-Ḥākim]

## Al-Awwāh (The Compassionate)

He was also known as al-Awwāh, on account of his compassion and mercy which he showed towards others. [Ṭabaqāt 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 Nabī ﷺ. They were savagely beaten, the polytheists having no fear of repercussion or retaliation from any tribe. Abū Bakr ﷺ would spend his wealth purchasing these Muslims and setting them free for the Pleasure of Allah, amongst them Bilāl and 'Āmir ibn Fuhayrah ﷺ. [Ibn 'Asākir] Such was the open-handedness of Abū Bakr ﷺ 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. [Tārīkh al-Khulafā']

## Al-Ṣāhib (The Companion)

This title was given to Abū Bakr ﷺ in the Qur'ān by Allah ﷻ, with reference to the incident that transpired during their hijrah to Madīnah. The hijrah of Abū Bakr al-Ṣiddīq ﷺ with Nabī ﷺ as his comrade and companion is one of the fruits of his sincerity, and of the greatest proofs of Allah's ﷻ love for him, as Allah ﷻ selected him to accompany His Nabī ﷺ on this momentous journey. Abū Bakr ﷺ had made all the necessary arrangements for their journey, prepared the camels and provisions. Abū Bakr ﷺ related to us what transpired in the cave, "I was

with Nabī 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." Nabī ﷺ pacified me, "What do you think of two, with whom Allah is the third!" [Bukhārī] Allah ﷻ 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]

## Al-Atqā (The God Fearing)

The generosity of Abū Bakr ﷺ would be scoffed at, and even the father of Abū Bakr ﷺ - who had not yet embraced Islam at that time - regarded his spending on slaves 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 ﷺ responded, "My father, I am doing this for Allah ﷻ only." Allah ﷻ revealed verses attesting to the sincerity of Abū Bakr ﷺ: *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)

Nabī ﷺ gave Abū Bakr ﷺ the glad tidings of Paradise on various occasions. Abū Bakr ﷺ is amongst the participants of Badr, those about whom Nabī ﷺ said, "Allah ﷻ 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-Riḍwān and received the glad tidings of Nabī ﷺ, "None of those who gave the pledge under the tree shall enter the Fire." [Tirmidhī] These are general and include all of the Ṣaḥābah ﷺ; however, Nabī ﷺ also said to Abū Bakr ﷺ, "Rejoice, for you are the 'Atīq (emancipated one) from the hell fire. [Tirmidhī] Which is how he was awarded the title of al-'Atīq, which means the one who has been freed from or guaranteed protection from Jahannam.

