

HAZRAT ABU BAKR (R.A)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1 Name: Abdullah
- 2 Kunyat: Abu Bakr
- 3 Title: Siddique
- 4 Tribal Link: Bani Taim
- 5 First among men to embrace Islam.
- 6 Period of caliphate: 632 – 634 A.D (11 A.H – 13 A.H)

2. ELECTION

- 1 Demise of the Prophet (P.B.U.H): 8th June; 632 A.D
- 2 Aspirants of Caliphate:
 - i) The orthodox Muslims (Abu Bakr, Umar, Abu Ubaida, Sa’ad bin Abi Waqas, Abdur Rehman bin Auf)
 - ii) Alids (Supporters of Hazrat Ali (R.A))
 - iii) The Ummayyads headed by Abu Sufyan
 - iv) Ansars

3. CONTROVERSY AND FINAL ELECTION

i) Meeting at Saqifah bani Sa’dah

- 1 Ansars claim over the succession of the Prophet (P.B.U.H) for their services to Islam.
- 2 Abu Bakr’s acknowledgment of the services of Ansars.
- 3 But, the sovereignty of the Islamic state was the question of all the Arabs.
- 4 Arab tribes considered Quraish only superior to all Arabs due to their prestige and noble birth.
- 5 Hubab bin Manzar’s proposal for selecting two chiefs; one from Ansars and the other from Muhajireen.
- 6 Abu Ubaida al Jarrah’s these words pacified Ansars, *“O Ansars! You were the first to uphold Islam. Do not be the first also to sow the seed of dissention in it.”*
- 7 Abu Bakr proposed to select any between Umar and Abu Ubaida.
- 8 They both paid homage to Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) and selected him as the first caliph.

ii) Confirmation of Election

- 1 Next day 9th June; 632.
- 2 All the people of Madinah assembled in mosque.
- 3 After the funeral of the Prophet (P.B.U.H) general pledge taking ceremony was held which confirmed Abu Bakr’s caliphate.

iii) Inaugural Speech by Hazrat Abu Bakr

“O People! You have chosen me as your chief, although I am not best amongst you...if I do well, support me; if I make a mistake, then set me right. As long as I obey Allah and His Prophet (P.B.U.H), obey me; wherein I disobey, obey me not.”

PROBLEMS FACED BY HAZRAT ABU BAKR (R.A):

1. USAMA'S EXPEDITION:

- Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) during his last days set Usama to leave for Syrian expedition.
- But due to the Prophet's (P.B.U.H) demise Usama could not leave Madinah.
- Now in the new state of affairs Madinah was badly threatened by rebellious Bedouin tribes and apostates assembled around Madinah.
- Many prominent Sahaba advised Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) either to put off the expedition or send it under the command of an experience general rather than Usama, the seventeen year Youngman.
- **Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) replied:**

“ The army shall go even if I alone have to fight against the rebellious Bedouins. As regards Usama, I do not dare to dismiss a person whom the Prophet (P.B.U.H) of Allah has himself appointed. Madinah may stand or fall; the caliph may live or die; but the last words of the Prophet (P.B.U.H) must be obeyed.”

2. DEFENCE OF MADINAH:

- 1 After the departure of Usama with the main fighting force, Madinah was left defenseless.
- 2 Thus it was vulnerable to be attacked and plundered by the hostile and rebellious Bedouins and apostates.
- 3 Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A), in this critical situation, himself marched against them with Hazrat Ali (R.A), Talha (R.A) and Zubair (R.A).
- 4 He posted them on the outer defense of Madinah.
- 5 He ordered the people of Madinah to be ready at a moment's notice.
- 6 Finally there happened the 'Battle of Dhul Qassa' in which the three Najadi tribes; Banu Abs, Banu Zubyan, and Banu Sulaym attacked Madinah.
- 7 It resulted in the victory of Muslims.
- 8 When Usama returned victorious from Syrian expedition, Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) appointed him to disperse the rebellion tribes around Madinah which he did in the 'Battle of Rabadah'.
- 9 Thus the defense of Madinah which once was a great challenge was strengthened by Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A).

3. NON-PAYERS OF ZAKAT:

- 1 After the demise of the Prophet (P.B.U.H) different tribes refused to pay Zakat.
- 2 Due to grim circumstances at the threshold of Hazrat Abu Bakr's caliphate some prominent companions thought it tactful to give relaxation in payment of Zakat.
- 3 Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) strictly turned down any idea of allowing distortion in the teachings of Islam and said, *“I swear by Allah that even if so much as a piece of string is withheld from Zakat, I shall order war against them.”*

4. PRETENDERS OF PROPHETHOOD:

i) Musailma, the liar:

- He belonged to the powerful tribe of Banu Hanifa.
- He lived in Yamama.
- Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) dispatched Akrama and Shurahbil to put him down.
- But they were unable to do so before the might of Musailama.
- Finally Hazrat Khalid defeated and killed him in a fierce battle.

ii) Sajah Bint Al - Harith

- 1 She belonged to Bani Tamim.
- 2 She gathered might.
- 3 On way to Madinah she met Musalama and married him.
- 4 Hazrat Khalid crushed the revolt in Bani Tamim.

iii) Tulaiha

- 1 He belonged to Bani Asad.
- 2 He was given a crushing defeat by Hazrat Khalid.
- 3 After defeat he escaped and returned to Islam again.

iv) Aswad Ansi

- 1 He rose in Yemen.
- 2 Due to split in his army, he was killed by his own commander.

APOSTASY MOVEMENT:

- 1 After the demise of the Prophet (P.B.U.H), a number of tribes revolted both politically and religiously.
- 2 The Arabs except Makkah, Taif, and some other tribes, took the death of the Prophet (P.B.U.H) as a golden opportunity to throw off the yoke of allegiance to Madinah.
- 3 Now it was the greatest challenge for Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) to destroy the apostasy in Arabia and bring people back into the lap of ISLAM.

ACHEIVEMENTS OF HAZRAT ABU BAKR (R.A)

1. Saviour of Islam
2. Destruction of apostasy
3. Destruction of false Prophethood.
4. Enforcement of Zakat
5. Victory in Syrian expedition
6. Compilation of the Holy Quran
7. The conquest in Byzantine and Persian Empires.

CHARACTER OF HAZRAT ABU BAKR (R.A)

- 1 True follower of Islam and Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H).
- 2 Brave and Wise.
- 3 Determined and Bold.
- 4 Simple and Humble.
- 5 Honest and Truthful.
- 6 Consistent and Sincere.