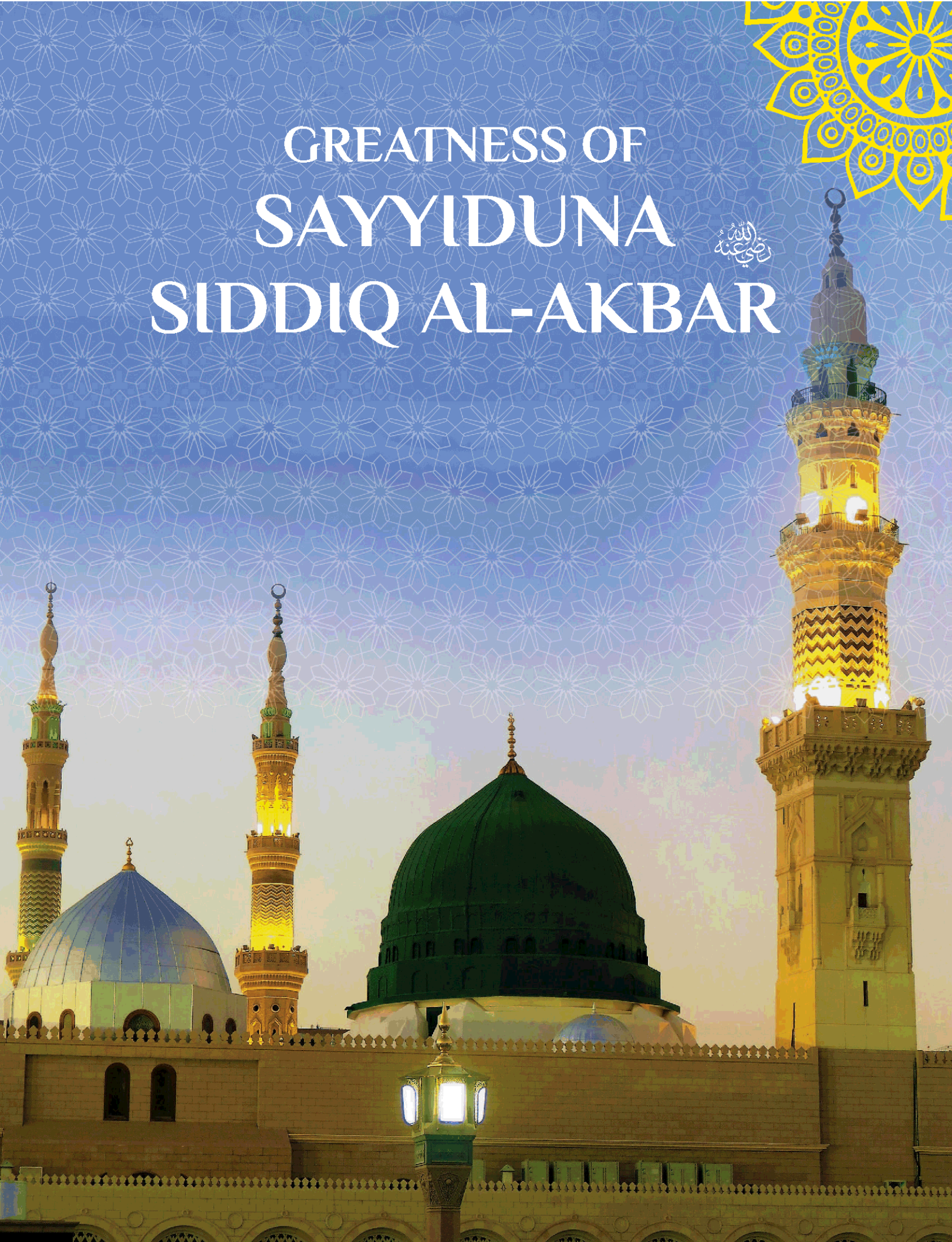


GREATNESS OF SAYYIDUNA SIDDIQ AL-AKBAR

رضي الله عنه



Excellence of Siddique al-Akbar ﷺ, mentioned by Ali Al-Murtada ﷺ

Muhammad Talhah Khan Attari

(3rd year Jamia-tul-Madina, Faizan-e-Khulafa-e-Rashideen, Rawalpindi)

The love between the first caliph, Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddique رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ and the fourth caliph, Sayyiduna Ali al-Murtada رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ was unique. These two individuals had established a deep relationship of love and brotherhood, the extent of which can be seen through the sayings of Sayyiduna Ali al-Murtada رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, for on several occasions, he expressed the rank of Sayyiduna Siddique al-Akbar رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ stated regarding the bravery of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddique رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ: 'On the day of Badr, we built a canopy for the protection and service of the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ. None of us advanced forward except Abu Bakr Siddique رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ who stood by the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ with a naked sword. No disbeliever came close to the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ and this is why, from amongst us, the bravest is Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddique رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ.'¹

On one occasion, he stated regarding the passion of faith of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddique رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ: 'I swear by Allah, one moment from the blessed life of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddique رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ is better than thousands of moments from the life of the believer from the family of Fir'awn. That person (the believer from the family of Fir'awn) would hide his faith and this pure being would publicly announce his faith.'²

Maula Ali كَرَّمَ اللهُ وَجْهَهُ الْكَرِيم would consider Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddique رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ superior in matters of the religion and the world, and he states: 'The Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ ordered Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddique رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ to lead the people in prayer. I was present at the time and I did not have any illness. In worldly matters, we were content with the selection of that individual whom the Noble Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ expressed his approval for in religious matters related to us.'³

When it came to the matter of the caliphate, Imam Haakim رَحِمَهُ اللهُ نARRATES that Sayyiduna Ali Murtada, the lion of Allah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, said: 'Listen attentively! It is Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddique رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ whom we consider worthy for the caliphate.'⁴

Sayyiduna Muhammad bin Hanafiya رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ states that

I asked my father (i.e. Sayyiduna Ali al-Murtada رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ): 'Who is the most superior from amongst the people after the Noble Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ? He replied: Abu Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ.'⁵

It is evident that you will only praise someone if you have love for them in your heart, and these pure individuals are protected from lying. Thus, we can never contemplate that they can give false praises. Therefore, in light of all of these sayings of Sayyiduna Ali al-Murtada رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, it is clear that Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ had boundless love for Sayyiduna Siddique al-Akbar رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, which spurred him to extol the virtues of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddique رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ.

May Allah Almighty grant us true love for these two noble individuals, and for all of the companions and the Ahl al-Bait.

أَمِينٌ بِجَاةِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

(Footnotes)

¹ Kanz ul 'Umaal, Vol. 6, p. 235. Hadith. 35685

² Masnad Al-Bazaar, Vol. 3, p. 15. Hadith. 761

³ Kanz ul 'Umaal, Vol. 6, p. 230. Hadith. 35665

⁴ Al-Mustadrak, Vol. 4, p. 27, Hadith. 4519

⁵ Bukhari, Vol. 2, p. 522, Hadith. 3671

Bright stars

Sayyiduna Abu Bakr al-Siddiq

A Mirror of the Prophet

The greatest goal and desire of every true Muslim, and especially the Sahabah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ, is to follow their Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ in every movement, stillness, and in every action of their hearts and limbs. The more successful a person is in attaining this goal, the more he resembles the Beloved of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, and thereby, the more successful he is in gaining proximity to Allah Almighty. The pleasure of Allah Almighty first directs itself towards the Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, and then through his means, it is attained by those who follow him, rank by rank.

The basis of salvation in the Hereafter

Guaranteed salvation in the Hereafter and loftiness of ranks in Paradise are dependent upon resemblance with the Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ. The more dissimilar a person's actions and words are from his, the more distant he is from Allah Almighty, and the more he resembles him, the closer he is to Allah Almighty. The disbelievers have made their words and actions completely different to that of the Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, consequently, they are worthy of Hell for eternity. Whereas, the Sahabah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ chose complete resemblance, thereby, becoming the most superior from the Ummah.

This entire discussion relates to those words and actions, in terms of resembling or not resembling a person, which an individual has control over. The one

whom Allah Almighty favours with His boundless grace and generosity, He causes them to resemble His Beloved صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ in those matters who are beyond their control too, and He attaches their liking, disliking, thinking, imagination, nature and disposition so closely to the Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ that they become a reflection of this couplet:

Fana itna tau ho jaoon mayn tayri Zaat-e-'Aali Mayn

Jo mujh ko daykh Le us ko tayra deedar ho jaye

From the Ummah, the Noble Sahabah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ resemble the Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ most, from the Sahabah, the Four Rightly-guided Caliphs have the greatest honour in this regard, and from the four Noble Caliphs, Sayyiduna Abu Bakr al-Siddiq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ is at the forefront in terms of the number and intensity of his similarities. The personal blessed characteristics of the Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ that were granted to him (Sayyiduna Abu Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ), were not granted to anyone else. From these many resemblances, only 4 are being mentioned here:

(1) Similarity in thinking and reasoning

Allah Almighty had made the thinking of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr al-Siddiq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ similar to that of the Beloved Prophet's. If two mirrors were placed in front of each other, then the thing that can be seen in one will be seen in the other. The heart of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr al-Siddiq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ was like a mirror before the heart of the Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ; the thought that would enter his noble heart would also enter the heart of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, the opinion towards which his noble heart would incline, the heart of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr al-Siddiq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ would also lean in that direction; this excellence and virtue was not granted to anyone besides Sayyiduna Abu Bakr al-Siddiq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ.

This becomes absolutely clear after reading about the consultations of the Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ with the Sahabah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ on various occasions and about other accounts in detail. Read one example here: The conditions that were stipulated on the occasion

of the Treaty of Hudaibiyah apparently gave the impression that the Muslims were weak. Sayyiduna Umar al-Farooq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ disliked this greatly, so he presented himself in the Prophetic court and mentioned his grievance. Upon this, the Beloved of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ mentioned some words in order to bring comfort to his heart, and gave answers to some of his questions.

After leaving from there, Sayyiduna Umar al-Farooq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ went to Sayyiduna Abu Bakr al-Siddiq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, thinking that perhaps the opinion of the Sayyiduna Abu Bakr al-Siddiq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ would be the same as his, and he would mention this in the Prophetic court. However, when he رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ presented his views and questions before the greatest devotee, every single word that left the tongue of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ was exactly the same as what the Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ had said.¹

(2) Hatred for idols and idol-worship

Hatred for false gods and their worship is something that Allah Almighty placed in the nature of every Prophet. Some prophets did not respect idols even in their childhood, whereas, the excellence of the Leader of all Prophets صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ is such that he prostrated to Allah Almighty as soon as he was born, and proclaimed Tawhid (Oneness of Allah) openly.

Sayyiduna Abu Bakr al-Siddiq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ also displayed this attribute, and never prostrated to an idol. At a very young age, his father took him to a temple and said, 'These are your elevated gods, so prostrate to them.' Saying this, he walked away. He رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ went in front of the idol and said, 'I am hungry, so feed me, I am naked, so clothe me, I am going to hit you with a stone, so save yourself if you are God.' What reply could the idol give? He رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ hit it with a stone and it fell upon its face.²

(3) Mercy for the Ummah

The Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ is compassionate and merciful towards all of creation

in general, and specifically towards his Ummah. Allah Almighty states:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٠١﴾

And We did not send you (O Beloved) but as a mercy for all the worlds.

[Kanz-ul-Iman (translation of Quran)] (Part 17, Surah Al-Ambiya, Verse 107)

In another place, He says:

بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ ﴿١٢٨﴾

Utmost kind, merciful for the Muslims.

[Kanz-ul-Iman (translation of Quran)] (Part 11, Surah Al-Taubah, verse 128)

From the Ummah, Sayyiduna Abu Bakr al-Siddiq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ is the most compassionate and merciful towards the Ummah of his Master صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ. The Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said:

أَرْحَمُ أُمَّتِي بِأُمَّتِي أَبُو بَكْرٍ, meaning, 'The most merciful of my Ummah towards my Ummah is Abu Bakr.'³

(4) Gathering point of virtues and perfections:

Allah Almighty gathered all virtues and perfections in the blessed being of His Beloved صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ. There is not a virtue and excellence that was granted to the previous prophets except that a similar virtue was granted to our Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, or to an even greater degree.

Allah Almighty made Sayyiduna Abu Bakr al-Siddiq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ a compendium of goodness. The Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, 'Goodness consists of 360 traits. When Allah Almighty intends good for someone, He grants them one trait from among these, which takes him to Paradise.' Sayyiduna Abu Bakr al-Siddiq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ asked, 'O Messenger of Allah! Do I possess any of these traits?' He صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, 'All of these traits are found within you.'⁴

May Allah Almighty also grant us resemblance to His Beloved صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ in attributes that are within and beyond our control, for the sake of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr al-Siddiq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, and grant us proximity

Eminence of Siddeeq-e-Akbar mentioned by the Holy Prophet ﷺ

Bright stars
Kashif Shahzad Attari

O devotees of the Prophet! Out of all the creations of Allah Almighty, after the Prophets and Messengers, Sayyiduna Siddeeq-e-Akbar رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ is the greatest. Many virtues regarding him have been mentioned in the Holy Quran and the blessed Ahadees. 22nd Jumadal Ukhra is the day of his passing.

In relation to this, 13 sayings of the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ are mentioned below regarding the eminence and grandeur of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ:

1. From my Ummah, the most merciful to the Ummah is Abu Bakr Siddeeq (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ). (*Ibn-e-Majah, vol. 1, p. 102, Hadees 154*)
2. Allah Almighty dislikes the fact that Abu Bakr Siddeeq (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) commits a mistake on the earth. (*Kanz-ul-'Ummal, vol. 6, p. 250, Hadees 32570, juzz 11*)
3. Jibra'eel عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام came to me and said: 'Allah Almighty commands you to consult with Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ.' (*Jami'-ul-Ahadees, vol. 1, p. 78, Hadees 374*)
4. Every Prophet has two ministers among the dwellers of the sky and two ministers among the dwellers of the earth. My ministers in the sky are Jibra'eel and Mika'eel (عَلَيْهِمَا السَّلَام), whereas on the earth are Abu Bakr and 'Umar (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا). (*Tirmizi, vol. 5, p. 382, Hadees 3700*)
5. Apart from the Prophets and Messengers, Abu Bakr and 'Umar (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا) are the leaders of all the former and latter middle age dwellers of paradise. O 'Ali, رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ do not tell them of this.¹ (*Tirmizi, vol. 5, p. 376, Hadees 3686*)

*Farmatay hayn yeh donon hayn Sardar-e-do jahan
Aye Murtaza! 'Ateeq-o-Umar ko khabar na ho*

(Hadaiq-e-Bakhshish, p. 130)
6. The dwellers of the higher levels of Paradise will look upon the dwellers of the lower level of Paradise just like you see the stars rise on the edge of the sky. Undoubtedly, 'Umar and Abu Bakr (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا) are also among those people (of the higher level). (*Tirmizi, vol. 5, p. 372, Hadees 3678*)
7. After me, follow Abu Bakr and 'Umar (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا). (*Tirmizi, vol. 5, p. 374, Hadees 3682*)
8. Both of them (i.e., Abu Bakr and 'Umar (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا), in terms of importance) are like the ears and eyes. (*Tirmizi, vol. 5, p. 378, Hadees 3691*)
9. On the Day of Judgement, a proclaimer will call out: 'No one from this Ummah pick up

their book of deeds before Abu Bakr and 'Umar رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا.' (*Jam'-ul-Jawami', vol. 1, p. 244, Hadees 1757*)

10. I will be the first to come out of my grave, after me will be Abu Bakr and then 'Umar (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا). (*Tirmizi, vol. 5, p. 388, Hadees 3712*)
11. A woman came to the court of the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ and expressed her matter, to which she was commanded to come again. Referring to the apparent passing, she said: 'What if I come and do not find you?' He صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: 'If you do not see me, then go to Abu Bakr.' (*Bukhari, vol. 4, p. 480, Hadees 7220*)
12. During his last illness, He صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said to Sayyidatuna Aaishah Siddiqah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا: 'Call your father, Abu Bakr (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ), and your brother to me so that I write a will. I fear that someone will desire (the Caliphate) and say: 'I am more deserving (of the caliphate); whereas, Allah Almighty and the believers will only accept Abu Bakr (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) (as the caliph). (*Muslim, p. 999, Hadees 6181*)
13. Sayyiduna Siddeeq-e-Akbar رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ humbly said in the court of the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ: 'O Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ! Is there anyone who will be called from all the doors of Paradise?' He صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: 'Yes o Abu Bakr! I expect² that you will be from among those people.' (*Bukhari, vol. 2, p. 520, Hadees 3666*)

*Ilahi rahm farma Khadim-e-Siddeeq-e-Akbar hoon
Tayri rahmat kay sadaqay wasitah Siddeeq-e-Akbar ka*

(Zauq-e-Nat, p. 76)

¹ i.e., do not tell them before me so that hearing this from me would make them more happy. (*Fayz-ul-Qadeer, vol. 1, p. 117, under the Hadees 68*)

² Allamah Badr-ud-Deen 'Ayni رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states: رَجَاءُ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَاللهِ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ واقِعٌ مُحَقَّقٌ i.e., the hope of the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ is certain to occur and is unquestionable. (*Umda-tul-Qaari, vol. 11, p. 400, under the Hadees 3666*)

PEARLS OF WISDOM BY | SAYYIDUNA SIDDEEQ-E-AKBAR رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ

Asif Jahanzaib Attari

After the Blessed Prophets عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ, the most superior personality amongst the whole mankind is 'Sayyiduna Siddeeq-e-Akbar رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ' who holds the privilege of being the 'Yaar-e-Ghaar' and 'Yaar-e-Mazaar' (accompanying the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ in the blessed cave of Saur and resting beside the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ in the blessed shrine). The way he رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ ruled and guided the Muslim Ummah is highly commendable and worth following. He رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ delivered sermons filled with knowledge and wisdom from time to time for the reformation of the Ummah. His blessed sermons contain the pearls of wisdom regarding 'reminders of the Hereafter' and 'Divine-fear', serving as an excellent source of salvation in the Hereafter for every person. Out of these incredible sermons, read a remarkable sermon, enriched with pearls of wisdom, and instil 'Divine-fear' and 'remembrance of the Hereafter' in yourself:

I advise you to fear Allah and urge you to glorify Allah Almighty in a way He deserves to be glorified. Supplicate abundantly in the merciful court of Allah Almighty with 'Divine-fear' and 'hope' because while praising Sayyiduna Zakariyya عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ and his household, Allah Almighty has stated:

إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا يُسْرِعُونَ فِي الْحَيْرَاتِ وَيَدْعُونَنَا رَغَبًا وَرَهَبًا وَكَانُوا لَنَا خُشِعِينَ ﴿٩٠﴾

Indeed they (the aforementioned Prophets) used to hurry to perform good deeds, and they pray to Us with hope and fear, and are humble in Our Majestic Court.

[Kanz-ul-Iman (translation of Quran)](Part 17, Surah Al-Ambiya, Ayah 90)

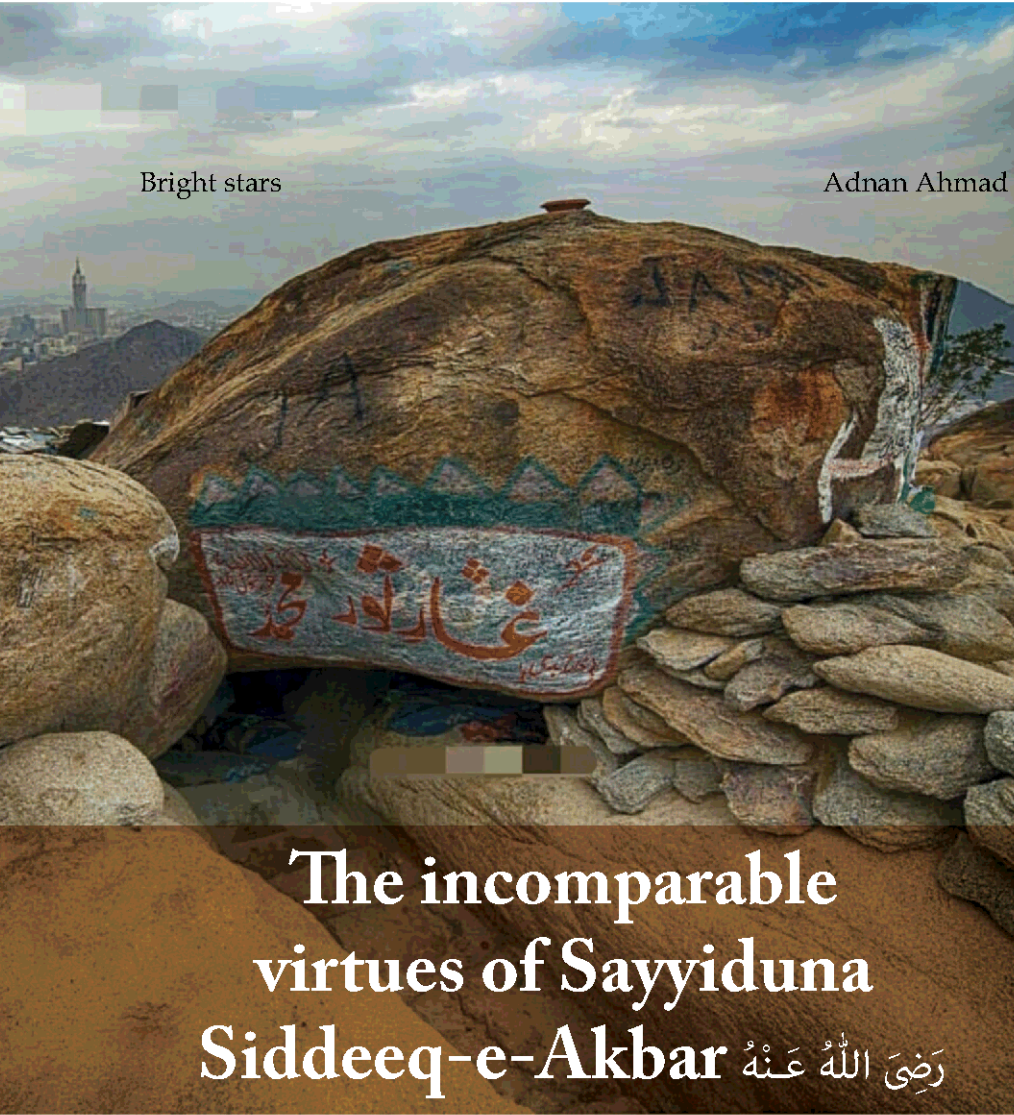
O pious bondmen of Allah Almighty! Be aware, undoubtedly, Allah Almighty has held in pledge your souls for His right and He عَزَّوَجَلَّ has taken a (firm) covenant from you upon it and has bought this little and mortal life from you at the cost of an endless life. You have the Divine Book of Allah Almighty whose wonders do not cease nor does its Noor [spiritual light] fade. Testify the blessed verses of glorious Quran and seek advice from it; moreover, seek spiritual light from it for the dark day (i.e. Day of Judgement). Undoubtedly, Allah Almighty has created you to worship [Him] and has appointed over you, كِرَامًا كَاتِبِينَ (i.e. The angels that record a person's deeds) and they know what you do.



O bondmen of Allah Almighty! Be aware! You are spending your time from morning to evening till an appointed time (i.e. till death) and you have not been given any knowledge about it [death]. If you can devote your time to spending in the deeds that please Allah Almighty, then you must do so but it is not possible without the Taufeeq of Allah Almighty. So, take advantage of the remaining time period of your life and excel each other in (good) deeds before death approaches you and turn you back to your bad acts as many nations spent their lives for others ignoring themselves. It is for the reason I forbid you, to be like them. Hasten to attain salvation! Undoubtedly death is chasing you and it will approach very soon. (Musannaf Ibn-e-Abi Shaybah, vol. 8, pp. 144, Hadees 1)

May Allah Almighty also grant us Taufeeq to prepare for the Hereafter while acting upon these pieces of advice.

أَمِينٌ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ



The incomparable virtues of Sayyiduna Siddeeq-e-Akbar رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ

The fortunate people who had the blessed company of the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ with faith even for a single moment and their life ended with faith, are called Sahabah [blessed Companions] رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ. All the blessed Companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ were pious, just and abstinent. They were ready to sacrifice their lives for the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ and possess countless virtues and excellences along with receiving the glad tidings of Allah Almighty being pleased with them. But in the long list of these blessed personalities, there were a number of those blessed companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ who possessed such virtues and excellence which were not shared with anybody else. The name of the personality who topped this list was the one about whom, when Sayyiduna Muhammad Bin Hanfiah عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ asked his blessed father, Sayyiduna Ali-ul-Murtada رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ: 'Who is the best person amongst the Ummah after the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ?' Sayyiduna Ali-ul-Murtada رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ stated: 'Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ.' (Bukhari, vol. 2, pp. 522, Hadees 3671)

Let's go through a few such virtues and excellence of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ in which he is matchless and incomparable:

1-2. Sani Isnain [the second of the two]

For Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, Allah Almighty has stated (صاحبه) i.e. 'The companion of the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ' and (ثانى اثنين) (The second of the two) in the Holy Quran. (Part 10, Surah Al-Taubah, Ayah 40)

Nobody else was blessed with this honour.

3. The name, 'Siddeeq'

Allah Almighty gave him the name Siddeeq. Nobody else was given the name Siddique by Allah Almighty.

4. Companion during Hijrah [migration]

Due to the cruelties, oppression and tyrannies inflicted by the disbelievers of Makkah; the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ migrated from the blessed Makkah, and in this migration, Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ was the companion of the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

5. Companion in the cave

In this very migration, verily he رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ was the only one to have the privilege of becoming the companion in the cave. (Faizan-e-Siddeeq-e-Akbar, pp. 493)

6. Only the door of Abu Bakr will remain open

The Munificent and Beneficent Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ instructed during his final days: All doors in the Masjid (Nabavi) should be shut except the door of

Abu Bakr. (Bukhari, vol. 1, pp. 177, Hadees 664 – Tafheem-ul-Bukhari, vol. 1, pp. 818)

7) The very first to enter Paradise

The Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has stated: Jibraeel Ameen عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام came to me and holding my hand, showed me that door through which my Ummah will enter Paradise. Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ humbly requested: 'Ya Rasoolallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ! It is my wish that I were with you at that time so that I would have also seen that door.' The Rasool of Rahmah, the Intercessor of Ummah, the Distributor of Ni'mah, the Owner of Jannah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ stated: 'Abu Bakr! You will be the first person from my Ummah to enter Paradise.' (Abu Dawood, vol. 4, pp. 280, Hadees 4652)

8) Three morsels and three congratulations

Once the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ prepared food and called the blessed Companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ, he صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ gave one morsel each to all the blessed Companion رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ whereas, he صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ gave three morsels to Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. Sayyiduna Abbas رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ asked the reason behind it. He صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ replied: When I gave the first morsel, Sayyiduna Jibraeel عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام said: O 'Ateeq! Congratulations to you. When I gave the second morsel, Sayyiduna Mikaeel عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام said: O Rafeeq! Congratulations to you. When I gave the third morsel, Allah Almighty said: O Siddeeq! Congratulations to you. (Al-Haawi Lil-Fatawa, vol. 2, pp. 51)

9) Superior to all

Sayyiduna Abu Darda رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ has stated: The Rasool of Rahmah, the Intercessor of Ummah, the Distributor of Ni'mah, the Owner of Jannah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ saw me walking ahead of Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ and said: 'Are you walking ahead of him who is superior to you? Don't you know that after the Prophets and Rusul, the sun neither rose nor set on anybody better than Abu Bakr.' (Fazail-ul-Khulafa La-Abi Naeem, pp. 38, Hadees 10)

10. Masjid in the courtyard of the house

Before migration, Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ built a Masjid in the courtyard of his house. Sayyidatuna Aisha Siddiqah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا has stated: 'Since I reached the age of discernment, my parents were following Islam. No day passed without the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ visiting our home in the two corners, in the morning and in the evening. Then Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ thought to build a Masjid in the courtyard of his home. Then he رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ used to offer Salah in it and recite the Holy Quran (aloud). The sons and women of disbelievers used to listen to it and get surprised and would look at him. (Bukhari, vol. 1, pp. 180, Hadees 476, Tafheem-ul-Bukhari, vol. 1, pp. 829)

11. The most beneficial amongst all

The Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ once stated: 'The one whose companionship and wealth have benefitted me the most amongst all people is Abu Bakr (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ); and if I were to make a Khalil (best friend) from my Ummah, I would have chosen Abu Bakr (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) but the brotherhood of Islam is sufficient.' (Bukhari, vol. 2, pp. 591, Hadees 3904)

12. Companionship at the Pond of Kausar

The Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ once said to Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ: You are my companion at the Pond of Kausar and you are my companion of the cave. (Tirmizi, vol. 5, pp. 378, Hadees 3690)

13. The kindest person

The Rasool of Rahmah, the Intercessor of Ummah, the Distributor of Ni'mah, the Owner of Jannah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ asked Sayyiduna Jibraeel Amin عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام: 'Who will migrate with me?' Sayyiduna Jibraeel Amin عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام humbly replied: 'Abu Bakr (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ). He will manage the matters of your Ummah after you and he (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) is the most superior in the Ummah and the kindest person towards the Ummah.' (Jami'-ul-Jawami' vol. 11, pp. 39, Hadees 160)

14. The favours of Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ

The Rasool of mankind, the Peace of our heart and mind, the Most Generous and Kind صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has stated: There is no favour due upon me from anyone, except that I have repaid him, but verily Abu Bakr (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) has those favours upon me which Allah (عَزَّوَجَلَّ) will repay him for on Judgement Day. (Tirmizi, vol. 5, pp. 374, Hadees 3681)

15) Special Divine Manifestation

When the Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ started heading towards the cave of Saur, Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ offered him a she-camel and requested: 'Ya Rasoolallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ please ride on it.' He صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ rode on it. Then he صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ turned towards Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddeeq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ and stated: 'May Allah Almighty grant you Ridwan-e-Akbar.' He رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ humbly requested: 'What is it?' The Beloved Rasool صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: 'Allah Almighty will cast a divine manifestation on all bondmen in general and will manifest on you in particular.' (Al Riaz-ul-Nuzra, vol. 1, pp. 166)

16. Blessed demise

He رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ departed this life on 22nd Jumadal Ukhra, 13 AH, on the night between Monday and Tuesday in Madinah Munawwarah between the time of Maghrib and Isha Salah at the age of 63 years. Sayyiduna Umar Ibn Khattab رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ led his funeral Salah. (Kitab-ul-Aqa'id, pp. 43)

May Allah Almighty shower His Mercy upon him and forgive us for his sake!

أَمِينٌ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ



Sayyiduna Siddeeq-e-Akbar رَفِيَ اللَّهُ عَنَّهُ

The first man to embrace Islam

Imam Abu Harifah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ has reconciled these opinions by saying that Sayyiduna Abu Bakr embraced Islam first from amongst the men, the Mother of the Believers, Sayyidatuna Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا was the first woman of Islam and Sayyiduna 'Ali رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ وَبَنَاتُهُ لِعَسْرَم embraced Islam first among all the boys. (*Tareekh-ul-Khulafa*, p. 26)

Selfless sacrifice of wealth

At the occasion of Ghazwah-e-Tabook the Prophet of mankind, the Peace of our heart and mind, the Most Generous and Kind صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ordered the wealthy Muslims of his Ummat to generously donate their wealth for Jihad for the sake of Allah ﷻ so that the food and conveyance could be arranged for the warriors of Islam. On that order of the Blessed and Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ, the person who presented all of his wealth in the path of Allah ﷻ in the court of the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ was Sayyiduna Siddeeq-e-Akbar رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. He رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ piled up all of the wealth and his household at the feet of the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

On seeing this selflessness of his companion, the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ asked, 'Did you leave anything for your household?' He رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ replied respectfully, 'I have left Allah ﷻ and His Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ for them.' (i.e. Allah ﷻ and His Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ are enough for me and my family). (*Subul Al-Huda Wa-Al-Rashad Fi Sirat Khasr Al-'Ibad*, vol. 5, p. 435)