

Biography of Abu Bakr as-Siddeeq (may Allah be pleased with him)

Source: Siyar ‘Alaam an-Nubalaa- Siyar Khulafaa ar-Rashideen (8-20)¹

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Abu Bakr as-Siddeeq, the Khalifah of the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ)

His name was Abdullah and it was said it was: ‘Ateeq ibn Abi Quhaafah Uthman ibn ‘Amir ibn ‘Amr ibn K’ab ibn S’ad ibn Taym ibn Murrah ibn K’ab ibn Lu’ayy al-Qurashi at-Tameemi (may Allah be pleased with him)

A [large] group of the Companions (may Allah be pleased with them) narrated from him as well as the older Tabi’een and those after them. From them: Anas ibn Malik, Tariq ibn Shihaab, Qais ibn Abi Haazim, and Murrah at-Tayyib.

Ibn Abi Mulaykah (may Allah have mercy upon him) and others said: “He was only nicknamed ‘Ateeq”.

On the authority of ‘A’isha (may Allah be pleased with her) who said: “He was called Abdullah by his family, however, the name ‘Ateeq became more predominant than that name”.

Ibn Ma’een (may Allah have mercy upon him) said: “He was named ‘Ateeq because his face was beautiful”. Lath ibn Sa’d said likewise.

Others said: He was the most knowledgeable of the Quraish in the knowledge of their lineages.

It was said: “He was white, with a thin body and thin cheeks, lean face, deep-seated eyes, protruding forehead. He used to dye his grey hairs using henna and katam”.

He was the first to believe from the men

Ibn al-‘Arabi (may Allah have mercy upon him) said: “The Arabs say that if something reaches its limit in excellence: it is ‘Ateeq”.

On the authority of ‘A’isha (may Allah be pleased with her) that she said: “No father of the Muhajireen accepted Islam except Abu Bakr’s [father]”.

¹ The weak Ahaadith mentioned in the original biography have been removed

On the authority of az-Zuhri (may Allah have mercy upon him) said: “Abu Bakr was white or yellow-skinned, handsome, with thin legs. His izar would not stay firmly tied around his waist.”

It was reported that he did business in Busrah more than once. He donated his wealth to the Prophet (ﷺ). The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

مَا نَفَعَنِي مَالٌ قَطُّ مَا نَفَعَنِي مَالُ أَبِي بَكْرٍ

The wealth of none of you has benefited me as much as the wealth of Abu Bakr [Saheeh Tirmidhi
[no. 3661

Urwah ibn Zubair (may Allah have mercy upon him) said: “Abu Bakr accepted Islam and had 40 000 dinar”.

‘Amr ibn al-’As (may Allah be pleased with him) said: “O Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), which person is beloved to you? He said: Abu Bakr” [Bukhari and Muslim].

عَنْ عَلِيٍّ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - " أَبُو بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرُ سَيِّدَا كُهُولِ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ مِنَ الْأَوَّلِينَ
وَالْآخِرِينَ إِلَّا النَّبِيِّينَ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ لَا تُخْبِرُهُمَا يَا عَلِيُّ مَا دَامَا حَيِّينَ

It was narrated that Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: 'Abu Bakr and 'Umar are the leaders of the mature people of Paradise, and the first and the last, except for the Prophets and Messengers. But do not tell them about that, O 'Ali, as long as they are still alive.'" [Saheeh Ibn Majah no. 78]

Something similar was reported from Zirr ibn Hubaish from ‘Asim ibn Damrah from Haram on the authority of Ali (may Allah be pleased with him). Something similar was reported from Talha ibn Amr from ‘Ata from Ibn ‘Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) who said that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

لَوْ كُنْتُ مُتَّخِذًا خَلِيلًا لَاتَّخَذْتُ أَبَا بَكْرٍ خَلِيلًا

If I were to choose an intimate friend I would have definitely chosen Abu Bakr as my bosom friend
[Muslim no. 2383]

And:

لَكِنِ خُلَّةُ الْإِسْلَامِ أَفْضَلُ، سُدُّوا عَنِّي كُلَّ خَوْخَةٍ فِي هَذَا الْمَسْجِدِ غَيْرَ خَوْخَةِ أَبِي بَكْرٍ

But the Islamic brotherhood is superior. Close all the small doors in this mosque except that of Abu Bakr [Bukhari no. 467]

عَنْ هِشَامِ بْنِ عُرْوَةَ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ عَائِشَةَ، عَنْ عُمَرَ بْنِ الْخَطَّابِ، قَالَ أَبُو بَكْرٍ سَيِّدُنَا وَخَيْرُنَا وَأَحَبُّنَا إِلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ

Hisham ibn Urwah narrated from his father from A'isha (may Allah be pleased with her) from 'Umar bin Al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) that he said: "Abu Bakr is our chief, and the best of us, and the most beloved of us to the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) [Saheeh Tirmidhi no. 3656]

It is authentic from the Hadith of al-Jurayri from Abdullah ibn Shaqeeq who said:

قُلْتُ لِعَائِشَةَ أَيُّ أَصْحَابِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ كَانَ أَحَبَّ إِلَيَّ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ قَالَتْ أَبُو بَكْرٍ . قُلْتُ ثُمَّ مَنْ قَالَتْ عُمَرُ . قُلْتُ ثُمَّ مَنْ قَالَتْ ثُمَّ أَبُو عُبَيْدَةَ بْنِ الْجَرَّاحِ . قُلْتُ ثُمَّ مَنْ قَالَ فَسَكَتَتْ

"I said to 'A'isha: 'Which of the Companions of the Prophet (ﷺ) were the most beloved to the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ)?' She said: 'Abu Bakr.' I said: 'Then who?' She said: 'Umar'. I said: "Then who?" She said: "Then Abu 'Ubaidah bin Al-Jarrah." He said: "I said: 'Then who?'" He said: "Then she was silent." [Saheeh Tirmidhi no. 3657]

Malik narrated in the Muwatta from Abu Nadr from Abdullah ibn Hunain from Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri (may Allah be pleased with him) that:

جَلَسَ عَلَى الْمُنْبَرِ فَقَالَ " إِنَّ عَبْدًا خَيْرُهُ اللَّهُ بَيْنَ أَنْ يُؤْتِيَهُ مِنْ زَهْرَةِ الدُّنْيَا مَا شَاءَ، وَبَيْنَ مَا عِنْدَهُ، فَاخْتَارَ مَا عِنْدَهُ " . فَبَكَى أَبُو بَكْرٍ وَقَالَ فَدَيْنَاكَ بِأَبَائِنَا وَأُمَّهَاتِنَا . فَعَجَبْنَا لَهُ، وَقَالَ النَّاسُ انظُرُوا إِلَى هَذَا الشَّيْخِ، يُخْبِرُ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَنْ عَبْدٍ خَيْرُهُ اللَّهُ بَيْنَ أَنْ يُؤْتِيَهُ مِنْ زَهْرَةِ الدُّنْيَا وَبَيْنَ مَا عِنْدَهُ وَهُوَ يَقُولُ فَدَيْنَاكَ بِأَبَائِنَا وَأُمَّهَاتِنَا . فَكَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ هُوَ الْمُخَيَّرَ، وَكَانَ أَبُو بَكْرٍ هُوَ أَعْلَمْنَا بِهِ . وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " إِنَّ مِنْ أَمَنِ النَّاسِ عَلَيَّ فِي صُحْبَتِهِ وَمَالِهِ أَبِي بَكْرٍ، وَلَوْ كُنْتُ مَتَّخِذًا خَلِيلًا مِنْ أُمَّتِي لَاتَّخَذْتُ أَبِي بَكْرٍ، إِلَّا خَلَّةَ الْإِسْلَامِ، لَا يَبْقَيْنَ فِي الْمَسْجِدِ خَوْخَةَ إِلَّا خَوْخَةُ أَبِي بَكْرٍ

Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) sat on the pulpit and said, "Allah has given one of His Slaves the choice of receiving the splendor and luxury of the worldly life whatever he likes or to accept the good (of the Hereafter) which is with Allah. So he has chosen that good which is with Allah." On that Abu Bakr wept and said, "Our fathers and mothers be sacrificed for you." We became astonished at this. The people said, "Look at this old man! Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) talks about a Slave of Allah to whom He has given the option to choose either the splendor of this worldly life or the good which is with Him, while he says. 'our fathers and mothers be sacrifice(i for you.'" But it was Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) who had been given option, and Abu Bakr knew it better than we. Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)

added, "No doubt, I am indebted to Abu Bakr more than to anybody else regarding both his companionship and his wealth. And if I had to take a Khalil from my followers, I would certainly have taken Abu Bakr, but the brotherhood of Islam is sufficient. Let no door (i.e. Khoukha) of the Mosque remain open, except the door of Abu Bakr." [Agreed upon]

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " مَا نَفَعَنِي مَالُ أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَلَوْ كُنْتُ مُتَّخِذًا خَلِيلًا
لَاتَّخَذْتُ أَبَا بَكْرٍ خَلِيلًا إِلَّا وَإِنَّ صَاحِبَكُمْ خَلِيلُ اللَّهِ

Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:
"No one's wealth has benefited as Abu Bakr's wealth has benefited me. And if I were to take a Khalil, then I would have taken Abu Bakr as a Khalil, and indeed your companion is Allah's Khalil
[Saheeh Tirmidhi no. 3661]

جُبَيْرِ بْنِ مُطْعِمٍ أَخْبَرَهُ أَنَّ امْرَأَةً أَتَتْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَكَلَّمَتْهُ فِي شَيْءٍ، فَأَمَرَهَا بِأَمْرٍ فَقَالَتْ
أَرَأَيْتَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ إِنْ لَمْ أَجِدْكَ قَالَ " إِنْ لَمْ تَجِدْنِي فَأْتِي أَبَا بَكْرٍ

Jubair bin Mut'im (may Allah be pleased with him) said: A lady came to Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) and she talked to him about something, and he gave her some order. She said, "O Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)! If I should not find you?" He said, "If you should not find me, then go to Abu Bakr."
Ibrahim bin Sa'd said, "As if she meant the death (of the Prophet) [Agreed upon]

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ، قَالَتْ قَالَ لِي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فِي مَرَضِهِ " ادْعِي لِي أَبَا بَكْرٍ وَأَخَاكَ حَتَّى أَكْتُبَ
كِتَابًا فَإِنِّي أَخَافُ أَنْ يَتَمَنَّيَ مُتَمَنَّ وَيَقُولَ قَائِلٌ أَنَا أَوْلَى . وَيَأْبَى اللَّهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِلَّا أَبَا بَكْرٍ

'A'isha reported that Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) in his (last) illness asked me to call Abu Bakr, her father, and her brother too, so that he might write a document, for he feared that someone else might be desirous (of succeeding him) and that some claimant may say:
I have better claim to it, whereas Allah and the Faithful do not substantiate the claim of anyone but that of Abu Bakr [Saheeh Muslim no.2387]

This is an authentic (Saheeh) Hadith. Also:

ادْعِي لِي عَبْدَ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنِ أَبِي بَكْرٍ حَتَّى أَكْتُبَ لِأَبِي بَكْرٍ كِتَابًا لَا يَخْتَلِفُ عَلَيْهِ أَحَدٌ بَعْدِي ثُمَّ قَالَ : دَعِيهِ مَعَاذَ
اللَّهِ أَنْ يَخْتَلِفَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ فِي أَبِي بَكْرٍ

Call Abdurrahman ibn Abi Bakr for me so that I can write a document for Abu Bakr and so that none will differ after me. He then said: Call him, may Allah's refuge be sought from the Muslims

differing regarding Abu Bakr [i.e. Abu Bakr's Caliphate after the Prophet's death] [Graded Saheeh by al-Albani in Dhilal al-Jannah no.1163]

And also :

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، قَالَ لَمَّا قُبِضَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَتِ الْأَنْصَارُ مِنَّا أَمِيرٌ وَمِنْكُمْ أَمِيرٌ . فَأَتَاهُمْ عُمَرُ فَقَالَ أَلَسْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَدْ أَمَرَ أَبَا بَكْرٍ أَنْ يُصَلِّيَ بِالنَّاسِ فَأَيُّكُمْ تَطِيبُ نَفْسُهُ أَنْ يَتَقَدَّمَ أَبَا بَكْرٍ قَالُوا نَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ أَنْ نَتَقَدَّمَ أَبَا بَكْرٍ

It was narrated that 'Abdullah (may Allah be pleased with him) said:"When the Messenger of Allah(ﷺ) passed away, the Ansar said: 'Let there be an Amir from among us and an Amir from among you.' Then 'Umar came to them and said: 'Do you not know that the Messenger of Allah(ﷺ) commanded Abu Bakr to lead the people in prayer? Who among you could accept to put himself ahead of Abu Bakr?' They said: 'We seek refuge with Allah from putting ourselves ahead of Abu Bakr.'" [Saheeh Nasaai no. 776]

كَانَتْ بَيْنَ أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ مُحَاوَرَةً، فَأَغْضَبَ أَبُو بَكْرٍ عُمَرَ، فَانْصَرَفَ عَنْهُ عُمَرُ مُغْضَبًا، فَاتَّبَعَهُ أَبُو بَكْرٍ يَسْأَلُهُ أَنْ يَسْتَغْفِرَ لَهُ، فَلَمْ يَفْعَلْ حَتَّى أَعْلَقَ بِأَبِيهِ فِي وَجْهِهِ، فَأَقْبَلَ أَبُو بَكْرٍ إِلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقَالَ أَبُو الدَّرْدَاءِ وَنَحْنُ عِنْدَهُ فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " أَمَا صَاحِبُكُمْ هَذَا فَقَدْ غَامَرَ ". قَالَ وَنَدِمَ عُمَرُ عَلَى مَا كَانَ مِنْهُ فَأَقْبَلَ حَتَّى سَلَّمَ وَجَلَسَ إِلَى النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَقَصَّ عَلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ الْخَبَرَ. قَالَ أَبُو الدَّرْدَاءِ وَغَضِبَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَجَعَلَ أَبُو بَكْرٍ يَقُولُ وَاللَّهِ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ لَأَنَا كُنْتُ أَظْلَمَ فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " هَلْ أَنْتُمْ تَارِكُوا لِي صَاحِبِي هَلْ أَنْتُمْ تَارِكُوا لِي صَاحِبِي إِنِّي قُلْتُ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا فَقُلْتُمْ كَذَبْتَ

Abu Ad-Darda (may Allah be pleased with him)said:

There was a dispute between Abu Bakr and `Umar, and Abu Bakr made `Umar angry. So `Umar left angrily. Abu Bakr followed him, requesting him to ask forgiveness (of Allah) for him, but `Umar refused to do so and closed his door in Abu Bakr's face. So Abu Bakr went to Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) while we were with him. Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, "This friend of yours must have quarrelled (with somebody)." In the meantime `Umar repented and felt sorry for what he had done, so he came, greeted (those who were present) and sat with the Prophet (ﷺ) and related the story to him. Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) became angry and Abu Bakr started saying, "O Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)! By Allah, I was more at fault (than `Umar)." Allah's Apostle said, "Are you (people) leaving for me my companion? (Abu Bakr), Are you (people) leaving for me my companion? When I said, 'O people I am sent to you all as the Messenger of Allah,' you said, 'You tell a lie.' while Abu Bakr said, 'You have spoken the truth ." [Bukhari no. 4640]

Abu Bakr ibn ‘Ayyash (may Allah have mercy upon him) said: “Abu Bakr is the Caliph of the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) in the Quran because the Quran says about the Muhajireen:

أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الصَّادِقُونَ

They are the truthful [49:15]

So the one whom Allah called truthful do not lie. And they are the ones who said [to Abu Bakr]: “O Khalifah of the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ)” .

‘A’isha (may Allah be pleased with her) said: “When Abu Bakr became the Khalifah, he put every dinar and dirham he had into the Muslim treasury and said: I used to do business with it and seek after it. When you appointed me [as leader], it preoccupied me”

Maymun ibn Mahran (may Allah have mercy upon him) said: “They gave him two thousand and fifty [dinars/dirham]”

Muhammad ibn Sireen (may Allah have mercy upon him) said: “Abu Bakr is the most knowledge of dream interpretation in this nation after the Prophet (ﷺ)”.

‘A’isha (may Allah be pleased with her) said: “By Allah, Abu Bakr did not say any poetry in the Times of Ignorance nor in Islam. He and Uthman both left drinking intoxicants in the Times of Ignorance”.

Kathir an-Nawaa said that Abu Ja’far al-Baaqir (may Allah have mercy upon him) said: “Verily this verse was revealed for Abu Bakr, Umar, and ‘Ali:

وَنَزَعْنَا مَا فِي صُدُورِهِمْ مِنْ غَلٍّ إِخْوَانًا

"And We shall remove from their breasts any sense of injury (that they may have), (So they will be like) brothers [15:47]

Ibn Umar (may Allah be pleased upon him) said: “We used to say in the time of the Prophet (ﷺ) that if Abu Bakr, Umar, and Uthman leave [i.e. pass away], then the people are the same [in status]. So that reached the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) and he did not detest us for it”.

‘Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) said: “The best of this Ummah after its Prophet (ﷺ) is Abu Bakr and Umar”

By Allah, the Most Great, Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) said this. It is reported in a *Mutawaatir* form from him. This is because he said this on the minbar in al-Kufa. So may Allah curse the Raafidah, how ignorant they are!

as-Suddi reported from Abd Khair from ‘Ali (May Allah be pleased with him) that he said: “The greatest person in reward regarding the mushaf is Abu Bakr. He was the first to collect the Quran between two wooden tablets” Its chain of transmission is Hasan (acceptable).

‘Aqeel narrated from Zuhri (may Allah have mercy upon him) that he said: “Abu Bakr and Haarith ibn Kalaah both ate some dried meat given to Abu Bakr. So al-Harith said: “Raise your hand O, Khalifah of the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ). By Allah, verily was some poison on it for a year. You and I will both die on the same day”. So they both did not cease to be sick until they both died on the same day by the end of the year”.

On the authority of ‘A’isha (may Allah be pleased with her) who said: “The first sign of the sickness of Abu Bakr was when he took a shower. It was a cold day, so had a fever for fifteen days and did not go out for prayer. He ordered Umar to lead the prayer. They used to visit him and Uthman attended to him during his sickness. He died on the evening of Tuesday with eight days remaining of Jumada Akhirah. His Khilafah lasted for two years and one hundred days”.

Abu Ma’shar said: “The Caliphate of Abu Bakr was two years and four months shy of four nights. He was sixty three years old”.

‘A’isha (may Allah be pleased with her) said: “I was present when my father was dying and he fainted. So I recited the following lines of poetry as a parable:

He who continues to mask his tears
Must once let them run [freely]

So he raised his head and said: O my daughter, it is not like that. However, it is as Allah, the Exalted said:

وَجَاءَتْ سَكْرَةُ الْمَوْتِ بِالْحَقِّ ذَلِكَ مَا كُنْتَ مِنْهُ تَحِيدُ

And the stupor of death will come in truth: "This is what you have been avoiding!" [50:19]

al-Qasim narrated from ‘A’isha (may Allah be pleased with her) that when Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) died he said: “I do not know that the family of Abu Bakr has anything other than this female camel and except for this servant who shines the swords. He used to shine the swords of the Muslims and serve us. If I pass away, give him to Umar (may Allah be pleased with him). When

she gave him to Umar he said: May Allah have mercy upon Abu Bakr, he has tired out those who will come after him”.

Zuhri (may Allah have mercy upon him) said: “Abu Bakr gave the bequest for his wife Asmaa bint Umais to wash him. If she could not, she should seek the help of her son Abdurrahman”

Qaasim (may Allah have mercy upon him) said: “Abu Bakr gave the bequest that he be buried next to the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ). So the grave was dug for him and his head was placed near the shoulder of the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ)”.

‘A’isha (may Allah be pleased with her) said: “He died the night of Tuesday and he was buried before the morning”

Mujaahid (may Allah have mercy upon him) said: “The inheritance of Abu Quhafa from his son was discussed and he said: I returned that to my son. He did not live after him except for six months and a few days”.

It has come that his father ,his wife, Asmaa bint Umais; Habibah bint Khaarajah, the mother of Umm Kulthoom; Abdurrahman, Muhammad, ‘A’isha, Asmaa, and Umm Kulthum inherited from him.

It was said that the Jews poisoned him with cedar and he died after a year. He was sixty three years old. May Allah be pleased with him and grant him Paradise.

*******End of Biography *******