

HAZRAT USMAN GHANI

May Allah be pleased with him





Hazrat Usman Ghani^{ra}

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Foreword

This book commemorates the life of Hazrat Usman^{ra}: his generous services for Islam, his work to preserve and protect the text of the Holy Quran, and his ultimate martyrdom. He sacrificed everything—his wealth, time, and even his life—serving Islam with absolute loyalty despite being attacked and killed by vicious rebels. He became a symbol of peace, never using force and acting peacefully till his last breath.

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We have included some fun activities for children to test their knowledge. A glossary of difficult words is also included in the book.

Al-Haaj Munir-ud-Din Shams

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HAZRAT USMAN GHANI

May Allah be pleased with him



Overview

In ancient Arabia, in the busy city of Makkah, lived a man named Usman bin Affan^{ra}. He came from the respected clan, Banu Umayyah of the Quraish, and was no ordinary man. Handsome and virtuous, he had a noble character even before he accepted Islam. When Islam began to spread, he was among the first people to accept it. This earned him a place among the early Muslims praised in the Holy Quran.

Once he entered the fold of Islam, his devotion knew no bounds. He was known for his unending generosity, and spending his wealth in the cause of Allah to help the less fortunate. His modesty and virtue made him a great role model in his community. With a heart of kindness, he helped thousands of slaves by freeing them from bondage.

Not only was Hazrat Usman^{ra} a devout

believer, but he also held a special place as a Companion of the Holy Prophet^{sas}. He was among the earliest to memorize the Quran, and he even wrote down the words of the Holy Quran after they were revealed to the Prophet^{sas}.

Six years after the Muslims settled in Madinah, the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sas} had a profound dream. In his vision, he saw himself circling around the Ka'abah with his Companions. Considering this to be a message from Allah, he set out on a journey towards Makkah, with 1400 faithful Companions.¹

However, the news of the Muslims heading towards Makkah reached the Quraish, who misunderstood their peaceful intentions, and started preparing for war. Upon reaching Hudaibiyyah, a place near Makkah, the Holy Prophet^{sas} sought advice from his Companions about what to do next. The Companions suggested sending a representative to let the

Quraish know that they were coming in peace. The name of Hazrat Umar^{ra} was initially put forward, but he in turn proposed that Hazrat Usman^{ra} should be sent as the ambassador, since he was well known among the chiefs of Makkah.

The Holy Prophet^{sas} accepted this suggestion, and Hazrat Usman^{ra} set off as an ambassador of Islam. However, when he did not return for some time, the Muslim community became anxious. They feared the Quraish had harmed Hazrat Usman^{ra}. At this time, the Holy Prophet^{sas} took a pledge of allegiance, known as Bai'at-e-Rizwan or Bai'at-e-Shajarah, vowing to avenge Hazrat Usman^{ra} if he was harmed. It was called 'Bai'at-e-Shajarah' (Pledge of the Tree) because this pledge was taken under a tree. The Arabic word for tree is 'Shajarah'.

Fortunately, Hazrat Usman^{ra} returned unharmed, and a peace treaty was established between the Muslims and the Quraish. They

agreed that the Muslims could return the next year to perform the Hajj or Pilgrimage,² fulfilling the dream of the Holy Prophet^{sas}.

Hazrat Usman^{ra} had many other honours. He had the privilege of marrying two daughters of the Holy Prophet^{sas}, one after the other. His righteousness was so profound that the Holy Prophet^{sas} stated, 'Whatever he does now, Allah will not admonish him,' highlighting his unwavering faith.

Hazrat Usman^{ra} was one of the ten fortunate Companions in the Majlis-e-Shura—a special counsel highly trusted by the Holy Prophet^{sas}. He was also one of the ten pious Companions known as Ashrah Mubasharah.³ Allah the Almighty promised these virtuous men a place in Paradise in the Hereafter.

After the demise of the Holy Prophet^{sas}, Hazrat Usman^{ra} was a close advisor to the first two Khalifahs: Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} and Hazrat Umar^{ra} respectively. Following Hazrat Umar's

martyrdom, Hazrat Usman^{ra} was appointed as the third Khalifah despite his old age. At 70 years of age, he fulfilled his responsibilities as the Khalifah with great dedication.

Under his *Khilaafat*, the Muslim territories expanded greatly, and the message of Islam spread far and wide. His greatest achievements include compiling, publishing, and distributing the Holy Quran throughout the Islamic world. He also oversaw the construction of the first Islamic fleet of ships.⁴

His strong devotion to Allah was tested through numerous trials, but he faced them with strength and perseverance. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was eventually martyred while he was reciting the Holy Quran.⁵ However, before his death, he was given the honour of seeing the Holy Prophet^{sas} in a dream, who told him that he would break his fast with him, signalling his forthcoming reunion with his beloved master^{sas}.

Hazrat Usman^{ra} lived a life as a true servant of Allah. He left behind a legacy of piety, kindness, and devotion to Islam. At the time of his death, he was 82 years old. He left a lasting impact on the history of Islam and the hearts of the believers. In the following chapters, you will learn in detail about some of the achievements and qualities of Hazrat Usman^{ra}.

The Ashrah Mubasharah

Allah had told the Holy Prophet^{sas} that ten men would surely be going to Paradise in the Hereafter. These ten men are known as *Ashrah Mubasharah*, meaning the 'Ten Blessed Companions'. They are:

- ✧ Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}
- ✧ Hazrat Umar bin Khattab^{ra}
- ✧ Hazrat Usman bin Affan^{ra}
- ✧ Hazrat Ali bin Abi Taalib^{ra}
- ✧ Hazrat Talha bin Ubaidullah^{ra}
- ✧ Hazrat Zubair bin al-Awwaam^{ra}
- ✧ Hazrat Abdur-Rahman bin Auf^{ra}
- ✧ Hazrat Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas^{ra}
- ✧ Hazrat Sa'id bin Zaid^{ra}
- ✧ Hazrat Abu Ubaidah^{ra}

Early Life

Hazrat Usman bin Affan^{ra} was born in the city of Makkah in 575 AD. He was five years younger than the Holy Prophet^{sas} and two and a half years younger than Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}. However, he was eight years older than Hazrat Umar^{ra} and 25 years older than Hazrat Ali^{ra}. His father's name was Affan and his mother's name was Arwa.⁶

From a young age, Hazrat Usman^{ra} tried to do good and stay away from sin. He had a deep sense of modesty. During the time of Hazrat Usman's childhood, not all children could afford to receive an education. His father was a rich textile merchant and so Hazrat Usman^{ra} received a good education. Hazrat Usman's father passed away during his youth and he took over his family's business. This required him to travel to nearby cities, in order to trade

goods with other caravans.

Before accepting Islam, Hazrat Usman^{ra} had been married twice. His first wife was Umme Amr bint Jundab. They had five children. In the Arab culture, it was customary for fathers to be referred to as ‘father of’ rather than by their name. As Hazrat Usman’s eldest son was named Amr, he was also known as Abu Amr which means ‘father of Amr’. Hazrat Usman’s second wife was Faatimah bint Waleed. She was the daughter of a Makkan chief named Waleed bin Mugheerah and a relative of Abu Jahl, a bitter enemy of Islam. Together, they had three children. So Hazrat Usman^{ra} was a father of eight. After accepting Islam, he was separated from his wives and children.

Acceptance of Islam

When the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sas} announced his Prophethood, Hazrat Usman^{ra} was about 35 years old. At that time, people belonged to clans, which were small family groups. Many clans would join together to become a tribe, which is a larger group that supported each other. The Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sas} and Hazrat Usman^{ra} were born into the Quraish tribe. The Holy Prophet^{sas} belonged to the clan of Banu Haashim, whereas Hazrat Usman^{ra} was from the Banu Umayyah clan. Long ago, there had been a dispute amongst these two clans, and even at the time of the Holy Prophet^{sas} and Hazrat Usman's childhood, there were still some grievances between them. Despite the feud, Hazrat

Usman^{ra} greatly respected the Holy Prophet^{sas}. Just like most Makkans, he knew that the Holy Prophet^{sas} was a very honest and kind person. The entire nation called the Holy Prophet^{sas} ‘the Truthful’ and ‘the Trustworthy’ because he was always fair in handling his business.

Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} was a businessman as well. He was a friend of both the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sas} and Hazrat Usman^{ra}. Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} was the first to accept the message of the Holy Prophet, which taught that there is only one God.

Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} invited Hazrat Usman^{ra} to accept the Holy Muhammad^{sas} as Allah’s Messenger. He did not stop there, but also preached Islam’s teachings to Hazrat Zubair bin al-Awwaam^{ra}, Hazrat Abdur-Rahman bin Auf^{ra}, Hazrat Sa’d bin Abi Waqqas^{ra}, and Hazrat Talha bin Ubaidullah^{ra}. They were all moved by the Prophet’s message, and became ready to accept Islam. Thus, Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} took

this group of men to the Holy Prophet^{sas} who was delighted to receive them. They took *Bai'at* (the Pledge of Allegiance) one by one at the hand of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sas}. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was the first among them to take *Bai'at* at the Holy Prophet's hand.⁷ Thus began to unfold a remarkable journey of faith and friendship.

Hazrat Usman^{ra} was a part of the *as-Saabiqoonal Awwaloon* which means the foremost among the early Muslims, whom the Holy Quran praises very eloquently. He was the fifth person to accept Islam. The people who accepted Islam before him were those who were very close to the Holy Prophet^{sas}. For example, his wife Hazrat Khadijah^{ra}, his freed slave Zaid bin Haaris^{ra}, his first cousin Hazrat Ali^{ra}, and his best friend Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}.



Did You Know?

Bai'at is an Islamic practice
of declaring one's loyalty to
a particular leader.

Nikah with Hazrat Ruqayyah

The Quraish, which was the tribe that the Holy Prophet^{sas} and Hazrat Usman^{ra} belonged to, were the ruling tribe in Makkah, which meant that they were very powerful. They worshipped idols and believed it was the idols that made them rich and powerful. The Holy Prophet^{sas} knew that they would not like the new faith, which declared only one God. So for the first three years of Islam, the Holy Prophet^{sas} secretly preached the true message to his close circle and taught them about this new faith.

In the fourth year of his Prophethood, Allah commanded the Holy Prophet^{sas} to preach more openly, and soon the streets of Makkah were abuzz with Islam's message. The Quraish

were very angry and they mocked at the Holy Prophet^{sas} and his followers. But when they noticed that more and more people were accepting the message of one God, the Quraish were worried that they would lose the power they had over the people of their city. Then they began to persecute the Holy Prophet^{sas} and his followers, with the hope that they could force them back to worshipping idols.

Hazrat Usman's father was probably not alive at that time but his uncle, Hakam bin Abi al-Aas, was alive. Even though he was almost like a father to Hazrat Usman^{ra}, he would beat him and chain his feet to prevent him from meeting the Holy Prophet^{sas}.⁸ But Hazrat Usman^{ra} knew the message of Islam was true, and so he fearlessly endured this with resilience and patience. However, after a few days, his uncle gave up and cast him out.

Likewise, in his family, the Holy Prophet^{sas} faced the most opposition from his own uncle,

Abu Lahab. In those days, parents agreed to marry their children to one another when they reached the age of maturity. As such, the Holy Prophet^{sas} had promised to marry two of his daughters, Ruqayyah^{ra} and Umme Kulsoom^{ra}, to Abu Lahab's sons. The *Nikah* had taken place. However, the marriage ceremony had not yet taken place. After the advent of Islam, Abu Lahab and his wife Umme Jameel became sworn enemies of the Prophet^{sas}. Abu Lahab and his wife made their sons break off the *Nikah* and got Ruqayyah^{ra} and Umme Kulsoom^{ra} divorced. Then, the Holy Prophet^{sas} arranged the marriage of his daughter, Hazrat Ruqayyah^{ra}, with Hazrat Usman^{ra}—a pious, noble, reputable, and handsome man, who had been disowned by his family.

In this chapter...

Where did the Muslims migrate to and what was the reason for the Migration?

Why did they go to that location specifically?

Why did Hazrat Usman^{ra} return to Makkah?

Migration to Abyssinia

Buying and selling was conducted through trade caravans, where groups of merchants would travel across known routes to different cities and countries. While trading their goods, they would learn about new places. Through different trade travels, the Arabs knew that Abyssinia, which is now called Ethiopia, was a Christian country which was ruled by a kind and just king known by the title, Najashi. He had given complete religious freedom in his country. So when the Makkan chiefs made life dangerous and difficult for Muslims, the Holy Prophet^{sas} gave some of the Muslims permission to migrate to Abyssinia.

So, in the fifth year after Hazrat Muhammad^{sas} claimed Prophethood, 11 men and 4 women, including Hazrat Usman^{ra} and his wife Hazrat

Ruqayyah^{ra}, migrated to Abyssinia.⁹ The small caravan of Muslim refugees was led by Hazrat Usman^{ra}. It is said that Hazrat Ruqayyah^{ra} gave birth to their son, Abdullah, in Abyssinia. Thus, Hazrat Usman^{ra} came to be known as Abu Abdullah, instead of Abu Amr. In Abyssinia, Hazrat Usman^{ra} had the privilege of preaching the message of Islam in its infancy.

In Makkah, when Hazrat Umar^{ra} and the Holy Prophet's uncle, Hazrat Hamza^{ra} accepted Islam, the enemies increased their cruelties against the Muslims. As a result, one year later, 83 men and 18 women migrated to Abyssinia.

Soon, news spread in Abyssinia that the whole of Makkah had accepted Islam. Many returned to Makkah immediately, including Hazrat Usman^{ra} and Hazrat Ruqayyah^{ra}. However, it turned out to be a false rumour started by the non-believers as a way to lure the Muslim refugees back to Makkah. Nevertheless, Hazrat Usman^{ra} decided to remain in Makkah for good and resume his business.

Time in Makkah

Back in Makkah, Hazrat Usman^{ra} continued to help spread the message of Islam. Hazrat Usman^{ra} knew a lot of people across Arabia because he belonged to a well-known family. He was known for being well mannered, noble, modest, and generous. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was also known for his exemplary hospitality, and would also host special guests at his house. He would use every opportunity to convey the message of God and took his acquaintances to meet the Holy Prophet^{sas} whenever he could. The non-believers tried to prevent visitors from meeting the Holy Prophet^{sas}. However, some still managed to visit him to learn about the new faith.

Despite all the difficulties, the Holy Prophet^{sas} continued to spread the message of Islam fearlessly. His devoted Companions,

including Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}, Hazrat Umar^{ra}, Hazrat Usman^{ra}, and Hazrat Ali^{ra} continued to help the Holy Prophet^{sas} in this great mission. Under the Holy Prophet's direct guidance, Hazrat Usman's faith grew stronger.

The Holy Prophet^{sas} used to travel outside of Makkah to nearby tribes to teach them about Islam.¹⁰ Sometimes, Hazrat Usman^{ra} accompanied him on these visits as well. During these missionary trips, the non-believers pursued them and through various plots and schemes, they tried to create misconceptions about Islam and the Holy Prophet^{sas}. They encouraged people to ignore his message.

Throughout this time, the Holy Quran continued to be revealed to the Holy Prophet^{sas} in portions by Angel Gabriel. Since the Holy Prophet^{sas} was unable to read or write, he would memorize the verses that were revealed and then repeat them to his Companions, who also memorize them. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was a brilliant

man and had an excellent memory. He was one of the early Muslims to memorize the Holy Quran. When the Holy Prophet^{sas} decided to put all the revelations down in writing, he selected a few literate Companions for this task. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was appointed as a scribe.¹¹

Hazrat Usman^{ra} was also kind and charitable. It was a common practice for wealthy families to buy men, women, and even children to be their slaves. The slaves were often treated badly by their owners. Quite a lot of slaves belonging to the Quraish accepted Islam because it taught that all people were equal. Sadly, many of them suffered brutal punishments from their masters, who would torture them to try to get them to leave Islam. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was a wealthy Muslim, and freed many slaves. He would buy them from their cruel masters and set them free to protect them from persecution.

Recap

For what task did
the Holy Prophet^{sas} select
Hazrat Usman^{ra} &
some other literate
Companions?

Migration to Madinah

Severe persecution made it impossible for the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sas} and his Companions to live in Makkah any longer. In the 11th year after the Prophet's claim to be a Messenger of Allah, a few people from a city called Yathrib accepted Islam at the time of Hajj. A year later, 12 more men and women secretly took *Bai'at* (Pledge of Allegiance) during the night in the valley of Aqabah. They went back to their city and began preaching Islam. In the 13th year of Prophethood, 72 men and women took *Bai'at* at the same spot on the occasion of Hajj. The two *Bai'ats* from the 12th and 13th years of Prophethood are known in chronological order as Aqabah Oola and Aqabah Saaniyah.

The Muslims of Yathrib invited the Holy Prophet^{sas} and his Companions to move to their city. The Holy Prophet^{sas} accepted their request by Allah's command. He instructed the Muslims to leave Makkah in small groups. Hazrat Usman^{ra} also migrated to Yathrib with Hazrat Ruqayyah^{ra}. When the Quraish found out that most Muslims had migrated to Yathrib, they encircled the Holy Prophet's house to prevent him from leaving. However, with Allah's help, the Holy Prophet^{sas} was able to migrate secretly to Yathrib with Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}.

After the Holy Prophet's arrival, the city became known as *Madinatun-Nabi*, meaning the 'City of the Prophet,' and later only as 'Madinah'. Those who had migrated from Makkah became known as the *Muhaajireen*, which means 'Migrants'. Their hosts in Madinah, who had promised them protection and refuge, became known as the *Ansaar* or the 'Helpers'.

The Holy Prophet^{sas} declared the *Ansaar* and *Muhaajireen* to be like brothers and paired each *Muhaajir* with one of the *Ansaar* to increase love between them and provide a system of support. The *Ansaar* were true helpers to the *Muhaajireen* because they shared their homes, food, and money. Hazrat Usman's brother in Madinah was Aus bin Saabit Ansaari.

Due to his respectable reputation and family background, Hazrat Usman^{ra} quickly made a place for himself in Madinah. He continued his trade business and carried on his religious services with as much fervour as before. Allah Almighty had blessed Hazrat Usman^{ra} with great wealth and he spent generously in the way of Allah. On many occasions he was way ahead of the other Companions in financial sacrifice. The Holy Prophet^{sas} appreciated Hazrat Usman's religious and financial services and acknowledged them many times.

Recap

What were
the Muslims who migrated
from Makkah called?

What were their hosts
in Madinah called?

What did Hazrat Usman^{ra}
do for a living?

Nikah with Hazrat Umme Kulsoom

After migrating to Madinah, Hazrat Ruqayyah^{ra} was not able to adjust well to the new environment and fell ill. Meanwhile, the Quraish of Makkah prepared an army of 1,000 soldiers to attack the Muslims in Madinah. The Holy Prophet^{sas} took 313 Companions and travelled to the outskirts of Madinah to defend the city. A battle took place in a valley located between Makkah and Madinah called Badr.

Hazrat Usman^{ra} was not able to take part in the Battle of Badr due to Hazrat Ruqayyah's illness. The Holy Prophet^{sas} had told Hazrat Usman^{ra} not to leave her side. The Muslims won miraculously in this battle and they rejoiced in this huge victory. Many Quraish chiefs including Abu Jahl were killed in it.

When Zaid bin Haaris arrived in Madinah with the good news of the victory, he learnt that Hazrat Ruqayyah^{ra} had passed away. The Holy Prophet^{sas} was grieved by the news of his daughter's demise and so were his Companions. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was inconsolable because of his wife's demise and not being able to participate in the Jihad against the enemy. The Holy Prophet^{sas}, also deeply grieved at his daughter's death, sympathized with Hazrat Usman's sentiments. He told the Companions to share some of the war bounty with Hazrat Usman^{ra}.¹²

After Hazrat Ruqayyah passed away, the Holy Prophet^{sas} performed *Nikah* between his other daughter, Hazrat Umme Kulsoom^{ra} and Hazrat Usman^{ra} on 3 *Hijri* (three years after *Hijrah* or Migration).¹³ Hazrat Usman^{ra} then became known as *Zunnurain*, meaning the 'Possessor of Two Lights,' for being married to two daughters of the Holy Prophet^{sas}.¹⁴

The Holy Prophet^{sas} fixed the same dowry of Hazrat Umme Kulsoom^{ra} as was fixed for Hazrat Ruqayyah^{ra}. He said at the time of the *Nikah*:

Allah has instructed me through the Angel Gabriel that I should marry my daughter, Hazrat Umme Kulsoom^{ra} to you [Hazrat Usman^{ra}] with the same dowry that was fixed for Hazrat Ruqayyah^{ra}.¹⁵

Around 9 *Hijri*, Hazrat Umme Kulsoom^{ra} also passed away.¹⁶ Hazrat Usman^{ra} was very sorrowful and grieved greatly for Hazrat Umme Kulsoom^{ra}. The Holy Prophet^{sas} had such love for Hazrat Usman^{ra} that he said, 'If I had another unmarried daughter, I would have married her to Usman.'¹⁷

Hazrat Usman^{ra} later remarried four times, on different occasions. His wives names were Fakhta bint Ghazwan, bint Ainia, Ramlah bint Sheeba, and Naailah bint Faraza.

Recap

How many times and
to which cities did
Hazrat Usman^{ra} and Hazrat
Ruqayyah^{ra} migrate
while married?

Notable Service in Madinah

Slavery was an ancient and ancestral practice at that time in Arabia. Many rich people owned slaves. Some people made prisoners of war as their slaves. Slavery was gradually abolished in Islam, and it was considered a very noble deed to free a slave.

Hazrat Usman^{ra} was wealthy, but also very generous. He not only freed his own slaves but also bought slaves from their owners just to set them free. Through this noble act, he freed hundreds from the chains of slavery. The streets of Madinah were filled with men whom he had freed. In fact, Hazrat Usman^{ra} established a weekly tradition to free one slave every Friday.¹⁸

Hazrat Usman's life was filled with exemplary financial sacrifices. After migration to

Madinah, the Muslims were in financial crisis. The *Muhaajireen* also faced many challenges in settling into their new homes.

One of the biggest challenges for the Holy Prophet^{sas} was to provide drinking water for everyone. There was only one well with clean drinking water where the Muslims had settled. That water well, known as *B'ir Rumah*, was owned by a Jew. He used to sell that water and only those who could afford it, were able to buy it. The rest had to drink unpurified water.

One day, the Holy Prophet^{sas} asked the Muslims to buy the well from the Jew so that they could have access to clean, drinking water. The Holy Prophet^{sas} said that whoever would buy *B'ir Rumah* would gain a place in Paradise. Being a compassionate man, Hazrat Usman^{ra} purchased the well for the Muslims for at least 20,000 dirhams.¹⁹ In this way, he removed the suffering and pain of the *Muhaajireen* and at the same time, pleased the Holy Prophet^{sas}.

The Well of Rumah

The Well of Rumah, also known as the Well of Usman bin Affan, is a historic water well in the city of Madinah.

It is located about 6 kilometres north-west of Masjid-e-Nabawi, and north of Masjid Qiblatain.

After purchasing the well, Hazrat Usman made its water free for both the Muslims and non-Muslims of Madinah.

The Treaty of Hudaibiyyah

For the next five or six years after the migration to Madinah, the Makkan enemies continued to attack the Muslims and many battles were fought between them as a result. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was not able to participate in the Battle of Badr because of his wife's illness. However, he was able to participate in the Battle of Uhud, which took place three years after Migration. The Muslims fought a series of defensive battles with the Jews of Madinah as well.

In fifth *Hijri* (five years after *Hijrah* or Migration), the Quraish gathered all the tribes of Arabia, along with a Jewish tribe from Madinah, to form a massive army. They appointed Abu Sufyaan as their commander,

who led an attack on Madinah. The Holy Prophet^{sas} instructed the Muslims to dig a vast trench around Madinah to defend the city. The battle that took place after this was called the Battle of the Trench. Hazrat Usman^{ra} took part in these battles.

It had been six years since the migration, and the Holy Prophet^{sas} and his Companions yearned to perform Hajj, but the Makkans had prevented them from doing so. The Prophet Muhammad^{sas} was very concerned about this matter. Before the Migration, Muslims used to face Bait al-Maqdas in Jerusalem when offering *Salat*, but some time after Migration, Allah instructed Muslims to face the Ka'abah for Prayer. Thus, Muslims faced the Ka'abah five times a day to pray, yet they were unable to visit Makkah or perform Hajj.

In such turbulent times, the Holy Prophet^{sas} saw a blessed dream that he was circling the Ka'abah with 1400 Companions all of whom

had shaved heads. So, he saw this as a sign from Allah. In 6th *Hijri*, he took 1400 Companions and set on a journey towards Makkah. When the Quraish found out, they began to prepare for war and blocked all roads that led to Makkah. They were angry and were ready to attack the Muslims.

The Holy Prophet^{sas} decided to initiate a dialogue with the Makkans when he arrived at Hudaibiyyah, which is a few miles away from Makkah. The Holy Prophet^{sas} sent Hazrat Usman^{ra} as his representative because Hazrat Usman^{ra} was influential among the Quraish. His clan, Banu Umayyah, was very powerful in Makkah. As mentioned earlier, rumours spread of Hazrat Usman's martyrdom at the hands of the Quraish. Since Hazrat Usman^{ra} represented all Muslims, the Holy Prophet^{sas} decided that if the rumours were true, they would engage in war with the Makkans to avenge his presumed death.

This was no ordinary decision. The Holy Prophet^{sas} gathered all the Companions under a tree and took *Bai'at* from them. In the end he put one hand over another to represent Hazrat Usman^{ra} and took *Bai'at* on his behalf too.

However, Hazrat Usman^{ra} soon returned unharmed and the rumours disappeared. In reality, Hazrat Usman^{ra} was late because he was meeting some non-Muslim relatives.

Hazrat Usman^{ra} informed the Muslims that he had convinced the Quraish to have talks with the Holy Prophet^{sas}. Thus, a truce was signed by the Makkan representative Suhail bin Amr and the Holy Prophet^{sas}.

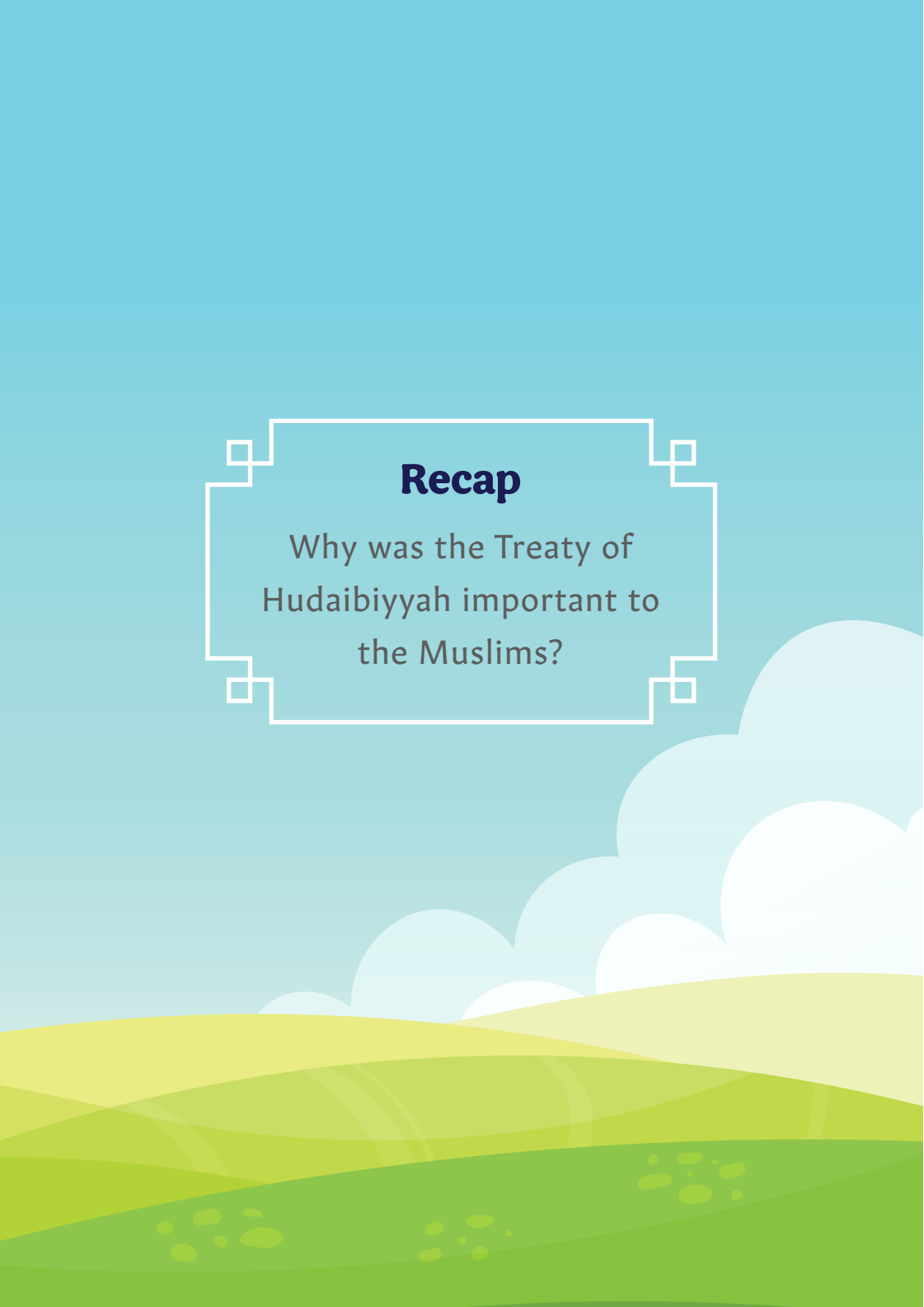
According to the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, the Muslims would be allowed to visit the Ka'abah in the next year. Almighty Allah declared this contract as 'Fath-e-Mubeen' or a clear victory for the Muslims in the Holy Quran.

After the establishment of peace, Islam spread by leaps and bounds. The Holy Prophet^{sas}

sent letters to neighbouring kings and rulers to accept the message of Allah. After years, the Muslims were able to meet with their non-Muslim relatives and acquaintances. Due to this mutual agreement, Islam's message was able to reach everywhere. For the next two years, the Quraish kept their word and the number of converts increased at least eight times more than in the time of war. Islam's message also reached, through letters sent by the Holy Prophet^{sas}, to the rulers of Rome and Iran—Caesar and Khusro, respectively. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was among the special Companions who wrote these letters on the Holy Prophet's instructions.

Hazrat Usman's service as the ambassador of Islam at Hudaibiyah is one of his greatest achievements, since it had a long-lasting impact. Because of the treaty, the Holy Prophet^{sas} and his Companions travelled to Makkah in 7th *Hijri* and performed Umrah, a

pilgrimage performed outside of the days of Hajj. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was among the Muslims who performed Umrah with the Prophet^{sas} and was able to enjoy this spiritual experience after years of restrictions. This treaty had a lot of conditions, and had the Quraish not broken these conditions, there would have been no more battles for the next ten years.



Recap

Why was the Treaty of
Hudaibiyyah important to
the Muslims?

Conquest of Makkah

Two years after the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, in 8th *Hijri*, the Holy Prophet^{sas} and his Companions saw a miraculous and extraordinary victory of Makkah.

It all started when the Quraish violated some conditions in the Treaty and attacked the Muslim allies. This gave the Muslims a right to retaliate according to the Treaty. The Holy Prophet^{sas} marched towards Makkah with ten thousand men. The Makkans surrendered without a fight and the Holy Prophet^{sas} and his Companions victoriously entered the city. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was part of this large group. This conquest was without question the outcome of immense sacrifices made by Muslims and their continuous prayers.

Although the Holy Prophet^{sas} forgave everyone at the Conquest of Makkah,²⁰ some non-believers had committed such atrocities that he had ordered them to be executed for their horrible crimes. These included Abdullah bin Sa'd who was Hazrat Usman's foster brother. Abdullah bin Sa'd had been among the first believers of Islam and also served as a scribe for the Prophet's revelations. However, he later abandoned his faith and committed some horrible crimes. Due to his compassionate nature, Hazrat Usman^{ra} asked the Holy Prophet^{sas} to forgive his foster brother. The Holy Prophet^{sas}, truly a mercy for all mankind, forgave Abdullah bin Sa'd upon Hazrat Usman's request. After his pardon, Abdullah bin Sa'd repented and entered the fold of Islam for the second time. When Hazrat Usman^{ra} later became the Khalifah, he appointed his foster brother as Egypt's governor.

To remain steadfast, the Holy Quran teaches

us the following prayer:

رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً
إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ ○

Our Lord, let not our hearts become perverse after You have guided us; and bestow on us mercy from Yourself; surely, You alone are the Bestower (*Sūrah Āl-e-‘Imrān*, 3:9).

Many prominent Makkan chiefs from Hazrat Usman’s family also accepted Islam. Abu Sufyan was among these chiefs. Between the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah and the Conquest of Makkah, the sons of two Makkan chiefs had also accepted Islam. Later, they played an important role in defeating Caesar and Khusro, conquering Syria, Iraq, and Egypt. Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed, the son of Waleed bin al-Mugheerah, was the most noteworthy among these new converts. Another prominent convert was Hazrat Usman’s

cousin—Amr bin al-Aas, who was the son of Aas bin Wa'il. At Makkah's Conquest, Ikrimah, the son of Islam's worst enemy, Abu Jahl, also accepted Islam. The Treaty of Hudaibiyyah and the Conquest of Makkah started a revolution!

The background of the slide features a stylized, light-colored silhouette of a mosque. It includes several minarets with crescent moons on top, large domes, and arched windows. The entire scene is set against a solid orange background.

Recap

How were the
enemies of Muslims
treated after they
accepted Islam?



Expansion of Masjid-e-Nabawi

The Holy Prophet^{sas} and his companions had built a mosque in Madinah, which is known as Masjid-e-Nabawi. The Holy Prophet^{sas} constructed additional rooms by the mosque where he lived with his family. With the spread of Islam, the number of believers grew and the mosque became inadequate to accommodate everyone.

The Holy Prophet^{sas} urged his Companions to buy houses near the mosque for further expansion of the mosque. He also conveyed glad tidings of a spot in Paradise to whoever sacrificed for this great cause.

Hazrat Usman^{ra} was well off and also had a passion to offer financial sacrifice. He immediately arranged for about 25,000–

30,000 dirhams to buy the houses neighbouring Masjid-e-Nabawi and made them part of the mosque area.²¹ Later in his own *Khilaafat*, he also renovated the floors and roof of the mosque. The sacrifice and service of Hazrat Usman^{ra} will be remembered till the end of times.

Masjid-e-Nabawi



Battle of Tabuk

After Makkah's Conquest, Islam spread throughout Arabia. Some Jewish tribes had been expelled from Madinah because they broke the treaty terms and plotted against Muslims. They were defeated in the Battle of Khyber and moved to live under Rome's rule instead. Due to their influence and some other reasons, Caesar collected his armies and decided to launch an attack on Muslims at the Syrian border.

When the Holy Prophet^{sas} found out, he was concerned, as Madinah was already facing a famine and it seemed impossible for a few thousand Muslims to defend against the hundreds and thousands in the Roman army. Thus, the Holy Prophet^{sas} urged the Muslims to make financial sacrifices. The Companions of the Prophet^{sas} made exemplary sacrifices on this occasion and gave everything they had

for the cause. Soon, an army of 30,000 men gathered. This was the largest army of Muslim forces thus far.

Taking care of and providing arms for such a large army was no ordinary task. Hazrat Usman^{ra} donated 1,000 camels, 100 of whom were laden with grain; between 50 and 100 horses; 10,000 dinars in cash to the Holy Prophet^{sas}; and provided the basic needs for one-third of the entire army.

The Holy Prophet^{sas} was delighted by Hazrat Usman's outstanding financial sacrifice and said that Allah would not be unhappy with Hazrat Usman^{ra} from now on no matter what he does.²² He meant that Hazrat Usman^{ra} would do nothing but good deeds.

This was that renowned occasion when the companions competed with one another in offering the biggest financial sacrifice. Hazrat Umar^{ra} donated half of his household items, believing he would surely surpass Abu

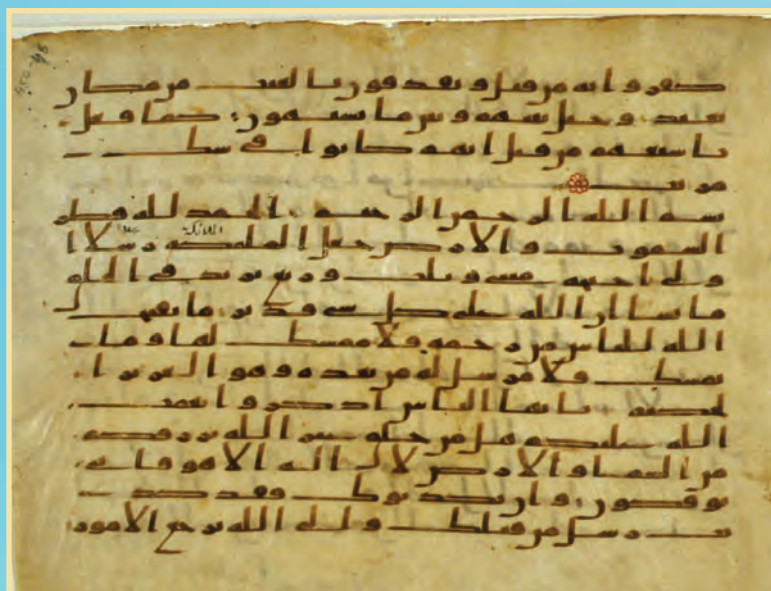
Bakr^{ra}. But when Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} arrived he had brought all of his belongings much to the shock of Hazrat Umar^{ra} and the rest of the companions. Among these exemplary sacrifices were some poor companions who were only able to donate a few dates or a few dirhams and the Holy Prophet^{sas} whole heartedly accepted their donations and included them in this sacrifice.

Hazrat Usman^{ra} travelled with the Holy Prophet^{sas} to the Arabian and Syrian border. The Holy Prophet^{sas} signed treaties with various bordering tribes, but since the immediate threat from Rome was lifted, no battle took place and they returned to Madinah.

Writing of Revelations

One of Hazrat Usman's most notable services for the cause of Islam was writing the Holy Quran in the form of a book.

Hazrat Usman^{ra} said that when any verse of the Holy Quran was revealed to the Prophet^{sas}, he would call for a scribe to write them down immediately, and also specified the exact place and chapter where the verses belonged. Many Companions of the Prophet^{sas} served as scribes and wrote down the Holy Quran on pieces of leather, stones, and barks of date trees in different styles. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was part of this team from the very beginning and continued to consolidate the Holy Quran until its final book form was assembled.²³



The Holy Quran

Quranic text handwritten
in Hijaazi script from the 8th century

Other Services in the Prophet's Time

The Holy Prophet^{sas} lived in Makkah for 13 years and in Madinah for ten years after claiming Prophethood. He passed away on 12 Rabi'ul-Awwal in 11th *Hijri*. Since Hazrat Usman^{ra} was one of the early believers, he was able to serve Islam with the Holy Prophet^{sas} for 22 or 23 years. Besides battle of Badr and some other occasions, he participated in almost all battles with the Holy Prophet^{sas}.

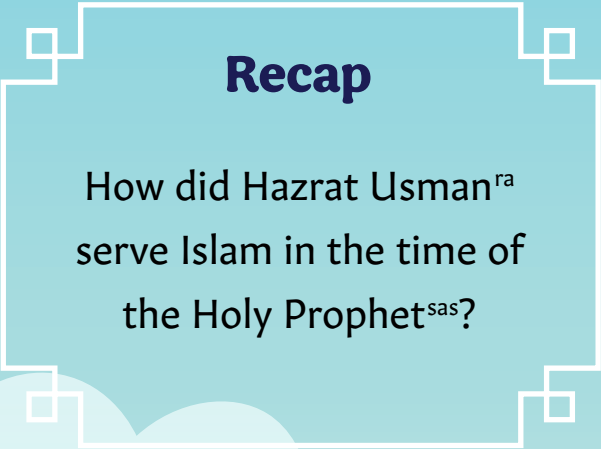
In 10th *Hijri*, when the Holy Prophet^{sas} performed the last Hajj of his life, known as Hajjatul-Widaa, Hazrat Usman^{ra} accompanied him. It was a historic occasion as thousands of Muslims gathered for Hajj. Thus, Hazrat Usman^{ra} was fortunate to take part in almost all momentous occasions in the Holy Prophet's

life and received countless worldly and spiritual blessings as a result of his exemplary financial and religious services.

The Holy Prophet^{sas} gave Hazrat Usman^{ra} glad tidings of a place in Paradise on three separate occasions. The first occasion was when he purchased *Bi'r Rumah*, the second was at the expansion of Masjid-e-Nabawi, and the third was on his contribution in the Battle of Tabuk. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was given the title of *Ghani*, meaning the 'Generous,' because of his exceptional financial sacrifices.

More Information

Research *Hajjatul-Widaa* and write your findings here:



Recap

How did Hazrat Usman^{ra}
serve Islam in the time of
the Holy Prophet^{sas}?

Services in Hazrat Abu Bakr's Era

During Hazrat Abu Bakr's era, some Arab tribes initiated a rebellion. This rebellion was barely subdued when Arabia engaged in war with Iraq and Syria. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was one of Hazrat Abu Bakr's closest advisors and proved himself as a worthy right hand. He provided advice to Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} in important matters. One of his responsibilities was to send important letters and document current affairs.

Hazrat Usman^{ra} continued to offer financial sacrifices in Hazrat Abu Bakr's time. Once, a terrible famine struck Madinah. Coincidentally, Hazrat Usman^{ra} received 1,000 camels carrying grain from his trade business. The merchants of Madinah wished to purchase this grain from Usman^{ra}, but out of great sympathy for

the poor, he decided to donate all the grain to the needy of Madinah.²⁴ Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} was delighted by this act of generosity of Hazrat Usman. When he left for Makkah to perform Hajj, Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} appointed Hazrat Usman^{ra} in charge as his deputy in Madinah.

Before his demise, Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} decided to name Hazrat Umar^{ra} as the next Khalifah. He consulted a few trusted Companions regarding this matter. When someone asked Hazrat Usman^{ra}, he replied that Hazrat Umar^{ra} was even better person on the inside than he was on the outside. Thus, Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} accepted this advice and named Hazrat Umar^{ra} as the next Khalifah. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was asked to put Hazrat Abu Bakr's will in writing.

Services in Hazrat Umar's Era

Hazrat Umar^{ra} became the Khalifah after Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} passed away on 22nd August 634 CE. The Muslims experienced extraordinary victories in Hazrat Umar's time as Khalifah. Although Hazrat Umar^{ra} was younger and accepted Islam later than him, Hazrat Usman^{ra} was devoted to Hazrat Umar^{ra} as much as he was to Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}. Hazrat Umar^{ra} also valued Hazrat Usman^{ra} as his advisor in important affairs.

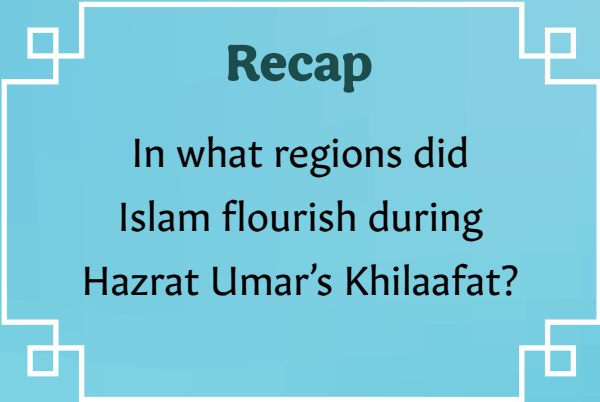
When Hazrat Umar^{ra} established various departments under the administration of the *Khilaafat*, he appointed Hazrat Usman^{ra} as the auditor of the welfare department. Therefore, Hazrat Usman^{ra} was known as *Ameen-e-*

Khilaafat, meaning the ‘Trustee of *Khilaafat*.’

Hazrat Umar’s *Khilaafat* lasted for approximately ten years. In this short period of time, Islam flourished tremendously. The Islamic empire had expanded beyond Arabia into the eastern nations of Afghanistan, the western nation of Egypt, beyond Syria in the north, and Yemen in the south. Hazrat Umar^{ra} took great administrative steps to maintain peace and establish religious freedom, creating a peaceful Muslim empire. He also did a lot of humanitarian and welfare work. No doubt, the prayers, hard work, and wise counsel of his close advisors like Hazrat Usman^{ra} were instrumental in making Hazrat Umar’s era a huge success.

On 23rd Dhul-Hijjah in 23rd *Hijri*, a Persian Slave, who held a grudge against Hazrat Umar^{ra}, repeatedly stabbed him with a dagger.²⁵ Hazrat Umar immediately formed a *Khilaafat*

election committee. He advised them to elect a Khalifah within three days of his death²⁶ from among the following companions: Hazrat Usman bin Affan^{ra}, Hazrat Ali ibn Abi Taalib^{ra}, Hazrat Abdur-Rahman bin Auf^{ra}, Sa'ad bin Abi Waqas^{ra}, Talha bin Ubaidullah^{ra}, Zubair bin al-Awwaam^{ra}, and Abdullah bin Umr^{ra}. These were the loyal Companions who accepted the Holy Prophet^{sas} in the very early days of Islam. They all rendered excellent service to Islam and demonstrated complete loyalty to *Khilaafat*.



Recap

In what regions did
Islam flourish during
Hazrat Umar's Khilaafat?

Hazrat Usman's Khilaafat

A few days after the attack, Hazrat Umar^{ra} passed away on 27th Dhul-Hijjah, 23 *Hijri*.²⁷ Three days later, Hazrat Usman^{ra} was elected as the new Khalifah. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was 70 years old at the time. He had accepted Islam at the age of 35. He had remained by the Holy Prophet's side and served Islam for 23 years of his life. He also served the first two Khalifahs for over 12 years. However, it was destined by Allah that when he became the Khalifah, his service lasted even longer than the first two *Khilaafats* combined.

Several prophecies of the Holy Prophet^{sas} about Hazrat Usman's *Khilaafat* also came true. The Holy Prophet^{sas} had prophesied that Allah would dress Hazrat Usman^{ra} in a tunic.

He told Hazrat Usman^{ra} that if people ask him to take off the tunic, he must keep it on at all costs.²⁸ This prophecy described Hazrat Usman's *Khilaafat* and the chaos that would later arise among the Muslims. It inferred that rebels would attempt to force the Khalifah to resign, dissolve the Rightly Guided *Khilaafat*, and disunite the Muslims. However, the Holy Prophet^{sas} had advised to remain steadfast. Therefore, despite the many accomplishments and the expansion of the Muslim empire, many rebellions were ignited among the Muslim masses, ultimately resulting in Hazrat Usman's martyrdom.

The Election

The election committee established by Hazrat Umar^{ra} held a discussion and entrusted Hazrat Abdur-Rahman bin Auf^{ra} to elect the next Khalifah. Hazrat Abdur-Rahman^{ra} took the opinions of the council members and other prominent Muslims into count while making the decision.²⁹ Based on Hazrat Umar's instructions, the Muslims gathered in Masjid-e-Nabawi on the third day after his demise. The date was 1st Muharram, 24 *Hijri*—7 November 644.³⁰ Hazrat Abdur-Rahman^{ra} asked Hazrat Usman^{ra} to swear in the name of Allah to uphold the teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunnah of the Prophet^{sas} and to follow in the footsteps of Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} and Hazrat Umar^{ra}. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was declared as the Khalifah. Hazrat Abdur-Rahman^{ra} and Hazrat Ali^{ra} were the first to take *Bai'at* at Hazrat Usman's hand, followed by the rest of those present.

Recap

What warnings from Allah did the Holy Prophet's prophecies contain about Hazrat Usman's *Khilaafat*?

What advice did the Holy Prophet^{sas} give to Hazrat Usman^{ra}?

The First Address

After taking the *Bai'at* (Pledge of Allegiance), Hazrat Usman^{ra} delivered a powerful address to the Muslims. Below is a paraphrased summary of what he said:

O People! Fear Allah and refrain from falling into the trap of materialism. In reality, these worldly interests according to Almighty Allah are merely pastime and adornments and cause arrogance. Remember! Excessive wealth and children are like the example of a rainfall that turns a dry and infertile piece of land into flourishing crop and the non-believers would find arrogance and pride in that. However, it would take one strong gust of wind to ruin the crop and make the land barren again.

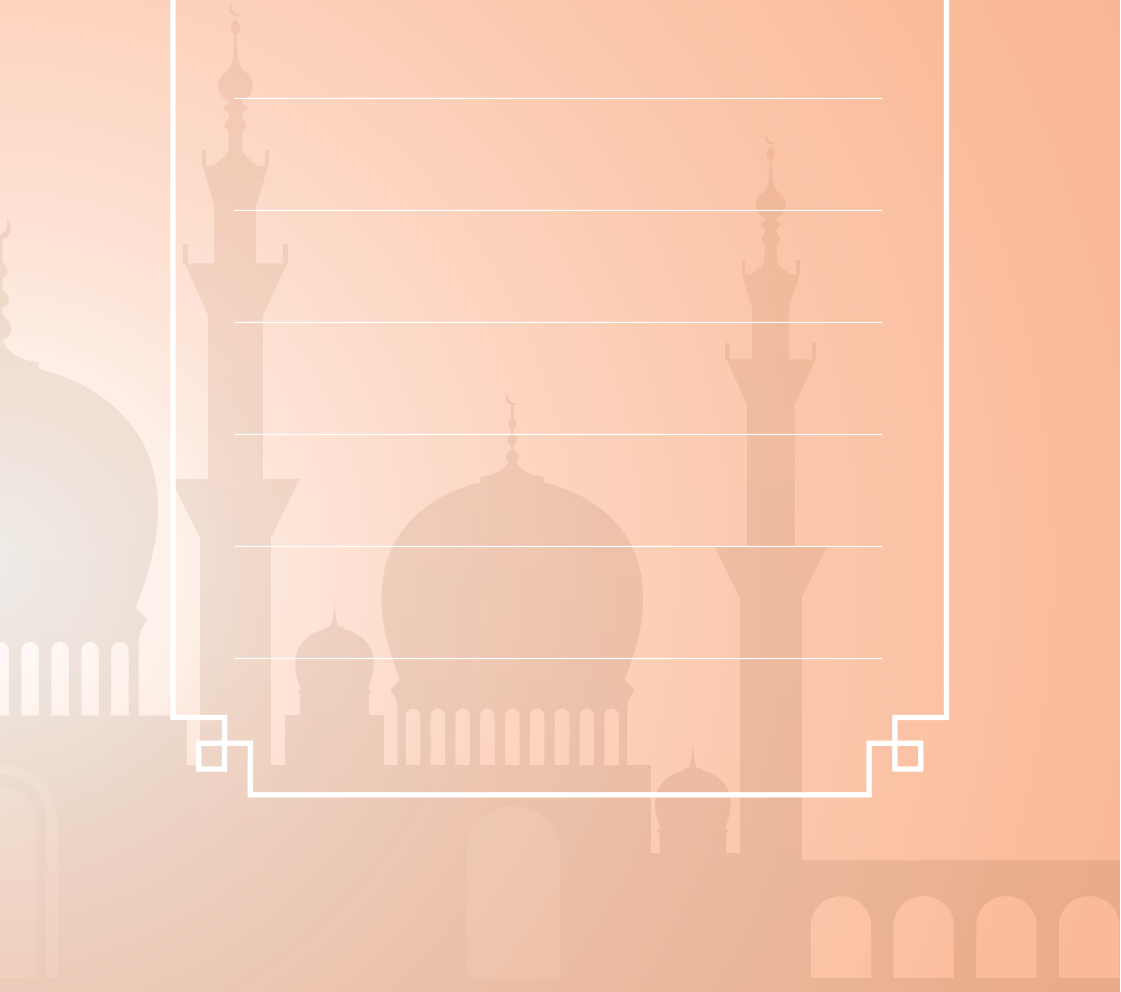
Allah has severe punishment as well as great mercy in the Hereafter and this worldly life only leads to arrogance. The one who trusts Allah completely, stays in His protection and holds on to Him and His Book is the best in this world.

O People! I have been given the important task of leading you and I only seek Allah's guidance in fulfilling this responsibility. All goodness comes from Allah and I seek it from Him alone. I trust Him completely and turn to Him for guidance.'³¹

Hazrat Usman^{ra} stepped off the podium after delivering this moving speech. Then he issued instructions for the governors and commanders in the Muslim empire to rule justly and fairly and to continue working earnestly to resolve religious and political issues.

Recap

What were the main points of
Hazrat Usman's first address?





Expansion of the Islamic Empire

Years ago, the Holy Prophet^{sas} had seen a vision that Muslims would conquer vast territories belonging to the two superpowers that ruled the world at that time: the Roman and Persian Empires. The Persian Empire ruled over Iraq, Iran and most of the Asian continent, whereas the Roman Empire ruled over all of Europe, Egypt and a small portion of Asia, with headquarters in Rome, Italy.

Later, the Roman Empire split into two. Although the Western Roman Empire remained under Rome, Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul) became the headquarters for the Eastern Roman Empire, also known as the Byzantine Empire. The Eastern Roman Empire consisted of Türkiye, Syria, Palestine, Egypt,

Abyssinia, and part of Asia.

Although the enemies of Islam had tried to stop the progress of Islam, the vision of the Holy Prophet^{sas} was fulfilled. During Hazrat Abu Bakr's era, Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed^{ra} conquered southern Iraq and part of Syria with his army. Just as the siege of Damascus was taking place, Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} passed away and Hazrat Umar^{ra} became the new Khalifah.

During Hazrat Umar's *Khilaafat*, the Muslim armies had conquered the areas of Iraq, Madain, Iran, Azerbaijan, Tibrista, Armenia, Kirman, Seestan, Makran, and Khorasan. They had also conquered Syria, Palestine, Bait al-Maqdas, and Egypt. Hazrat Umar^{ra} had established two key cities. A city called Kufa by the Euphrates River in Iraq, and a city called Basrah on the border of Iraq and Iran. Both of these cities had a Muslim majority. He had also built a mosque in the centre of Kufa which could hold upto 40,000 worshippers. Thus, a grand Islamic

Empire had been established. Around this time, Hazrat Umar^{ra} passed away and Hazrat Usman^{ra} was appointed as the new Khalifah.

Explore

Try to find as many of the countries mentioned in this chapter on a map.
How many do you recognize?

Victories & Incidents

Hazrat Usman^{ra} continued the administrative style of Hazrat Umar^{ra} without making any major changes. However, he later changed a few governors as needed. Hence, he made no changes in government of Hijaz but changed the governor of Kufa from Mugheerah Bin Sho'bah to Sa'ad Bin Abi Waqqaas based on Hazrat Umar's will.

Several more battles were fought during Hazrat Usman's *Khilaafat*, as the Roman and Persian Empires were determined to win back the territories that they had lost. All Iraqi territories were under Kufa and the Iranian territories were under Basrah. In Hazrat

Usman's *Khilaafat*, these two cities sometimes fought together and sometimes individually to conquer the remaining parts of Iran. Yazdegerd, the last king of the Sasanian Empire was killed and Persia came under Islamic rule. Muslims had to reconquer some of the areas they had lost and also conquered many new territories under the Islamic Empire.

In Hazrat Usman's *Khilaafat*, Muslims built a navy fleet to defend in the wars on sea for the very first time. Ameer Mu'aawiyah, who was appointed as governor of all territories under Syria, mostly fought with Roman armies who attacked by the sea. Ameer Mu'aawiyah fought many battles at sea with the Romans and conquered the coastal territories of Syria and Kibris, but he was not able to conquer Constantinople. The Romans requested assistance from Heraclius, the emperor of the Byzantine Empire, and set sail for Alexandria in an impressive naval fleet. However, Amr bin

al-Aas was able to defeat them and conquered Alexandria.

On Hazrat Usman's instructions, after the conquest of Alexandria, North Africa and other territories were also conquered when the Muslims defeated the Romans. Hazrat Usman^{ra} made Africa a separate province of the Muslim Empire.³² This marked an important victory for Muslims under Hazrat Usman's *Khilaafat*.

Around 30th *Hijri*, the Romans prepared to take back Egypt, Syria and North Africa with a fleet of 600 ships and spread them from the coasts of Syria to Alexandria. Hazrat Usman^{ra} sent Egypt's governor to Alexandria and from Syria, Ameer Mu'aawiyah was instructed to leave with a naval fleet. The Caesar took part in the battle on the ground whereas Ameer Mu'aawiyah fought at sea. The Muslims joined all their ships together and defeated the Romans. A large number of ships came under the Muslim control and were added to their

naval fleet, making the Muslim navy forces even stronger. This was the first time Muslim armies had fought at sea. The series of conquests in Hazrat Usman's era continued till 35th *Hijri* and the Islamic Empire grew stronger.

Education & Training

As the Islamic empire grew, it brought with it new Muslims. Like the previous Khalifahs, Hazrat Usman^{ra} continued to spread Islam, and arranged for the education and moral training of the converts by building new mosques and establishing formal schools.

He appointed Imams and *Muezzins* in each of the mosques. Mosques were the best source of moral training because, in addition to the five daily prayers, they offered religious sermons and lessons. Many of the Companions of the Prophet^{sas} settled down in the conquered territories and were responsible for teaching the Holy Quran and Hadith to the people. Hazrat Anas^{ra}, who settled in Basra, taught the Holy Quran and Hadith for the moral training

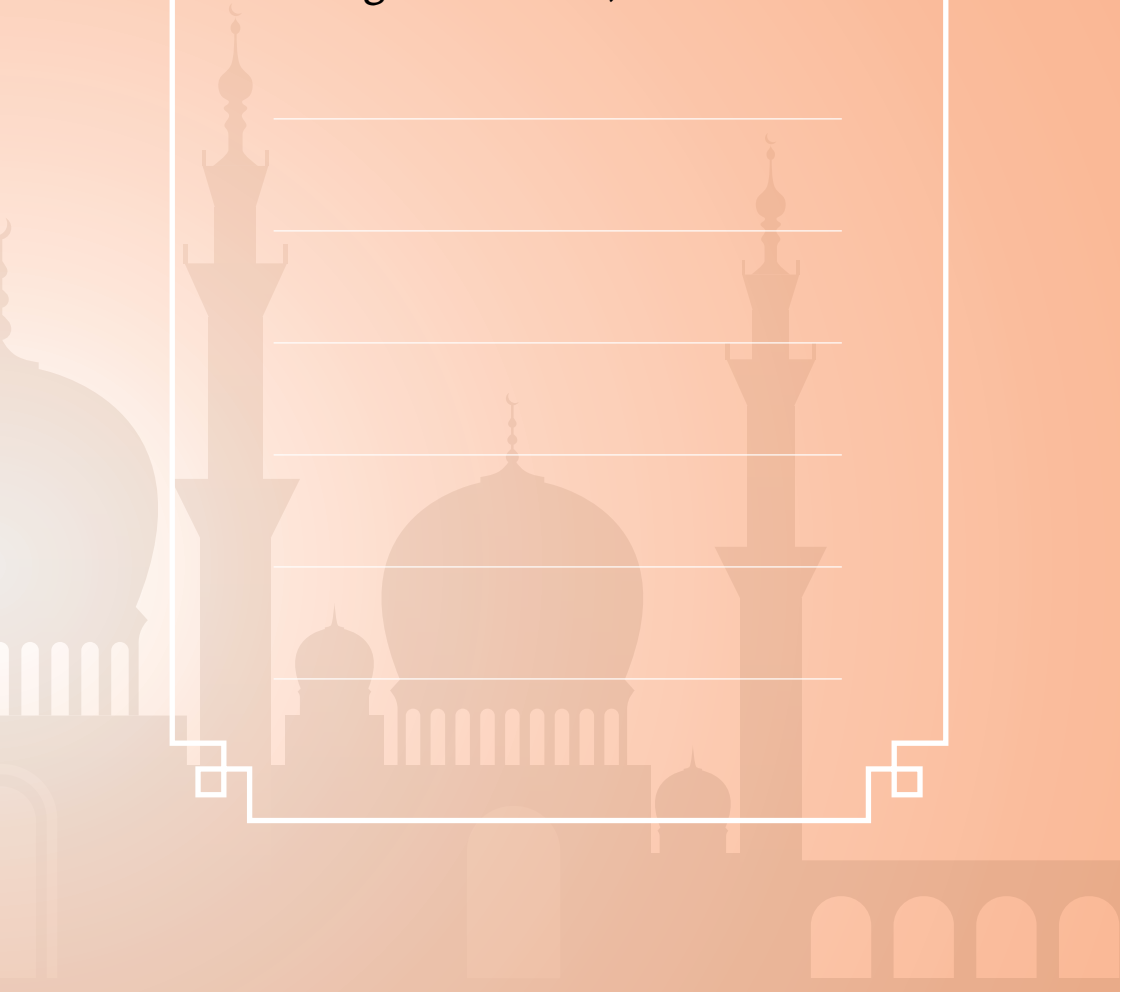
of the people.

Hazrat Usman^{ra} had a special focus on Friday Prayers and he added an additional *Azan* to the Friday Prayers.³³ It became the first *Azan* and alerted people to the fact that it is time for the Friday sermon and they should prepare themselves for the Prayer. They would arrive at the mosque before the regular *Azan* that was given when the imam arrived, so they would be able to hear the sermon in its entirety.

At the time of Hajj, Muslims from all across the empire listened to Hazrat Usman's sermons and met him as well. Masjid-e-Nabawi and Madinah served as the centre of moral training and religious education. Hence, all provinces under the Muslim empire not only offered moral training and religious education, but also allowed complete religious freedom to everyone.

More Information

Ask your older siblings or parents to tell you more about how Islam spread through conversion, not violence.



Recap

What did Hazrat
Usman^{ra} do to educate new
converts and spread the
teachings of Islam?

Publishing the Holy Quran

During the Holy Prophet's lifetime, the entire Holy Quran had been recorded on various materials such as leaves, pieces of wood and stones, and it was arranged as guided by revelation from Allah. When Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} became the Khalifah, he compiled the verses of the Quran together and arranged them in the order instructed by the Holy Prophet^{sas}. Various regions in Arabia had different dialects of Arabic. One word had various pronunciations depending on the tribe speaking it. In the beginning, people were allowed to use different pronunciations while reading the Quran, and so during the time of Hazrat Abu Bakr's leadership, there were different scripts of the Holy Quran. In Hazrat Usman's time, the need



A photograph of the Holy Quran

arose to send the Holy Quran to other parts of the world. Sensing a potential conflict, Hazrat Usman^{ra} decided to have all the scripts written in the dialect of the Holy Prophet's tribe, the Quraish. Hence, he had all the Qurans written under the same dialect and shipped them all across the Muslim world.³⁴ This act in the service of Islam is a significant achievement for Hazrat Usman's legacy empire.³⁵

Renovation of Masjid-e-Nabawi

The Holy Prophet^{sas} had built Masjid-e-Nabawi after migration to Madinah. Hazrat Usman^{ra} had bought neighbouring buildings, which helped expand the mosque during the Holy Prophet's life. However, its floor was still made of mud and the roof was made of bark of date trees and wood. The construction material was not durable and the roof leaked when it rained.

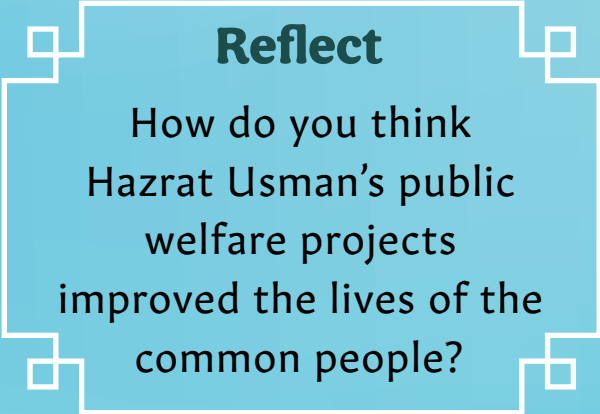
However, now the time had come to repair the mosque and use sturdy and durable materials to renovate the mosque. Hazrat Usman^{ra} used his own funds to fix the floors, walls and roof of the mosque in his *Khilaafat*.



Masjid-e-Nabawi—Present day interior

Construction of Buildings

Many new construction projects were started by Hazrat Usman^{ra} in each province to benefit the people. Hazrat Usman^{ra} took a personal interest in all these projects and made sure they were completed. This included buildings, roads, bridges, inns, etc. He expanded the lodging facilities in Kufa. New inns were built on the roads to Madinah and Najd. Drinking water wells were also constructed on roadsides. A dam was built around Madinah to prevent flooding. A canal was built to reroute the water flow. He also built military compounds in the territories that were conquered in his time. He also increased the number of pastures. In general, he created a lot more comfort in the lives of the public.



Reflect

How do you think
Hazrat Usman's public
welfare projects
improved the lives of the
common people?

Rise of Rebellion & Martyrdom

As the Islamic empire grew, many rebellions started in the second half of Hazrat Usman's *Khilaafat*. Some people who had lately joined Islam became jealous of the early Muslims. They started criticizing the rulers appointed by their Khalifah. In their greed and eagerness to free themselves from Islamic laws, they began plotting to take over the existing governments.

The person behind all these rebellions was a Jewish man named Abdullah bin Sabaa, who was from Yemen. He accepted Islam in the early half of Hazrat Usman's era only to divide the Muslims after he saw their growing prosperity. He was a vicious person and travelled all across the empire to get familiar with the situation and different customs in each territory. He

found like-minded people in each place he visited and established rebellions against the Islamic empire. Some of these people had been punished by the government, so he was able to easily preach his propaganda to them.³⁶ He also created a secret group in Egypt and sent his representatives to various provinces of the empire. For three years, his activities remained a secret and then after that, he deliberately and openly began spreading falsehoods about the *Khilaafat* to cause an uproar. He introduced the false idea that the Holy Prophet's real successor or guardian was Hazrat Ali^{ra}.

When Hazrat Usman^{ra} learnt about this secret scheme, he immediately sent some of the Companions to these states. However, they found no evidence of unrest. Nevertheless, Hazrat Usman^{ra} still gathered the governors of all the states in Madinah and consulted them. He instructed the governors to treat these rebels with kindness, talk to them directly,

and reason with them peacefully. He feared it might be the same chaos as prophesied by the Holy Prophet^{sas}.

Ameer Mu'aawiyah advised Hazrat Usman^{ra} to travel to Syria with him but Hazrat Usman^{ra} did not want to leave the city of the Holy Prophet^{sas} and instructed him not to send any armies to Madinah for his protection.

Meanwhile, Abdullah bin Sabaa and his followers decided to send groups of people to Madinah to ask Hazrat Usman^{ra} to step down from the *Khilaafat*. Hence, in 34th *Hijri*, his supporters came to Madinah after Hajj and made false accusations against Hazrat Usman^{ra} and asked him to resign. Hazrat Usman^{ra} responded to their false allegations very calmly and patiently. The rebels were not able to raise any more allegations so they left.

After leaving Madinah, they returned to Egypt, Kufa and Basra, encouraging their people to travel to Madinah with the excuse of

performing Umrah to murder Hazrat Usman^{ra}. Soon, thousands of rebels travelled to Madinah and surrounded Hazrat Usman's house for days.

In order to avoid any violence, Hazrat Usman^{ra} instructed all the Companions, his family members, and the Muslims of Madinah to disarm themselves. Despite his objections, Hazrat Usman's children and some Companions including Hazrat Zubair^{ra}, Hazrat Talha^{ra}, and Hazrat Ali's sons began guarding his house. When the rebels tried to break into the house, they continued to fight them off despite being very few in number.

The rebels set the main door on fire and some even jumped into the courtyard from neighbouring homes, and the enemy of Islam successfully martyred Hazrat Usman^{ra}. His martyrdom took place on 18 Dhul-Hajj 35 *Hijri*; 17 June 656.³⁷ Some say Hazrat Usman^{ra} was reciting the Holy Quran when he was martyred.

His wife, Naailah, tried to protect him but got injured.³⁸ The goal of the enemies was to end the *Khilaafat* and destroy the Islamic centre and unity. At the time of his passing away, Hazrat Usman^{ra} was 82 years old.³⁹

Reflect

How was the Holy Prophet's prophecy about Hazrat Usman's *Khilaafat* fulfilled?

Relationship with Allah

Hazrat Usman^{ra} was a very noble, pious, and cheerful person. He spent his entire life in the service of Islam and worship of Allah. Sometimes he would remain in prostration for the entire night and have intimate conversations with Allah. Perhaps Allah had foretold him about his martyrdom. His high morals, smile, and inner beauty were all because of his close relationship with Allah. Hazrat Usman^{ra} always made special arrangements for the Friday Prayers. He kept Fasts till a very old age, performed Hajj and regularly offered Zakat.

Love for the Holy Quran

Hazrat Usman^{ra} truly loved and cherished the Holy Quran and spent most of his time reciting it. His biggest service was publishing the Holy Quran during his *Khilaafat*. He was among the earliest and best *Haafiz* (the one who memorizes the Holy Quran).

Love for the Holy Prophet^{sas}

Hazrat Usman^{ra} was among those Companions who were especially devoted to the Holy Prophet^{sas}. Many times, the Holy Prophet^{sas} expressed his love for Hazrat Usman^{ra}. As he was married to two of the Prophet's daughters, he earned the title of *Zunnurain*. He sincerely fulfilled all wishes of the Holy Prophet^{sas}.

When his house was surrounded and a few Companions and his children tried to protect

him, Hazrat Usman^{ra} immediately instructed them to return home and to disarm⁴⁰ because he had already seen the Holy Prophet^{sas} in a dream, telling him he would join him for *Iftaar* (the breaking of the Fast), in the evening.⁴¹ He did not let anything come between his love and devotion for the Holy Prophet^{sas}.

Modesty

Hazrat Usman^{ra} was modest by nature. The Holy Prophet^{sas} was always sensitive towards the sentiments of Hazrat Usman^{ra}.⁴² On one occasion, the Holy Prophet^{sas} was lying down when Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra} arrived, but he remained lying. After some time, Hazrat Umar^{ra} arrived, but again, the Holy Prophet^{sas} remained lying. When Hazrat Usman^{ra} arrived, he instantly adjusted his clothes and said, 'There is a great deal of modesty in the disposition of Hazrat

Usman^{ra}, and it is in his consideration of his feelings that I have done this.’⁴³

Even though drinking alcohol was considered to be a source of pride, Hazrat Usman^{ra} was one of those rare men who had never consumed alcohol even before accepting Islam.⁴⁴

Patience and Forbearance

Hazrat Usman^{ra} had patience, forbearance, and simplicity from a very early age. After accepting Islam, he endured all hardships with patience and steadfastness. He excelled in patience especially in the last few years of his *Khilaafat* with the rise of the rebellion. Many people suggested that he should use force to squash the rebellion, but he said he would not use force where Islam did not allow him to, even if it took his life.

Hazrat Usman^{ra} faced many false allegations.

His cane, which was used by all the Khalifahs and the Holy Prophet^{sas} himself, was shattered by the rebels. They even stopped all food supplies from entering his house and set fire to his home. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was martyred. Hazrat Usman^{ra} not only practiced patience, but also instructed his Companions to do so. He left his matters completely to the will of Allah and embraced martyrdom with great bravery.

Benevolence

Hazrat Usman^{ra} spent generously in the service of Islam and humanity. He never turned away a needy person from his doorstep. Once when Madinah was stricken by a famine, he used his personal funds to provide food to thousands of needy people every day for a month. When he would go to Hajj, he would treat the pilgrims with meals.

Care for Orphans and Widows

Hazrat Usman^{ra} was kind and caring. Throughout his life, the great wealth Almighty Allah had given him, was generously spent for helping orphans, widows, and the poor. He had kept the belongings of some of the orphans and widows for safekeeping. In his last days, he gave them to Ummul-Momineen, Hazrat Umme Habibah^{ra}, to keep them safe. He was extremely protective of these items.

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Glossary

Azan—The Islamic call to Prayer. It is called before each of the five daily Prayers, reminding Muslims about the time of Prayer.

As-Saabiqoonal Awwaloon—An Arabic term that means ‘the foremost ones’. It refers to the early Muslim Companions of the Holy Prophet^{sas} who were the first to accept Islam and played an important role in spreading the message of Islam throughout Arabia.

Banu Hashim—An Arab clan within the Quraish tribe, to which Prophet Muhammad^{sas} belonged.

Banu Umayyah—An Arab clan within the Quraish tribe, to which Hazrat Usman^{ra} belonged.

Dhul Hijjah—The twelfth and final month of the Islamic calendar. It is the sacred month in which Hajj (Pilgrimage) takes place.

Hadith—A narration of words of the Holy Prophet^{sas} which have been written and preserved. It includes his teachings, advice, explanations of the verses of the Holy Quran, and more. *Ahaadith* serve as an important source of knowledge and guidance for Muslims.

Hazrat—A title used to honour a person.

Hijri—The Islamic calendar based on *Hijrah* (the Migration) of Prophet Muhammad^{sas} from Makkah to Madinah. The Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar, which consists of 12 months. *Hijri* indicates the number of years after the Migration. One *Hijri* year means one year after the date of the Prophet's Migration to Madinah.

Hudaibiyah—The place in western Arabia where the Treaty of Hudaibiyah took place.

Iftaar—The evening meal that Muslims have during the month of Ramadan to break their Fast after sunset.

Ka'abah—The first house of God located in the Great Mosque in Makkah, Saudi Arabia. It is a black, cube-shaped structure and is the most sacred site in Islam. Muslims face towards the direction of the Ka'abah when offering the five daily Prayers.

Khusro—The king of the Sassanid Empire, which was a powerful Persian Empire that existed during the early years of Islam.

Majlis-e-Shura—An Arabic term that means 'consultative body'. It is a group of people that gives advice and helps the leader in making decisions. The Holy Prophet^{sas} regularly consulted with this group of Companions before making important decisions.

Masjid-e-Nabawi—The Prophet's Mosque, built by the Holy Prophet^{sas} and his Companions in Madinah.

Mihraab—A niche or indentation in the front wall of a Mosque that indicates the direction that Muslims must face during Prayer. The Imam stands inside it when leading the salat.

Muezzin—The person who calls the Azan, the Islamic call to Prayer. The Azan is called five times a day, before each of the five daily Prayers, and reminds Muslims about the time of prayer and to come together for Prayer.

Muhaajir—A person who migrates (plural is *Muhaajireen*). The Muslims who migrated from Makkah to Madinah were known as Muhaajireen.

Muharram—The first month of the Islamic calendar. The Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar, which consists of 12 months.

Najaashi—Also known as Negus, Najaashi was the title given to the Christian ruler of Abyssinia (modern-day Ethiopia) during the time of Prophet Muhammad^{sas}. He was known as a just and compassionate ruler.

Nikah—The announcement of marriage in Islam.

Quraish—A powerful Arab tribe in Makkah to which Prophet Muhammad^{sas} belonged.

Rabiul-Awwal—The third month of the Islamic calendar.

Rajab—The seventh month of the Islamic calendar.

Salat—The Islamic Prayer is called *Salat*. It is one of the five pillars of Islam and a mandatory act of worship. *Salat* is performed by Muslims five times daily at specific times.

Shariah—Religious law of Islam. The term is also used in the general sense of any revealed law.

Sunnah—The life and traditions of the Holy Prophet^{sas} which serve as a model for Muslims to follow in their personal and spiritual lives. It includes his actions, teachings, habits, and conduct. It is an important source of guidance for

Muslims, as it gives an insight into the Prophet's character and his approach to living according to the principles of Islam.

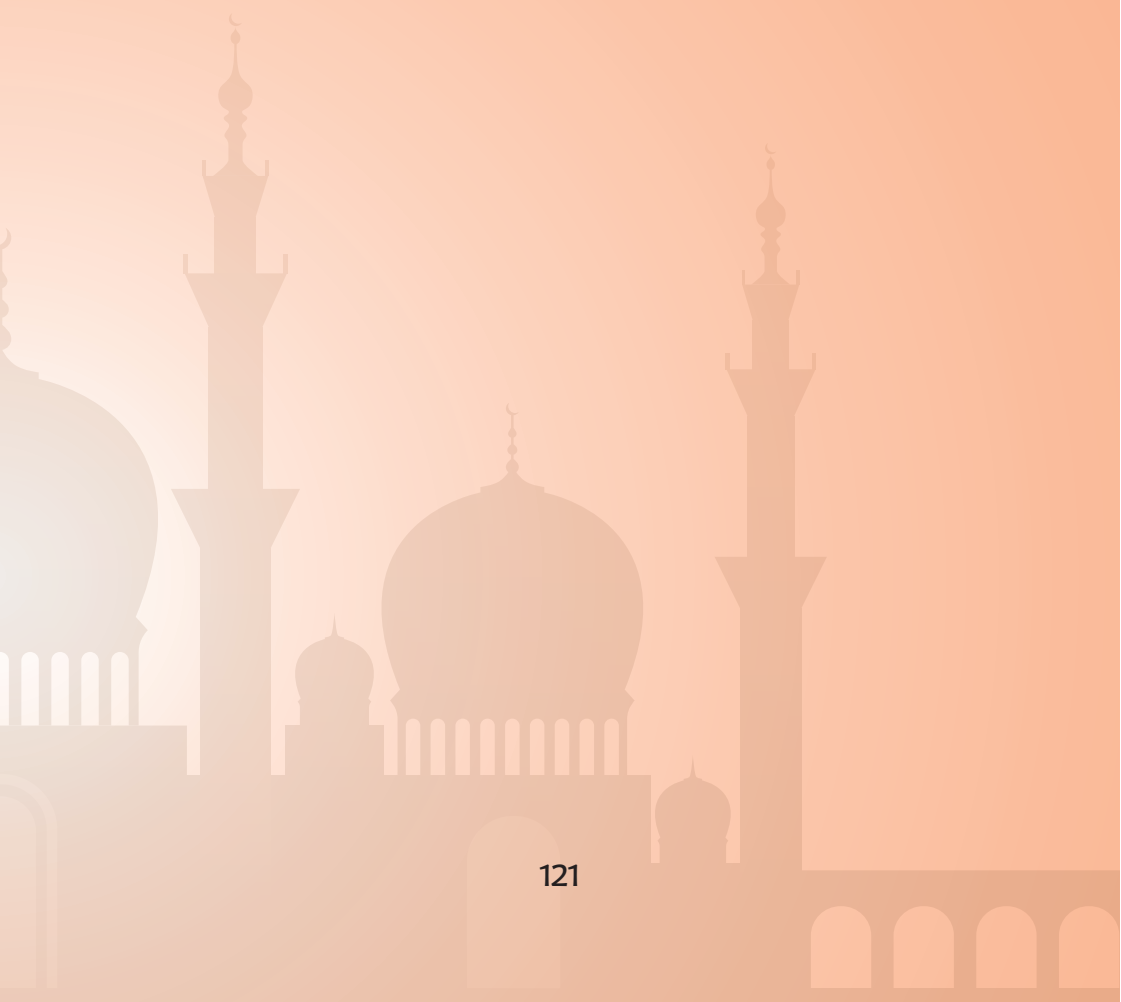
Uhud—A mountain located in the north of Madinah. It was the site of the Battle of Uhud, which was fought between the Muslims and the Makkan army.

Ummul-Momineen—Translates to 'Mother of the Believers'. It is an honorary title given to the wives of the Prophets. It is a mark of respect for these women who are considered 'mothers' of the community.

Umrah—Also known as the lesser pilgrimage, it can be performed at any time of the year by visiting the Ka'abah and completing some rituals.

Yathrib—The original name of the city of Madinah before Islam.

Zakat—Zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam. It means to purify something. A percentage of 2.5 of our unused wealth or savings is given to help people in need. It is a way to purify our wealth and show gratitude to God for all the blessings we have.



Activities



Word Search

P	P	K	M	L	H	Q	V	M	A	Q	P	C	K	J
I	B	E	F	Q	Z	H	M	R	K	O	V	O	H	H
O	N	L	A	A	A	J	C	W	S	X	Z	M	V	U
U	B	F	H	C	I	U	Y	R	V	R	G	P	A	M
S	J	E	A	E	E	T	P	C	V	D	E	A	K	A
M	Y	C	X	C	W	F	H	A	B	R	N	S	I	N
C	O	T	H	E	I	O	U	F	G	E	T	S	N	I
G	H	D	J	A	M	V	I	L	U	B	L	I	D	T
G	V	O	E	C	R	P	Y	N	A	L	E	O	T	A
P	S	R	S	S	R	I	L	E	R	H	S	N	H	R
J	U	W	N	P	T	T	T	A	E	A	F	A	D	I
P	O	L	A	T	I	F	A	A	R	Z	M	T	O	A
Y	R	C	H	S	P	T	U	D	B	Y	H	E	O	N
D	E	O	R	O	H	P	A	U	X	L	M	H	R	T
X	N	P	G	D	L	E	C	B	O	I	E	H	U	G

Traits of Hazrat Usman^{ra}

COMPASSIONATE

KIND

CHARITABLE

GENTLE

HUMANITARIAN

EXEMPLARY

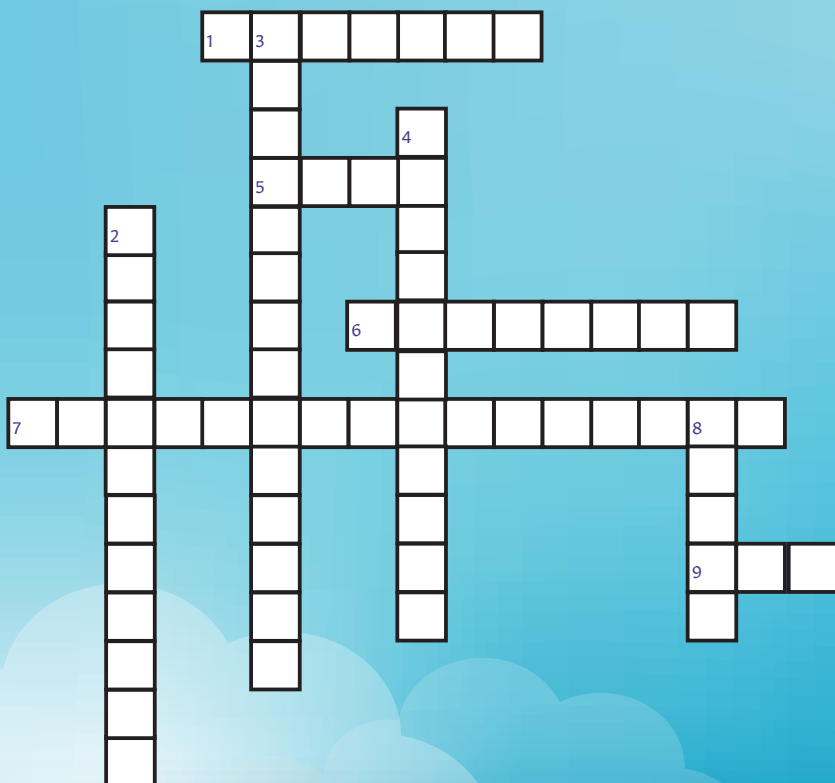
PEACEFUL

MODEST

FAITHFUL

PIOUS

Crossword Puzzle



Relationships of Hazrat Usman^{ra}

ACROSS

- 2. The second daughter of the Holy Prophet^{sas}
whom, Hazrat Usman^{ra} married
- 5. His mother's name
- 6. The first daughter of the Holy Prophet^{sas}
whom, Hazrat Usman^{ra} married
- 7. His uncle who raised him after his father
- 9. His oldest son's name

DOWN

- 1. His wife at the time of his martyrdom
- 3. His foster brother who became the
governor of Egypt
- 4. The Makkan clan he belonged to
- 8. His father's name

True or False

General Knowledge

1. Hazrat Usman^{ra} married both daughters of the Holy Prophet^{sas} at the same time.

TRUE FALSE

2. Hazrat Usman^{ra} asked the Holy Prophet^{sas} to punish his foster brother Abdullah bin Sa'ad for his crimes.

TRUE FALSE

3. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was of a good financial stature and had an influence on people of Makkah.

TRUE FALSE

4. Hazrat Usman^{ra} left Makkah because of the persecution.

TRUE FALSE

5. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was the second Khalifah after the Holy Prophet^{sas} passed away.

TRUE FALSE

6. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was the representative at the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah.

TRUE FALSE

7. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was martyred by some rebels.

TRUE FALSE

8. Hazrat Usman^{ra} was very young when he became the Khalifah.

TRUE FALSE

Questions

Influence & Time as Khalifah

1. Why did the Holy Prophet^{sas} send Hazrat Usman^{ra} as his representative at the time of the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah?

2. What dream did Hazrat Usman^{ra} have the night before he was martyred?

3. List three major initiatives undertaken by Hazrat Usman^{ra} during his Khilaafat.

4. What prophecy did the Holy Prophet^{sas} make about Hazrat Usman's *Khilaafat*?

5. During Hazrat Usman's time as Khalifah, the Muslims fought at sea for the first time. How did the Muslims defeat the Romans?

Reflection Questions

1. What did you know about Hazrat Usman^{ra} before reading this book?

2. How were you inspired from Hazrat Usman's life?

3. What moral values did you learn from this book?

4. How do we continue to benefit from Hazrat Usman's work for Islam?

Activity Answers



Wordsearch

Solutions

P	P	K	M	L	H	Q	V	M	A	Q	P	C	K	J
I	B	E	F	Q	Z	H	M	R	K	O	V	O	H	H
O	N	L	A	A	A	J	C	W	S	X	Z	M	V	U
U	B	F	H	C	I	U	Y	R	V	R	G	P	A	M
S	J	E	A	E	E	T	P	C	V	D	E	A	K	A
M	Y	C	X	C	W	F	H	A	B	R	N	S	I	N
C	O	T	H	E	I	O	U	F	G	E	T	S	N	I
G	H	D	J	A	M	V	I	L	U	B	L	I	D	T
G	V	O	E	C	R	P	Y	N	A	L	E	O	T	A
P	S	R	S	S	R	I	L	E	R	H	S	N	H	R
J	U	W	N	P	T	T	T	A	E	A	F	A	D	I
P	O	L	A	T	I	F	A	A	R	Z	M	T	O	A
Y	R	C	H	S	P	T	U	D	B	Y	H	E	O	N
D	E	O	R	O	H	P	A	U	X	L	M	H	R	T
X	N	P	G	D	L	E	C	B	O	I	E	H	U	G

Crossword Solutions



True or False

Solutions

1. **FALSE** It is not allowed in Islam for two sisters to be in a marriage at the same time.
2. **FALSE** Due to his compassionate nature, Hazrat Usman^{ra} asked the Holy Prophet^{sas} to pardon his brother.
3. **TRUE**
4. **TRUE**
5. **FALSE** Hazrat Usman^{ra} was the third Khalifah after the Holy Prophet^{sas}.
6. **TRUE**
7. **TRUE**
8. **FALSE** He was 70 years old, but fulfilled all of his responsibilities.

Answers to Questions

1. The Holy Prophet^{sas} sent Hazrat Usman^{ra} as his representative because Hazrat Usman^{ra} was influential among the Quraish. His clan, Banu Umayyah, was very powerful in Makkah.
2. Hazrat Usman^{ra} had a dream the night before he was to be martyred that the Holy Prophet^{sas} was to join him for *iftaar* (the breaking of the Fast).
3. During the *Khilaafat* of Hazrat Usman^{ra}, the Muslims established a navy to defend in the wars on sea for the very first time. Hazrat Usman^{ra} appointed Imams and *Muezzins* in each of the mosques. He added an additional *Azan* to the Friday Prayers. He had the Quran

written in a single dialect. He also expanded Masjid-e-Nabawi.

4. The Holy Prophet^{sas} had prophesied that Allah would dress Hazrat Usman^{ra} in a tunic. He told Hazrat Usman^{ra} that if people tell him to take off the tunic, he must keep it on at all costs. This prophecy encompassed Hazrat Usman's *Khilaafat* and the chaos that would later arise among Muslim rebels.
5. The Muslims gained a lot of ships which were added to the naval fleet, making the Muslim navy forces even stronger. The Muslims joined all their ships together and defeated the Romans.

Publisher's Note

Salutations are recited out of respect when mentioning the names of Prophets and holy personages. These salutations have been abbreviated and inserted into the text where applicable.

sas *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, meaning 'may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him,' is written after the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sas}.

as *'alaihis-salaam*, meaning 'peace be on him,' is written after the names of Prophets other than the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sas}.

ra *raziyallahu‘anhu/‘anhaa/‘anhum*, meaning ‘may Allah be pleased with him/her/them,’ is written after the names of the Companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sas} or of the Promised Messiah^{as}.

rta *rahmatullah* ‘*alaihi/‘alaihaa/‘alaihim*, meaning ‘may Allah shower His mercy upon him/her/them,’ is written after the names of those deceased pious Muslims who are not Companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sas} or of the Promised Messiah^{as}.

My Notes



