

THE **F1RST**S

A Lecture Series

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INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC RESEARCH

Uthman ibn Affan (ra):

Part 2

'Uthman (ra)'s contributions span thousands of pages, but here we focus on how his virtues tie to significant moments in his life, especially with the Prophet ﷺ.

Bay'at ur-Ridwan (The Pledge of Ridwan)

At Hudaibiyyah, when the Prophet ﷺ and the companions (ra) were on the way to Makkah expecting Hajj, they were instead given a treaty. 'Uthman (ra) was sent to Makkah as an ambassador to try to negotiate with Quraysh. The people of Makkah trusted and loved 'Uthman (ra) before Islam.

'Uthman (ra) negotiates on behalf of the Muslims and he is held back in Makkah. They held him up by delaying these negotiations. A rumor gets back to the Muslims that 'Uthman (ra) has been killed. At this, the Prophet ﷺ and the companions take a pledge of death -- a pledge to march towards Makkah to death because of the murder of 'Uthman (ra). Allah (SWT) says,

لَقَدْ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ يُبَايِعُونَكَ تَحْتَ الشَّجَرَةِ فَعَلِمَ مَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ فَأَنْزَلَ السَّكِينَةَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَثَابَهُمْ فَتْحًا قَرِيبًا

Certainly was Allah pleased with the believers when they pledged allegiance to you, [O Muhammad], under the tree, and He knew what was in their hearts, so He sent down tranquillity upon them and rewarded them with an imminent conquest [Surah al-Fath, Ayah 18]

The Prophet ﷺ told those 1400 people who took the pledge with him, "you are the best people on the face of the Earth." Just like at Badr when the Prophet ﷺ counted 'Uthman (ra) as one of the people of Badr despite him not being able to participate in the battle, here the Prophet ﷺ clasped both of hands and counted 'Uthman (ra) as one of the companions who pledged.

Meanwhile in Makkah, 'Uthman (ra) is given permission to perform tawaf around the Ka'bah but he refused because he did not want to perform tawaf before the Prophet ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ knew 'Uthman (ra) would not perform tawaf before him ﷺ.

‘Uthman (ra) was Told He would be Killed

There are no less than ten times that the Prophet ﷺ told ‘Uthman (ra) that he would be killed.

- ❑ In one incident, the Prophet ﷺ was sitting away from the people by a well, and Abu Musa al-’Ashari (ra) was guarding the area. Someone asked to enter and the Prophet ﷺ allowed him to enter and asked to give him the glad tidings of Jannah. It was none other than Abu Bakr (ra). Then another person came and asked for permission to enter, and the Prophet ﷺ again told Abu Musa (ra) to give him permission and give him glad tidings of Jannah. The second was ‘Umar (ra). When a third person came and asked for permission to enter, the Prophet ﷺ was in a leaning posture but at that point he sat up and said, “open the gate for him, and give him the glad tidings of entering Jannah after a calamity that will befall him.” It was ‘Uthman (ra) at the gate, and when Abu Musa (ra) relayed these words, he responded “Allahul Musta’aan - from Allah (SWT) alone is help sought.” ‘Uthman (ra) entered the garden and sat across from Abu Bakr and ‘Umar (ra).
- ❑ In another incident, the Prophet ﷺ was on Uhud and with him were Abu Bakr (ra), ‘Umar (ra), and ‘Uthman (ra). As the Prophet ﷺ was walking on Uhud, Uhud shook. The Prophet ﷺ said, “Be firm oh Uhud, for you have upon you a Nabi, a Siddeeq, and Shahidayn [a Prophet, a man of truth, and two martyrs]. The Prophet ﷺ had already informed ‘Umar and ‘Uthman (ra) that they would be martyrs.
- ❑ Another time, the Prophet ﷺ was talking about the trials that would befall us as a community, and a man who had his face covered walked by and the Prophet ﷺ said - this man will be upon truth and guidance. He said it multiple times until ‘Uthman (ra) unwrapped his face, it was him.
- ❑ In another narration from A’isha (ra), the Prophet ﷺ told ‘Uthman (ra), “Perhaps Allah (SWT) will clothe you with a certain garment and if the hypocrites demand that you remove it from yourself, do not remove it until you meet me.” The wording here is very important - the garment is the khilaafah.
- ❑ In another narration from A’isha (ra), ‘Uthman (ra) entered upon the Prophet ﷺ, and he ﷺ told him to come close, and he got so close that the Prophet ﷺ was whispering into his ear, and he ﷺ was whispering into his ear, ‘Uthman (ra)’s face was changing colors. When the Prophet ﷺ asked him if he understood the gravity of what he had just heard, he responded that his ears heard and his heart understood.

The Prophet ﷺ advised the community to stay close to al-Ameen (the trustworthy one) - ‘Uthman (ra) - and those that are with him during the times of trials.

Once when A'isha (ra) noticed how the Prophet ﷺ treated 'Uthman (ra) extra special, she asked about it and the Prophet ﷺ responded, "should I not be shy from a man that even the angels are shy from?"

'Uthman (ra)'s Qualities in Hardship

There were so many contributions and much good in the beginning of 'Uthman (ra)'s khilaafah. Towards the end, the fitnah and dissension from within is what caused much harm.

In one incident, a man from outside of Makkah saw 'Abdullah ibn 'Umar (ra) and questioned him about 'Uthman (ra)-- did you know that he fled Uhud? Did you know that he wasn't there for Badr and Bay'at ur-Ridwan? 'Abdullah ibn 'Umar (ra) responded yes, so the man was astounded at how they could choose 'Uthman (ra) as the khalifah. Look at how rumors and half-truths spread. We know that Allah (SWT) forgave those who left Uhud, and we know that 'Uthman (ra) was taking care of the daughter of the Prophet ﷺ during Badr, and that the entire Pledge of Ridwan was sparked because they thought he was murdered.

Unfortunately young people got involved in this fitan, when these half-truths were spun they were. They accused 'Uthman (ra) of nepotism (spending on his family from Bayt-ul-maal), then they said he raised the mimbar, that he innovated in regards to the time of Fajr, and so on.

'Uthman (ra) became a victim of these massive rumors. It's important how his virtues shone even in this hardship.

- ❑ 'Uthman (ra) was attached to the Qur'an, he found peace and tranquility in the Qur'an. He would hate if a day passed without him looking at a page of the Qur'an. Some books mention that he would read the Qur'an twice in a day, they mention that he would do a khatam of the Qur'an in front of the Ka'bah in one rak'ah or two rak'ahs. He would even die while reading the Qur'an.
- ❑ 'Uthman (ra)'s hayaa' stopped him from mentioning his favors to the people, his sadaqah, and so on.
- ❑ 'Uthman (ra) feared dhulm to an extreme. Once he pinched a young servant, and saw that the young man may not have liked it. He asked the servant to pinch him back, even harder.
- ❑ He was so selfless, he did not allow a drop of blood to be shed in his cause.
- ❑ He was the most generous to this Ummah, yet he was the first khalifah to be killed by members of it.

'Uthman (ra) was fasting on the last day of his life, he takes a nap on that day. It's a Thursday and he sees none other than the Prophet ﷺ in his dream. The Prophet ﷺ says to 'Uthman (ra), "Oh 'Uthman, have they prohibited you from water?" And 'Uthman (ra) says "yes ya Rasulallah. "Have they prohibited you from food?" They were starving him, holding him under siege. "Ya Uthman did they prohibit you from praying in my masjid" "Yes, ya Rasulallah." The Prophet ﷺ tells 'Uthman (ra), "Glad tidings oh 'Uthman; tonight you will break your fast with me, Abu Bakr, and 'Umar." SubhanAllah, he wakes up so happy, and he is killed while reading the Qur'an.

'Uthman (ra) was prohibited from being buried in the Baqee', he was prohibited from having a public janazah, so that the emotions would not be stirred. SubhanAllah Sa'eed ibn Al-Masayib (ra) said that the way 'Uthman (ra) was placed at the well, is the way he's buried. And Allah 'Azza wa Jal willed it so that the Baqee' would expand to include the grave of the Prophet ﷺ.

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