

Lecture No. 21: History of Islam-II

(Module 1(90): The life and services of the Second Righteous Caliph: Hazrat Umar Farooq R.A)

Introduction: His name was "Umar", his surname was "Abu Hafs", his title was "Farooq" and his tribe was "Banu Adi". He was born 13 years after the year of Elephant. A slave named Abu Lulu Feroze seriously wounded him with a dagger during the Fajr prayer. Three days later, he was martyred on Saturday, 1 Muharram, 24 Hijri.

Personal Traits: Hazrat Umar R.A was skilled in horse-riding, wrestling, and martial arts of his time, an excellent orator, and had a great power of judgment. Therefore, in the pre-Islamic days (Jahiliyyah), the people of Quraish used to come to him for the solution to their disputes. He was one of the few educated people of Quraish and he had such a formidable personality that after his acceptance of Islam, Muslims started to perform public prayers in the Haram Kaaba.

Life after Acceptance of Islam: In the sixth year of Prophethood, at the age of twenty-seven, he became a Muslim. After reading Surah Taha in his sister's house, the truth of Islam became clear in his heart. Unlike other Muslims, he made a declaration of emigration and no one had the courage to stop him. On the occasion of the Battle of Tabuk, he gave half of his wealth and means in the way of Allah. On the demise of the Prophet (PBUH), he, out of his sheer love for the prophet (PBUH), he pronounced that he would blow off the neck of the person who would say that the prophet had departed.

Virtues and Qualities: In the chapter on the virtues of Hazrat Umar Farooq RA, it is a significant merit that the Prophet PBUH specially prayed for him to accept Islam. (O Allah! Give Islam supremacy with the acceptance of Islam by Umar bin Khattab or Umar bin Hisham (Abu Jahl).) After his conversion to Islam, Hazrat Gabriel told the Prophet ﷺ that the people of heaven were also very happy with the acceptance of Islam by Umar. You held such a position of faith and piety, the devil (Satan) left the path he was on. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "O Ibn Khattab! By the One in whose hand is my soul, If Satan sees you walking on a certain path, he will leave it and follow another path." On another occasion, the Prophet (PBUH) said: "Among the Ummahs who passed before you, there used to be muhaddath. And if there is a muhaddath in my ummah, then he is Umar. (A muhaddath is one who is inspired by Allah and receives Ilham without his intention. In another hadith, the Prophet (ﷺ) explained it as follows: "Allah has placed truth on the tongue and heart of Umar. He speaks the truth." The Prophet ﷺ said, "As long as this person (Umar) is among you, the door of chaos and commotion will remain closed."

Ancestors of Hazrat Umar R.A: Hazrat Umar Farooq RA initiated many good and virtuous deeds during his caliphate, which are known as Awliyaat (initiations of) Umar RA.

1. On the advice of Hazrat Ali R.A, he started the Hijri year.

2. Separated the judiciary from the administration.
3. Established **Bait Al-Mal (Treasury)**.
4. Established the **army** department and fixed the salaries of volunteer fighters.
5. New cities such as Kufa, Basra, Mosul, Fustat etc. were established.
6. Conducted Census.
7. Inns were established for travelers between Makkah and Madinah.
8. Dug new canals and arranged irrigation.
9. Fixed the salaries of Imams and Muazzins.
10. Established religious schools for the teaching of Qur'an, Hadith and Fiqh and appointed salaried teachers in them.

Agreement of Umar's Thoughts with Divine Revelation: Several commandments and verses of the Holy Qur'an were revealed in the agreement of Hazrat Umar Farooq. These are called "Umar's agreements (Muwaafiqat e Umar), which are as follows:

1. killed a person who did not accept the decision of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).
2. Command to offer prayers at Maqam-e-Ibrahim.
3. Ruling on the veiling of Muslim women.
4. Prohibition of alcohol.
5. The opinion of killing the prisoners of Badr.
6. Marital relation with wives is permitted during the nights of Ramadan.
7. Hazrat Ayesha's R.A purity and innocence, expressed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on the occasion of the Afiq (slandering) incident.
8. command to take permission before entering houses.

Hazrat Ka'b (R.A) Al-Ahbar R.A (who was a great scholar of the Torah and the Gospel) once said that the king of heaven regrets the king of the earth. So Hazrat Umar R.A replied, "But not on the king who controls his soul." Upon this Ka'b Al-Ahbar R.A said, "By Allah, these words are written in the Torah."

(Module 2(91): The introduction and features of the Farooqi Caliphate)

After the death of the first caliph, Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique R.A, Hazrat Umar Farooq R.A was appointed as caliph. He said, "O Allah! I am hard; make me soft; I am weak; give me strength; I am stingy; make me generous." Then he said, "People! Allah has tested you through me after my two companions." By Allah, I will solve your case which are before me, and I will appoint strong and trustworthy people for the cases that are far away from me. By God! If people treat me well, I will treat them well. And if people misbehave with me, I will punish them severely."

Important Steps of the Khilafat: During his reign, many areas (Damascus, Homs, Baalbak, Basra, Elah, Jordan, Tiberius, Madain, Tikrit, Aleppo, Antioch, Nishapur, Helwan, Samsat, Haran, Nasibi, Mosul, Caesarea, Egypt, Alexandria, etc.) were conquered. The Department of Finance, Police, Jails, and Judiciary were established; land was measured; the postal system was established; Masjid Nabwi and Haram Kaaba were expanded and Maqam-e-Ibrahim, which was adjacent to Kaabah, was moved a little to some distance so that those performing Tawaf and praying would have convenience; regular lists were prepared for the distribution of duties among the people; and stipends were fixed for abandoned and destitute children.

Important Features of Khilafat-e-Farooqi: The salient features of Hazrat Umar Farooq's R.A era were that the Shura (Mutual Consultation) system was followed in all matters and that the opinion of the Companions of Badr was given special importance. The elders, as well as, the youth were included in Majlis-e- Shura so that they could be trained and, in the future, be able to take up this responsibility. He especially took care that all the members of Shura should be Hafiz of Quran.

During his reign, it was a condition for the governors that "they should not ride a Turkish horse, not eat good food, not wear fine clothes, always keep the door open for the needy. At the time of the appointment of each governor, the details of his assets were recorded." They used to write it down and save it in Baitul-Mal." In the era of Farooqui, the subjects had a lot of freedom. They had the freedom to travel at any time in the morning and evening, the sanctity of their residence, the ownership of property, and the freedom to express their opinions. Non-Muslims had all human rights as well as complete religious freedom. People's rights were taken special care of. He used to say: "I am responsible to Allah for even the slightest loss or pain of my subjects."