

Lecture No. 20: History of Islam-I

(Module 1(87): Introduction and characteristics of the Righteous Caliphate)

Meaning and Introduction of Khilafah-e-Rashida:

“Khilafah” is an Arabic word that means vicegerent and caliphate. The term caliphate refers to a political system, in which the commands and laws of Allah Almighty should be implemented and life should be lived accordingly. Similarly, the word Rashidah is derived from “Rushd” which means "guidance", and Rashidah means "guided". That is, “Khilafah Rashidah” is the period of Khilafah in which the Qur'an and Sunnah were fully followed. Khilafah-e-Rashida refers to the 30-year caliphate of the four caliphs, Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq, Hazrat Umar Farooq, Hazrat Usman Ghani, and Hazrat Ali Murtaza, after the death of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The Caliphate-e-Rashida began in 11 Hijri and ended in 40 Hijri.

Importance of Khilafah-e-Rashida: The jurists have considered the establishment of the Khilafah system and the appointment of the Caliph among the duties and obligations of the Ummah.

Two Arguments of Shah Wali Allah:

1. After the demise of the Prophet (PBUH), the Companions first elected the Caliph.
2. Many explicit commands of the Holy Qur'an are based on the establishment of the government; for example, the enforcement of Hudud laws and Retribution, the establishment of peace and justice, the system of Bait-ul-Mal and Zakat, the continuation of Jihad, and the collective system of commanding the good and forbidding the evil are requirements of the government system.

Salient Features of Khilafat-e-Rashidah:

Complete Obedience to Quran and Sunnah: In the Caliphate, the teachings of Islam were strictly observed in all matters, reforms, and decisions.

Shura System (Consultation): In the Khilafat-i-Rashida, the Shurah system was in force, and according to the rules of Islam, decisions were issued after consultation with the Majlis Shura (a kind of parliament).

Accountability of Officials: The officials and governors who were appointed during the Khilafah-i-Rashidah were accountable under the law which was same for all. They could be held accountable for any illegal activity.

Complete Welfare State: In all the initiatives, reforms, and decisions taken during the era of Khilafah-e-Rashida, the welfare, prosperity, and development of the people were kept in mind.

Justice and Fairness: During the era of the Rashidun Caliphs, justice and fairness in law were the same for the rich, the poor, the black, the white, the caliph, and the common man.

Protection of Public Rights: In the Rashidah Caliphate, the rights of the people were strictly protected, and no one could violate anyone's rights. Non-Muslims also had all human and civil rights according to Islamic teachings, and religious freedom was also enjoyed.

(Module 2 (88): The life and services of the 1st Righteous Caliph: Hazrat Abu-Bakr Siddiq R.A)

Introduction: His name is "Abdullah", his surname is "Abu Bakr", his title is "Siddiq (he confirmed the ascension immediately), Atiq (the Prophet (PBUH), said: You are freed from the fire by Allah), and belonged to the tribe, Bani Tayyim". He was born two years and a few months after the year of Elephants and died on the night of Jamadi Al-Akhr, 13 Hijri, due to continuous fever. He was buried by the side of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He was 63 years old at the time of his death.

Personal Features and Benefits: Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique (RA) was the first among men to accept Islam. He (RA) was one of the honourable men of the Quraysh. He never indulged into common activities such as idolatry and alcoholism, even before accepting Islam; and he was the greatest of the Arabs in knowledge of history and genealogy. A chief of Makkah (Ibn Daghnah) once described the following qualities of Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique: "You help the needy, take care of your relatives, and take the burden of the people, i.e., the debt, as a host your guests and help people in their distress. "

Life after Accepting Islam: After the acceptance of Islam, as a result his efforts in the preaching of Islam many great companions converted to Islam. He bought and freed many slaves who had become Muslims (Hazrat Bilal bin Rabah, Amir Bin Fahira, Zunira, and Nahdia). He made all the arrangements for the migration to Madinah, paid for the site of the Prophet's Mosque, participated in all the battles, and gave all his wealth in the way of Allah on the occasion of the Battle of Tabuk in 9 Hijri. In the first regular Hajj, he was appointed the In-charge of Hajj (Ameer Hajj) by the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Virtues and Qualities: He is counted among the Ten Blessed Companions. His parents, children, and children's children were companions of the Prophet (PBUH). The Prophet (PBUH) gave him the good news of entering into Paradise in this world, and the Prophet (PBUH) declared in clear terms that he was dearest to him. Explaining his status, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "I have repaid the kindness of every person in the world except of Abu Bakr." At another place, he said, "Abu Bakr is the person who will be called from all the gates of Paradise on the Day of Judgement."

(Module 3 (89): The introduction and features of the Siddiqi Caliphate)

After the death of the Prophet (PBUH), the election of an Ameer was very important to keep the Ummah together, so the Companions (R.A.) gathered for consultation in a place called "Saqeefah Bani Sa'idah" in Madinah and finally chose Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique (R.A.). The first caliph of the Muslims was unanimously elected.

The Main Reasons for the Appointment of Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq as the First Caliph:

1. The importance and status of Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq were the highest in the eyes of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).
2. During the blessed life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), he assumed the position of the Ameer (In-Charge) and Imam of two important and basic acts of worship, Hajj and Salat.
3. Apart from this, he had a very distinguished position among the people due to his knowledge, grace, greatness, honor, and Islam. General services were also prominent.

Important Steps of the Caliphate: Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq RA sent the army prepared by the Prophet (PBUH) under the leadership of Hazrat Osama bin Zaid RA appointed by the prophet (PBUH) to confront Romans (Byzantine), despite the difficult circumstances. He had to encounter the false claimants of prophethood (Musailma Qadhab, Aswad Ansi, Talihah bin Khuwayld, and Sajah. Bint al-Harith). He led a powerful and successful campaign against tribes and individuals who refused to pay Zakat. On the advice of Hazrat Umar Farooq, the Holy Quran was compiled into a book. He started jihadi campaigns abroad against the Romans (Byzantine) and Persian Empires and conquered the lands of Iraq, Syria and Makran, etc.

Important Features of Khilafah-e-Siddiqi: In the era of Siddiqi, the Shura (consultation) system was followed. In all important matters, the nobles and the people with authority were consulted. For better administration the kingdom was divided into several provinces (Madinah, Makkah, Taif, Sana'a, Najran, Hadramout, Bahrain, and Dumat al-Jandal). For the convenience of the people and for the understanding and education of religious matters, the Department of Ifta was established in every province, and muftis (Jurists) were appointed in them. He adopted a very careful and gentle attitude towards non-Muslims, and they were given equal rights to Muslims.