

The History of the Four Caliphs

Itmām al-Wafā' fī Sīrat al-Khulafā'



SHAYKH MUḤAMMAD
AL-KHUḌARĪ BAK AL-BĀJŪRĪ

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With full-colour maps



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Contents



FOREWORD	11
ABOUT THE AUTHOR	13
INTRODUCTION	15
THE CALIPHATE	19
The meaning of the caliphate	19
The obligation of appointing the caliph	20
A single <i>imām</i>	20
The person at the helm of the caliphate	21
The underlying reason for reserving the caliphate for the Quraysh	22
Prerequisites for the caliph	24
Choosing the caliph	24
Obedience to the <i>imām</i>	26
Disobeying the <i>imām</i>	27
Declaring war on the <i>imām</i>	27
Punishment of those who wage war on the <i>imām</i>	28
The duties of the <i>imām</i>	29
PART 1: THE ERA OF UNITY	
THE CALIPHATE OF ABŪ BAKR ﷺ	31
The profile of Abū Bakr ﷺ	33
His services to Islām during his caliphate	37
Dispatching the army of Usāmah ibn Zayd ﷺ	37
Matters of apostasy	38
ʿAbs and Dhibyān	39
Abū Bakr’s ﷺ letter to the commanders	41
Abū Bakr’s ﷺ letter to the apostates	42
Ṭulayḥah	44
Mālīk ibn Nuwayrah	45
Musaylimah	46

Bahrain	49
Oman	50
Aswad	51
The Kindah	53
Iraq	55
The battle of Ubullah	56
The battle of Thiny	58
The battle of Walajah	58
The battle of Ullays	58
The conquest of Ḥīrah	59
Beyond Ḥīrah	60
The conquest of Anbār	61
The conquest of ʿAyn at-Tamr	61
The conquest of Dūmat al-Jandal	61
Ḥuṣayd and Khanāfis	62
Firāḍ	63
Khālīd ﷺ is sent to the Levant	63
Bābil (Babylon)	63
The Romans	64
The battle of Yarmūk	68
The death of Abū Bakr ﷺ	70
THE CALIPHATE OF ʿUMAR IBN AL-KHAṬṬĀB ﷺ	75
The profile of ʿUmar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb ﷺ	75
The Iraḳī campaign during the era of ʿUmar ﷺ	79
The battle of Namāriq	80
The battle of the Bridge (<i>Jisr</i>)	81
The battle of Buwayb	83
Khanāfis and Sūq Baghdād	84
The crowning of Yazdajird	84
Saʿd is appointed commander and ʿUmar’s ﷺ advice to him	85
The descent to Qādisiyyah	88
Yazdajird is invited to Islām	89
The battle of Qādisiyyah	91
Discussions with Rustam	91
Rustam’s address to his soldiers	93
The first day: the Day of Armāth	94
The second day: the Day of Aghwāth	94
The third day: the Day of ʿAmmās	95
The Night of Harīr and the Day of Qādisiyyah	96
The conquest of Burs and Bābil	97
The conquest of Kūthā and Sābāt	98

The conquest of Madāʿin	98
Crossing over to east Madāʿin and the Īwān	100
Yazdajird flees and the Muslims enter the White House	101
The conquest of Jalūlāʾ	102
The conquest of Tikrīt	103
The conquest of Nīnawā (Nineveh) and Mawṣil (Mosul)	104
The conquest of Māsabadhān, Hit and Qarqisiyāʾ	104
Mapping out Kūfah	105
Attacking the Persians from Bahrain	106
The conquest of Ahwāz	107
Hurmuzān breaks the peace agreement	108
The conquest of Tustar and Sūs	110
Hurmuzān comes to ʿUmar ﷺ	110
The battle of Nahāwand	112
The conquest of Hamadhān	116
The conquest of Rayy and Qūmis (Hecatompylos)	116
The conquest of Jurjān (Gorgan) and Ṭabaristān (Tapuria)	117
The conquest of Iṣfahān	118
Spreading out in non-Arab lands	118
The conquest of Azerbaijan	119
The conquest of Bāb	119
The conquest of Khurāsān	121
The conquest of Fasā and Dārābjird	123
The conquest of Karmān and Sijistān	124
The conquest of Mukrān	125
The conquest of the Levant (Shām)	126
The conquest of Damascus	127
The conquest of Ḥimṣ (Homs)	129
The conquest of Qinnasrīn	129
The conquest of Ḥalab (Aleppo) and Anṭākiyah (Antioch)	130
The conquest of Bayt al-Maqdis	131
The plague of ʿAmawās	132
The conquest of Egypt	134
The conquest of Alexandria	136
The office of the caliphate	137
The assassination of ʿUmar ﷺ	140
MAPS	154
THE CALIPHATE OF ʿUTHMĀN IBN ʿAFFĀN ﷺ	155
His achievements during his caliphate	157
In Kūfah and the Campaigns of Armenia and Azerbaijān	157
In Baṣrah	161

The Death of Yazdajird	162
The Reconquest of Khurāsān	162
Abdullāh ibn Saba' sowing the seeds of sedition	163
In the Levant	163
The Conquest of Cyprus (Qubruş)	165
In Egypt	167
The Conquest of Ifriqiyya (North Africa)	167
Part 2: The Era of Differences and Tribulations	
The movement Against ʿUthmān ﷺ	168
Ibn Saba': the spearhead of the sedition	169
The start of the sedition	172
The alleged letter	173
ʿUthmān ﷺ is surrounded	174
ʿUthmān's ﷺ letter to the Muslims	177
The assassination of ʿUthmān ﷺ	181
The false claims of the Rebels	182
THE CALIPHATE OF ʿALĪ ﷺ	185
The profile of ʿAlī ﷺ	186
The achievements of ʿAlī ﷺ	188
Muʿāwiyah's ﷺ opposition	189
The opposition of ʿĀ'ishah, Ṭalḥah and az-Zubayr ﷺ	190
The battle of the Camel (<i>Jamal</i>)	193
The battle of Şiffin	202
The arbitration	207
The arbitrators meet	210
but they could see no good until the next morning.	212
The Khārijites	212
Some strange doings of the Khārijites	213
The death of Muḥammad ibn Abī Bakr	218
The Assassination of ʿAlī ﷺ	220
ḤASAN IBN ʿALĪ ﷺ	223
His achievements during his caliphate	224
CONCLUSION	227

Introduction



ALL PRAISE BELONGS to Allah, as He ought to be praised and peace and salutations be upon our master Muḥammad, who made the ways clear and passed on the message exactly as he received it. May Allah be pleased with his noble and righteous Companions who followed his upright way, to which kings and nations yielded and submitted in awe.

Muḥammad al-Khuḍarī (the author), son of Shaykh ‘Afīfī al-Bājūrī says:

My brother, may Allah ﷻ inspire you and me. After I wrote a book on the life of the Prophet ﷺ which I named *Nūr al-Yaqīn*, you asked me to follow it with a book on the history of the Prophet’s ﷺ Rightly-Guided Caliphs. It was in their era that Islām expressed its highest manifestations and it was through their words and actions that it displayed its most beautiful jewels. My brother, you asked me to follow the style of my previous book in simplicity of expression, and to strive to gather the histories of these caliphs, scattered here and there in the voluminous works that would otherwise tire the reader. You mentioned to me that one of the greatest ways of disseminating a spirit of energy and endeavour in the ummah is to remain devoted to studying the history of its elders, so that it may know how they overcame the numerous hardships which almost came between them and their lofty goals and so it may know the fruits of following Islām and following its systems of regulation.

I realised your noble objective, your genuine faith, and your solicitude for your community. I therefore decided to help you in achieving your objective and to overcome the obstacles that prevent me from fulfilling this immense task

seeking the help of Allah ﷻ, and what an excellent helper He is! I have divided the book into two sections:

One: The Era of Unity

This era comprises the Islamic conquests during the time of the two caliphs, Abū Bakr ﷺ and ʿUmar ﷺ, and a major portion of the time of ʿUthmān ibn ʿAffān ﷺ. I follow this part with a small section on the system of regulations of the Muslim nation of that time, the exemplary brotherly interaction of the Muslims and the efforts they made to realise what the Messenger of Allah ﷺ spoke of regarding the spread of Islām in east and west.

Two: The Era of Differences and Tribulations



This era extends from the last days of the caliphate of ʿUthmān ﷺ until ʿAlī ﷺ was killed and his son Ḥasan ﷺ handed over the reins of the caliphate to Muʿāwiyah ﷺ (may Allah be pleased with all of them). I follow this with a small section illustrating the consequences of differences and schisms in the Muslim ummah. This I have done so that the book may be a valuable lesson, by the help of Allah, for the Muslims in general.

I precede these two sections with a small introduction on the subject of the caliphate and anything related to it.

I hope that this book is warmly received by my Muslim brothers, as they warmly received my previous book. All praise is due to Allah ﷻ that I have full confidence in my efforts, for I seek nothing thereby but the pleasure of Allah ﷻ. I ask that this book be a means for attaining wonderful treasure in the Hereafter, that it be an inspiration for the Muslims which increases their strength and that Allah ﷻ sends His help to them.

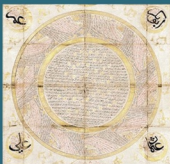
The following are the works I refer to in compiling this book:

- The *Ṣaḥīḥ* of Abū ʿAbdillāh Muḥammad ibn Ismāʿīl al-Bukhārī al-Juʿfi (*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*); the places where he paid particular attention to information on the Companions ﷺ.
- The *Ṣaḥīḥ* of Abū'l-Ḥusayn Muslim ibn al-Ḥajjāj al-Qushayrī (*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*).
- *Tārīkh ar-Rusul wa'l-Mulūk* ('History of Kings and Prophets'), Abū Jaʿfār Muḥammad ibn Jarīr at-Ṭabarī, except for the section of Ṣiffīn because I did not have the volume which contains this information (*Tārīkh at-Ṭabarī*).
- *Al-Kāmil fī 't-Tārīkh* ('The Complete History') Abū 'l-Ḥasan ʿAlī ibn Abī 'l-Karam Muḥammad, popularly known as Ibn al-Aṭhīr al-Jazarī.

- *Tārīkh*, ‘Abd ar-Raḥmān ibn Khaldūn al-Maghribī.
- *Tārīkh*, ‘Alī ibn al-Ḥasan al-Mas‘ūdī, a descendent of ‘Abdullāh ibn Mas‘ūd , the Companion of the Messenger of Allah .
- *Iḥyā’ ‘Ulūm ad-Dīn* (‘Vivification of the Religious Sciences’), Abū Ḥāmid Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad al-Ghazālī.
- *Sirāj al-Mulūk* (‘The Lamp of Kings’), Abū Bakr Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad al-Fihri aṭ-Ṭarṭūshī.

I have taken upon myself to specify reference sources wherever I see it as important, as I am aware of your eagerness for it.

Allah is the giver of success.



THIS BOOK is a concise and immensely satisfying historical account of the first four caliphs of Islam, Abū Bakr, ʿUmar, ʿUthmān and ʿAlī ؓ, who because of their rectitude, became known as the “Rightly-Guided Caliphs”. The author provides a clear and fast-paced account of the battles and internal struggles of the four caliphs, as well as that of the fifth, Ḥasan ibn ʿAlī ؓ. He avoids long excursions into the technical intricacies and obscure historical detail found in longer books. However, he refreshingly puts forward a balanced and convincing analysis of the contentious issues involving the four caliphs, such as ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib’s ؓ delay in giving the pledge, the insurgency against ʿUthmān ؓ, the battles of the Camel and Ṣiffin, and the disputes between ʿAlī and Muʿāwiyah ؓ.

The author’s analysis leaves the reader with a clear understanding and helps to increase the love and respect for the Prophet of Allah ﷺ and his Companions.

This book will surely satisfy your curiosity about the immediate period after the Prophet’s ﷺ departure from this world. It will relieve your heart of any confusion you feel about the events of that time. This is a book written for readers of any age, hence an inspiring read for the young and old alike.

About the Author

HE IS MUḤAMMAD ibn ʿAfiī al-Bājūrī, popularly known as Shaykh Khudārī Bak. He was a scholar of Sharīʿah, literature and Islamic history. He was born in Egypt in 1289/1872 and lived in Zaytūn, a suburb of Cairo. He graduated from Madrasah Dār al-ʿUlūm and surpassed his contemporaries as a scholar, researcher, orator, educator and reformer. During the course of his life he was an Islamic judge in Khartoum, an educator in the Islamic Judicial School in Cairo for a period of twelve years, a Professor in Islamic history at the University of Egypt (now named The University of Cairo), the Deputy-Head of the Islamic judicial school and an inspector for the Ministry of Education.



TURATH PUBLISHING
www.turath.co.uk

ISBN 978-978-1-906947



9 789781 906947

This edition is published by **'ilmStore.in** in India and is authorised for sale only in India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives.