

Othman bin Affan (raa) 1

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on 19 December 2008. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God

The prophet peace be upon him (pbuh) once climbed the mount Uhud with Abu Bakr, Omar and Othman. The mountain began to tremble with them. The Prophet (pbuh) said (to the mountain): "Be firm O Uhud! For on you there are no more than a prophet, a Sidiq (truthful one) and two shaheeds." What a great honour! And what an enormous tribute given by the prophet (pbuh) to Abu Bakr Al-Sidiq, Omar Al-Farooq and Othman Dhul-Norain 'The One with the Two Lights.'

In another hadith, the prophet (pbuh) said:" I do not know how long I will stay with you, so follow the two after me: Abu Bakr and Omar..."

Oh Muslims,

In the life of Abu Bakr and Omar (may God be pleased with them) we came through some of their personal characteristics which distinguished them from the rest of the companions of the prophet (pbuh). They were examples of strength in belief, steadfastness in religion and accurate understanding of the significance and brought the meaning of the message of Islam to this life. They gave us a perfect example in how to completely follow the tradition of the prophet (pbuh). They embodied honesty and sincerity, strength in truth and determination combined with wisdom. They gave the best of examples in justice and fairness, integrity and nobility, piety and humility for God, the Most Glorious, the Most High. At the same time they were proud of Islam, they had the constant sense of responsibility and they were conscious of God at all times.

They succeeded the Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) in responsibility for his nation, followed his footsteps and hold tight to the book of God. They were truly as the prophet (pbuh) described them "these two are the hearing and the vision". They were in the status of hearing and vision for the sound beating heart and for the strong moving body. The benefit the message of Islam got from Abu Bakr and Omar was like the benefit the human being gets from hearing and vision. It is really shocking that some build their religion upon slandering these two righteous companions!

These are the companions of the prophet (pbuh) whom Abdullah bin Masood said about: 'Whoever wants to adopt a way from amongst you, let him adopt the way of those who died (because the living is not safe from Fitnah), they were the companions of the prophet (pbuh) having the best hearts of this Ummah, most profound in knowledge, least in formalities; God chose them to accompany his prophet (pbuh) and to establish his religion. So we should respectfully recognize their role and hold to their guidance because, truly, they were on the straight path'.

Oh Muslims,

When Omar bin Al-Khattab was on his death bed, he was asked that he should nominate his successor. He said:' I do not find anyone more suitable for the job than the following persons or group whom the prophet (pbuh) had been pleased with before he died." Then Omar mentioned Ali, Othman, AzZubair, Talha, Sa'ad and Abdur-Rahman bin Auf and said, "Abdullah bin Omar will be a witness to you, but he will have no share in the rule. By doing this, Omar made it Shura "consultation" between the best people among Muslims - as all six

names were promised paradise by the prophet (pbuh) during his lifetime. The seventh person promised paradise by the prophet (pbuh) - Saeed Bin Zaid - Omar bin Al-Khattab did not include because Saeed was his brother in law and his cousin and in a very wise and devout action Omar prevented the family of Al-Khattab from having an unfair influence in choosing the new Caliph.

Omar limited his choice to those six persons and instructed the selection committee to choose the successor within three days. Whoever was to get most votes would have become the Caliph and Abdullah bin Omar was the one to choose if the votes were equal. After some of the candidates withdrew themselves from nomination - amongst them Abdur-Rahman bin Auf who kept asking every Muslim in Madina including women, children and slaves until he found out that most support was for nominating Othman bin Affan. Abdur-Rahman then chose Othman as a Caliph and all six persons of Shura committee and all Muslims after them accepted Othman as a Caliph without any hesitation. Othman bin Affan became the third Caliph after the death of the prophet (pbuh).

So we are today beginning with a new personality from the distinct, outstanding and successful personalities. His lineage meets with the prophet's in Abd Manaf. He was the cousin of the prophet (pbuh) and Othman's mother was the first cousin of the prophet (pbuh) so Othman was a nephew of the prophet (pbuh). He got married to Ruqayyah the daughter of the prophet (pbuh) and after she died, to her sister Umm Kalthum so it was said: he was called 'The One with the Two Lights' because of that. It was also said: he was called that because he used to recite a lot of Quran in his night prayer, so the first light is Quran and the second light is the night prayer. He was born in Mecca and he was about five years younger than the prophet (pbuh).

We will have some reflections with 'The One with the Two Lights' in order to motivate our determination further, encourage our souls to doing good and strengthen belief (of needing to plan a good return with God) in our hearts.

God says "The vanguard (of Islam)- the first of those who forsook (their homes) and of those who gave them aid, and (also) those who follow them in (all) good deeds,- well- pleased is God with them, as are they with Him: for them has He prepared gardens under which rivers flow, to dwell therein for ever: that is the supreme celebration." [At-Taubah 9:100]