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## ***THEME: THE CALIPHATE PERIOD***

- Caliph is the title given to the successor of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). We have in Islam four rightly guided Caliphs, namely Abubakar, Umar IbnKhattab, UthmanIbnAffan and Ali Ibn Abu Talib. The Caliphate period lasted from 632 AD with Abubakar up to 660 AD with Ali.

### ***Topic 1 THE CALIPHATE OF ABUBAKAR AS-SWIDDIQ (632-634)***

#### **HIS EARLY LIFE:**

- Abubakar was born in 573 AD, two years after the birth of the Prophet (PBUH). He was born in the city of Mecca and belonged to the Tamim clan of the Quraish tribe
- His father was called Uthman who was also known as Abu Qahafah. His mother was called Salma who was popularly known as UmmulKhair, meaning mother of good.
- Abubakar's real name was Abdul Kaabah, meaning slave of the Kaabah. But the Prophet (PBUH) named him Abdallah on his conversion to Islam
- He is widely known as Abubakar meaning the father of the camels because of his great interest in camels.
- The Prophet (PBUH) gave him the title of As-swiddiq because he always testified whatever the Prophet did without a slight doubt
- As a young boy, Abubakar lived a quiet life and not much is known about his childhood. As he grew up, he became sincere, full of honesty and trust worthy. This character won him friendship with the Prophet(PBUH)
- Because of his honesty and piety, he became a close friend of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) right from childhood
- Before he embraced Islam, Abubakar hated the Jahiliyyah practices like wine drinking, gambling, fornication and adultery
- Abubakar was a trader mainly dealing in clothes and became prosperous merchant. He travelled to various areas on trade missions
- Though a rich merchant, Abubakar never spent his wealth extravagantly. He spent his wealth to help the distressed people
- He was kind and generous to the poor and the needy. He always helped them using his own wealth
- His honesty and trustworthiness in trade many people keep their money with him as a trust and he should be respected for that.

#### **HIS CONVERSION TO ISLAM**

- when the Prophet (PBUH) began inviting people to Islam, he informed Abubakar about the good news who accepted without hesitation

- Abubakar became the first adult man to accept Islam and one of the four converts. His conversion pleased the Prophet since he was one of the most respected men in Mecca
- When the Prophet narrated the whole experience of the cave, Abubakar accepted and said: 'I believe in you and your mission from the bottom of my heart. I testify and confirm that what you say is the truth. You are a Prophet of God and that is a great honour.'
- On his conversion, he used his entire influence to promote Islam. He did this by inviting others to join the folds of Islam
- He then declared the Shahaadah (Testimony). This created a new bond (friendship) between him and the Prophet (PBUH)
- When he converted, his wife Qutaylabint Abdul-Uzza did not accept Islam. Abubakar divorced her. His other wife UmmuRuman became a Muslim
- All his children except Abdul-Rahman converted to Islam. This created a rift between the two. Abubakarseparated from him (Abdul-Rahman)

## **HIS SERVICES TO ISLAM BEFORE HE BECAME CALIPH.**

### **(a) Meccanperiod:**

- Abubakar was among the respected people in Mecca and his conversion boosted the Prophet's mission in Mecca, and he be credited for that.
- He preached Islam in Mecca and he succeeded in converting a good number of people such as UthmanIbnAffan, Talha, ZubairIbnAwwam, Sa'dIbnAbiWaaqqas, Abu Ubaida, Abdul\_RahmanIbn Auf etc
- In 613 AD, the Prophet (PBUH) was commanded by God to call people to Islam openly. The first public address inviting people to Islam was delivered by Abubakar at the Kaabah
- He asked the Prophet (PBUH) to start preaching Islam when the number of Muslims reached 39 and the Prophet accepted.
- It was Abubakar who asked permission from the Prophet to migrate to Abyssinia in 615 AD. Although Abubakar himself did not go, other Muslims were permitted to migrate
- He was tortured by the pagan Quraish for his conversion to Islam, but he did not give up. This made other Muslims remain firm, hence Islamic progress
- He protected the Prophet (PBUH) against the pagans led by Abujahal who attempted to strangle him to death near the Kaaba. For this, Abubakar was beaten and left in comma.
- Abubakar bought 8 slaves freedom as they were being mistreated by their masters upon conversion to Islam. He spent 40,000 dinars for their freedom. These were, Bilal IbnRabah, AmmarIbnYasir, Nahdia, Umm Ubaisetc
- His house acted as a meeting place for Muslims to learn their religion from the Prophet (PBUH) this was secretly done so that the Quraish would not know.
- He acted as a trusted advisor to the Prophet (PBUH). For instance, he advised him to allow Muslims migrate to Abyssinia at the apex of persecution
- He made Muslims believe what the Prophet (PBUH) narrated to them about the Night Journey and ascension to Heaven in 621 AD. Many of them had doubted
- He participated in the teaching of new converts their religion, supplementing the Prophet's effort of making the word of God supreme

- He gave encouragement to the Prophet (PBUH) to continue preaching Islam despite the many challenges in Mecca.
- He always consoled the Prophet (PBUH) whenever he was mistreated by the Quraish pagans. Abubakar was indeed a unique personality that deserves mention.
- He always helped the suffering Muslims with his money especially those who were isolated by their families upon conversion to Islam
- He was among the Muslims who suffered the pains of the boycott which lasted for three years. As a merchant, he made losses, but this was for the sake of Islam
- He provided the two camels to facilitate their migration with the Prophet (PBUH) to Medina in 622 AD when the situation in Mecca became unbearable

**(b) Medina period:**

- He bought a piece of land in Medina where the mosque was constructed by the Prophet (PBUH). The mosque became known as Al-Masjid al-Nabawi. He also took part in the construction
- He took part in the drafting of the constitution of Medina in 622 AD, which brought the people of Medina in one political orbit
- In Mecca, Abubakar was a wholesale trader in cloth and he started the same business in Medina. He opened his new store at Sunh and supplied cloth to Medina city.
- In 623 AD, he handed over his daughter Aisha to the Prophet (PBUH) in a simple marriage ceremony. This further strengthened the relationship between him and the Prophet
- He took part in the battles against the enemies of Islam. At Badr in 624 AD, he guarded the Prophet's tent. At Uhud, he sustained severe wounds for the sake of Islam
- In 627 AD, when Muslims were attacked by the Quraish in what became known as the battle of the Trench, Abubakar led group of Muslims to guard the trench and he defeated the Meccans who tried to cross it.
- In 628 AD, he led a campaign against Najid on the Prophet's command. Many enemies were killed and others surrendered and Islam solidified
- Still in 628 AD, he witnessed the signing of the treaty of Hudaibiyya after the Quraish's refusal to allow Muslims enter Mecca to perform the lesser pilgrimage (Umrah)
- Abubakar was part of the Muslims' forces that conquered Mecca in 630 AD. The conquest made Mecca a holy city and the Kaabah cleansed of idols.
- In the battle of Tabook, Abubakar contributed all what he had for the sake of Islam. Indeed, he was a rare breed of the Prophet's companions and he deserves respect
- In the 9<sup>th</sup> year after hijira (631 AD), Abubakar led a caravan of Muslim pilgrims on the instruction of the Prophet (PBUH) to Mecca for Hijja rites (Pilgrimage)
- He used to advise the Prophet (PBUH) on a number of issues. His advises benefited the Muslim community. For instance, he advised the Prophet of the issue of captives at Badr.
- When the Prophet (PBUH) became ill, it was Abubakar who was appointed by the Prophet (PBUH) to lead Muslims in prayer in the grand mosque of Medina
- Many Muslims experienced a profound shock at the Prophet's death. They could not believe his death. It was Abubakar who made them accept reality by reciting a verse from the Quran (3:144)

- He fully participated in the organization and preparation of the Prophet's burial. Muslims did not know where to bury the Prophet. Abubakar narrated a hadith that 'Prophets are buried from where they die'
- It was him who solved the question of leadership following the Prophet's death. He gave a moving speech to the Ansaars who later pledged their allegiance to him as the first Caliph of Islam.

### **ELECTION OF ABUBAKAR AS A CALIPH**

- While everybody was nursing the pangs (pains) of loss over the death of the Prophet (PBUH) there was a concern over who was to conduct the burial and also be the successor to the Prophet
- The Prophet (PBUH) did not name his successor. He left the issue of electing the leader (successor) to the Muslims community.
- The question of who was to succeed the Prophet divided the Muslims into four groups, namely the Ansar, Muhajiroon, Legitimists and Umayyads. The last two were part of the Muhajiroon.
- Each of the groups wanted to choose their own people to succeed the Prophet (PBUH), and this was bound to cause a rift (conflict) among Muslims
- Each group gave reasons for presenting a successor to the Prophet (PBUH). For instance:
- The Muhajiroon argued that they were the right people to produce a successor because they were the first to convert to Islam and they suffered right from beginning of the prophet's mission.
- The Ansaars on the other hand argued that, they gave the Prophet asylum when the Meccans wanted to kill him. So, they were the right people to produce a successor
- There were the supporters of Ali who claimed that the Prophet (PBUH) could not leave Muslims without a successors. So they supported Ali as the first successor of the Prophet (PBUH)
- The Umayyads who were also part of the Muhajiroon argued that before the advent of Islam, they were the leaders in Mecca. Now that the Prophet is dead, it was their right to produce a successor
- As a result, the Ansaars gathered in a hall called ThaqifabaniSaidah to discuss the issue of a successor to the Prophet. Sa'd, their leader stood up and said, the Caliph must come from among them
- However, one man stood up and said, 'but what about the Muhajiroon? They have perhaps a better claim'
- Someone told Abubakar about the gathering. He quickly went there accompanied by Umar IbnKhattab and Abu Ubaidah
- Abubakar requested for permission to address the gathering. He began by thanking the Ansaars for the support they gave to the Prophet (PBUH) and Islam
- He emphasized the need to choose the successor to the Prophet (PBUH) from his early companions who had remained faithful to him in all situations
- He concluded his talk by proposing either Umar or Abu Ubaidah to be elected as Caliph. However, the two stood down in his favour
- Thereupon, the whole group of the Ansaar offered their support to Abubakar as the first successor of the Prophet (PBUH)

- Many Muslims came to swear their oath of allegiance to him and to support him as the successor of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)
- He later gave a speech to the gathering in which he promised to serve Islam whole-heartedly. He urged Muslims to support him while executing his duties.

### **THE PROBLEMS FACED BY ABUBAKAR AS A CALIPH**

- He had to consolidate his power because not all people (Muslims) accepted him as the first successor to the Prophet (PBUH)
- He had to unite the Muslims who had got divided due to succession disputes following the death of the Prophet (PBUH)
- He had to fight and eliminate false Prophets like Musailima, Tulaiha and Sajah who were becoming a menace to the Muslims
- He had to fight hypocrites. These pretended to be Muslims yet they were arch enemies of Islam.
- He had to teach the new Muslim converts the laws of Islam because they were being misled by the false Prophets and hypocrites
- He had to fight tribal and clan differences which re-appeared among the Muslims after the death of the Prophet (PBUH)
- He also had to fight Zakat defaulters who wanted Zakat to be abolished after the death of the Prophet (PBUH)
- He had the task of bringing back the Muslims who had given up their faith (Islam) after the death of the Prophet (PBUH). These were a dangerous epidemic which the Caliph could not ignore
- He had to strengthen people's morale towards Islamic principles like prayer, zakat, fasting, marriage which they ignored after the death of the Prophet (PBUH)
- He had to end the power struggle among the Muslims which appeared after the death of the Prophet (PBUH)
- He had to bring back the Arab tribes under the centralized government created by the Prophet (PBUH)
- The Islamic state was too big in size and yet there was poor communication in different provinces
- He had to protect the city of Medina from the desert Arabs (Bedouins) who never wanted Medina to grow as the seat of Islam
- He had to fight the Jews and Christians from the North that revolted against the Muslims after the Prophet's death

### **HOW DID ABUBAKAR ATTEMPT TO SOLVE THE ABOVE PROBLEMS**

- He sought advice from the great companions of the Prophet (PBUH) like Ali, Uthman, Aisha, Umar on how to handle the challenges
- He encouraged and solidified the Islamic brotherhood to unite the Muslims who had been divided following the death of the Prophet (PBUH)
- He sent Muslim preachers to conquered areas to teach the new Muslim converts Islamic practices
- He lived an exemplary life by following the footsteps of the Prophet (PBUH) and the Muslims followed him
- He put in place special judges to deal with Islamic issues using Quran and Hadith

- He created a strong army to fight against Zakat defaulters and false Prophets
- Abubakar himself led his army and fought some of the internal rebels
- He set up schools and study centers to teach the Muslims especially new ones the laws of Islam
- He compiled the Holy Quran into a book form to protect it from being corrupted by the enemies of Islam
- He applied sharia (Islamic laws) to promote democracy in his administration.

#### **ABUBAKAR'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAQ**

- Once the rebellions within the Empire had been put down, Caliph Abubakar began to deal with external threats. He began with Iraq.
- Iraq was a province of the ancient Persian Empire. The Persians right from the beginning showed a negative attitude towards Islam
- During the Prophet's time, the Persian king, Chosros tore the Prophet's letter inviting to Islam. The Prophet foretold the collapse of the Persian Empire just as the king tore his letter
- Iraq was the richest province of the Persian Empire. The Caliph sent his brilliant general, Khalid IbnWalid to deal with the enemies
- In 633 AD, Khalid IbnWalid led an army of 10,000 men against Iraq. The friendly Arab tribal chiefs led by Muthanna raised 8,000 men. In total, he had 18,000 men
- Khalid was able to win the enemies in four battles, namely: the battle of chains, battle of river, battle of walaja and the battle of Ullais
- In the last two weeks of May, 633 AD, Hira the capital city of Iraq fell to the Muslims after a tough resistance
- In June 633 AD, Anbar was conquered by Muslims and all people surrendered
- The Muslims then moved to the south and conquered the city of AynulTamur after a serious fight
- The Muslims also defeated a combined force of the Persians and Christian Arab tribes at Hafiz, Zumail, Sannietc
- These defeated ended Persian control over Iraq and put the whole of Iraq under the control of Muslims
- Caliph Abubakar deserves credit for he managed to silence the threats and extend the Islamic state far and wide

#### **THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST SYRIA**

- After a successful conquest of Iraq, Caliph Abubakar turned his attention on Syria which was under the Romans (Byzantines)
- The Roman Empire was under Heraclius who had proved to be a dangerous epidemic to the Muslim state of Medina
- Syria was located in the North of the Islamic state and the Caliph did his utmost to silence the threat
- Caliph Abubakar organized his army into 4 groups, each under a commander for effective operation
- The commanders were Amir Ibn Al Aas, YazidIbn Abu Sufian, ShurahbillbnHassana and Abu Ubaida Al Jarrah. The overall commander was Abu UbaidalbnJarrah

- On hearing the movement of the Muslims, Heraclius mobilized his troops in large numbers for the battle
- In the third week of May 634 AD, Abu Ubaida informed the Caliph about the preparations made by the Romans
- Abubakar then sent Khalid IbnWalid to Syria as the overall commander of the Muslims' forces, taking over from Abu Ubaida
- Khalid concentrated all troops at Ajnadain where the large Roman army had camped. The Romans were fought and defeated on 30<sup>th</sup> July 634 AD
- The defeat of the Romans at the battle of Ajnadain left the whole of Syria in the hands of Muslims
- Khalid IbnWalid then captured Damascus, the strong base of the Romans in Syria, after defeating Thomas, the son-in-law of Emperor Heraclius
- After the conquest of Damascus on 18<sup>th</sup> September 634 AD, Emperor Heraclius escaped from Emesa to Antioch
- Shortly after these conquests, the Muslims' army in Syria received news of the death of Caliph Abubakar

#### **WHY WAS CALIPH ABUBAKAR SUCCESSFUL IN THESE CONQUESTS?**

- The high morale of the Muslim troops
- The religious zeal of Muslims
- Their endurance (able to withstand hardships)
- superb directives of Abubakar to Muslims' forces (how to behave at the battle front)
- The Muslim troops were highly mobile
- Use of able commanders such as Khalid IbnWalid
- Muslim's reliance on Allah in executing their duties
- They never enforced Islam onto their enemies
- Fair treatment to the prisoners of war made many people give up resistance and embraced Islam
- Leadership of the Persians was under a curse, ever since Chosros tore the Prophet's letter
- Muslims' enemies were over confident and arrogant. They never expected Muslims to defeat them (Roman and Persian Empires were older than the Islamic state)

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS OF CALIPH ABUBAKAR**

- Abubakar fulfilled the task left behind by the Prophet concerning Usama's expedition. Usamah returned back to Medina with victory, and credit goes to the Caliph
- During his Caliphate, he defended Medina from external attacks. The attacks were organized by some rebellious Arabs after the death of the Prophet (PBUH)
- He compiled the holy Quran into a Book form. This was after the death of about 600 memorizers of Quran at the battle of Yamamah. This saved the Quran from corruption.
- He put up a consultative council to discuss problems facing Islam. the Caliph made a number of decisions after consulting the council
- He should be credited for restoring peace in Medina given the fact that Medina was a holy city and a great center of Islamic learning

- He created a standing army under the command of brilliant generals such as Khalid Bin Walid, Muthanna to mention a few
- Abubakar restored the payment of Zakat by fighting the defaulters. Some Muslims had given up Zakat payment following the Prophet's death
- He is credited for defeating the false Prophets who included Musailima, Sajah and Tulaiha. These had become a dangerous epidemic to the future of Islam
- The Islamic treasury (Baitulmaal) was strengthened with the enforcement of Zakat payment. Zakat was used to cater for the poor and needy Muslims
- He expanded the Islamic state beyond the boundaries of Arabia. In this vein, Iraq and Syria were brought under the influence of Islam
- He spread Islam in the conquered areas. The Caliph sent eminent teachers to those areas to instruct the new Muslims in the sciences of Islam
- A number of new cities were founded during his reign. These included Damascus, Basra, Baghdad to mention a few
- Many departments were created by the Caliph which aided state development. These included, education, police, Inheritance to mention a few.
- The state was divided into provinces for easy administration. These included Iraq, Syria, Medina and Mecca, each under an administrator (Governor) appointed by the Caliph
- He introduced war ethics according to the teachings of the Prophet (PBUH). In this case, the Muslim army was required not to kill innocent people, not to exercise scorched earth policy etc
- He maintained the Islamic atmosphere where everything was done Islamically.
- He maintained international relations with the neighbouring societies/ states

## ***Topic 2* THE CALIPHATE OF UMAR AL FAROOQ**

### **HIS EARLY LIFE BEFORE ISLAM:**

- Umar bin Khattab was an Arab, belonging to the to the Adi clan (family) of the Quraish tribe. He was nicknamed Abu-Hafsa. When he embraced Islam, the Prophet named him Al Farooq
- Umar was born in Mecca in the year 583 AD, making him 12 years younger than the Prophet (PBUH). this was about 40 years before the Hijira of 622AD
- His father was called Khattab bin Nufail and his mother was called Hantama bit Hisham, from the tribe of Banumakhum.
- Umar's early life is not known in details but what is certain or clear is that, he belonged to a middle class family in Mecca.
- He was among the few people in Mecca who knew reading and writing before the advent of Islam. This elevated his status since the majority lacked knowledge of the pen.
- In his youth, Umar used to tend (look after) to his father's camels in the plains near Mecca. This trained him to be hardworking.
- Umar's main occupation was trade and due to this, he travelled to several places such as Rome and Persia searching for merchandise
- Though not a poet himself, he developed a love for poetry and literature. Poetry was a common practice among the Arabs



- He was a gifted orator who succeeded his father as an arbitrator of the Arab tribes. This too elevated his status among the Arabs
- When still a teenager, Umar learned martial arts, horse raiding and wrestling. He became a re-known wrestler in Arabia
- He was fully engaged in the Jahiliyya practices such as Idol worship, consumption of alcohol to mention a few. He loved to see the status quo maintained.
- When the Prophet (PBUH) got revelation and invited people to Islam, Umar was among the people who bitterly opposed him. He worked hard to see Islam silenced.
- He strongly believed in the unity of the Quraish and the preservation of the status quo. That is why he bitterly opposed for 6 solid years.
- He persecuted Muslims and a case in point is his sister and brother in-law whom he found reciting the Quran in 616 AD. He also beat his maid called Labna violently for accepting Islam.
- He used to attend meetings organized by the Quraish chiefs in order to silence the Islamic revolution. For instance, the meeting to assassinate the Prophet (PBUH)

#### **UMAR'S SERVICES TO ISLAM BEFORE HE BECAME CALIPH.**

- While in Mecca, he requested the Prophet (PBUH) to offer prayers at the Ka'bah without fear. Umar and Hamza led Muslims to the Ka'ba and the prayer was led by the Prophet. This is what is called the first public prayer in the history of Islam.
- He gave protection to the Muslims in Mecca who were being persecuted by the Quraish enemies. This encouraged other people to embrace Islam
- After his conversion, Muslims stopped concealing (hiding) their faith and started practicing their religion openly. This was a great contribution to Islamic progress.
- He studied Islam and did a lot to teach it to other people. He taught fellow Muslims how to read the Quran since he was literate already.
- He was among the Muslims who left their homeland (Mecca) to Yathrib (Medina) in 622 AD for asylum since the conditions (at Mecca) were unbearable.
- In Medina, Umar did a lot for Isla. For instance, he participated in the drafting of the constitution of Medina which consolidated peace in the area.
- Umar participated in all battles to defend Islam from the enemies. These included, the battle of Badr, Uhud, Ahzab (ditch), Khaibar, Hunainetc, for the sake of Islam.
- He used to advise the Prophet (PBUH) on a number of issues. For instance, he advised him to urge women to put on Hijab. Due to this, a verse of Quran on dress was revealed.
- He participated in the conquest of Mecca in 630 AD after the Meccans' violation of the Hudaibiyya treaty of 628 AD.
- He listened to Abubakar's reminder regarding the death of the Prophet (PBUH). This cooled him down and accepted reality, thus an important figure in the history of Islam.
- He participated in the election of the first Caliph (Abubakar). He was the first person to pledge loyalty at the hand of Abubakar.
- He advised Caliph Abubakar to compile the Quran into a Book form. This saved the Quran from corruption, hence a great contribution to Islam
- He was a private or personal secretary to caliph Abubakar which also makes him a great personality in the history of Islam.

## HOW UMAR BECAME CALIPH

- While on his death-bed, Abubakar suggested to the shura and the entire Muslim community that he be succeeded by Umar because of his strong character and faith
- Muslims were at first fearful of Umar's succession to Abubakar because of his toughness and over strictness in executing his duties
- They therefore told Abubakar to reconsider his stand (choice) regarding his successor. However, Abubakar told them that, the office of Caliph will soften his heart
- He also urged the Muslims to render support to him when he assumes the office of Caliph
- He consequently became the second Caliph in 634 AD, succeeding a man who had achieved so much in so short a time

## MAJOR PROBLEMS FACED BY THE CALIPH:

### (a) Conquest of Persia (Iran)

- During the Caliphate of Abubakar, part of Persian Empire (The Kingdom of Hira) was conquered by Khalid Ibnwalid, the Muslims' general.
- Khalid was later ordered by Caliph Abubakar to join the expedition to Syria against the Romans. Before he left, Khalid appointed Muthanna bin Harith as commander of Muslims in Persia.
- The conquest of Hira angered the Persian Emperor. He then sent Rustam, the commander of the Persian army to kick the Muslims out
- Muthanna requested Caliph Umar for reinforcement. Umar responded by sending 5000 men under Abu Ubaidah al Thaqafi.
- The battle of Namariq was then fought and the Persians were beaten leaving a number of their generals dead. One of the generals was called Jaban.
- Another battle was fought at the banks of river Euphrates. This became known as the battle of the Bridge.
- The battle of the bridge was lost by the Muslims and many of them died including Abu Ubaidah. In this battle, the Persians used the services of elephants.
- The battle of Buwaib followed. Rustam appointed MehranHamdani to lead the Persia forces. The Persians were defeated and killed in large numbers. Mehran was also slain.
- The defeat at Buwaib was a shock to the Persians. Thus, they appointed a 21 year old emperor called Yezdgird, replacing the Empress.
- Yezdgird reorganized the Persian army to face the Muslims. Umar responded by sending more men (20000) under Sa'd bin AbiWaqqas.
- Sa'd faced the Persians in the battle of Qadisiyya and defeated them after 4 days of fighting. Rustam tried to flee but was caught and slain
- The capital of Persian Empire called Madain was captured. Emperor Yezdgird and his ministers had already fled for their dear lives
- The battle of Jalula was also fought. The Persians being commanded by Kharzad, brother of Rustam were beaten beyond repair
- The final battle took place at Nihawand in which the Persians were completely defeated. Muslims then captured Azerbaijan, Armenia and Hamdan

### **Effects of the conquest**

- It led to the expansion of the Islamic state. areas of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Hamdan, sind (Pakistan) came under Islamic influence
- New cities were established and cases in point we have Kuffa at the banks of River Euphrates. Basra was established
- Loss of life on both sides was witnessed but the death toll on the Persian side was big
- Destruction of property took place. For instance, the Persians destroyed the bridge of River Tigris to paralyse movement of Muslims' forces
- The miracles of Islam were displayed. For instance, when the Persians destroyed the bridge of River Tigris, the Muslims, due to their undying faith in Allah, crossed the River as if they were walking on the ground.
- The Persian Emperor, Yezdgird lost his voice of authority and he, together with his ministers fled to save their lives.
- Muslims gained a lot of booty which was distributed among the troops according to Islamic law. Part of it went to the Baitulmaal
- It gave us a lesson that victory does not only come as a result of a big army, but strong faith in Allah. The Persian army was aided by elephants but they suffered a dramatic defeat
- Islam was spread at a supersonic speed. The Caliph sent teachers to Persia, schools and mosques were cherished.

### **(b) Conquest of Syria (East Roman Empire/Byzantium)**

- Syria was part of the Roman (Byzantium) Empire. Rome was one of the mighty Empires in the world at the time.
- During Abubakar's time, the Muslims had defeated the Romans in Syria and conquered a number of cities like Basra, Ajnadyn, Damascus, Hims etc.
- The conquest of Damascus and other cities angered Emperor Heraclius. So, during Umar's time, he sent a huge army to destroy the Muslims' forces.
- At Yar'muk, a fierce battle took place and the Romans were defeated and their commander called Theodorus was slain
- Muslims forces were the command of Abu Ubaida bin Jarrah who had replaced Khalid IbnWalid
- Hearing the defeat at Yar'muk, Heraclius left Antioch for Constantinople. On departure, he said: 'Farewell Oh Syria, what an excellent country.'
- After the conquest of Antioch and other cities, Abu Ubaidah joined the forces of Amir bin al Aas in the conquest of Jerusalem
- The people of Jerusalem sue for peace. Caliph Umar himself went there and signed a peace treaty with the inhabitants of the city.
- A mosque was built in Jerusalem at a place called Sakhra. Umar himself participated in its construction. It became known as Umar's mosque.
- After the conquest of Jerusalem, Muslim forces moved to Jazirah and immediately put down the dust of turmoil raised by the Romans

### **Effects of the conquest of Syria:**

- The Roman voice of authority was silenced and Syria became part of the Muslim state whose headquarters were at Medina

- The spread of Islam took place in Syria and this became a death blow to the rapid expansion of Christianity in the area
- There was loss of life and the biggest death toll was registered on the side of the Romans. Theodorus, one of their commanders was slain
- The Syrians were saved from the oppressive policies of the Romans with the introduction of the Islamic law (Sharia)
- The conquest witnessed the construction of mosques. A case in point is Umar's mosque that was built at Sakhra in Jerusalem
- A peace treaty was signed between Muslims and the people of Jerusalem, and the cardinal aim was the establishment of peace. Caliph Umar travelled from Medina to Jerusalem to sign it.
- Learning centers mushroomed especially in the areas of Damascus, Basra, Hims to mention a few. Many celebrated Muslim scholars graduated from these centers of knowledge.
- Muslims gained some booty after the defeat of the enemies. It was distributed according to rules governing Islam
- The Romans lost a huge amount of wealth to the Muslims. This boosted the economic position of the Islamic state.
- The fall of the Roman power in Syria culminated into Muslim conquest of other areas where the Romans were still residing. One of them is Egypt from where they totally silenced.

**(c) The conquest of Egypt (640-642 AD).**

- Egypt was one of the powerful provinces of the Roman Empire (Byzantine). It had a strong base of the Byzantine navy at Alexandria.
- The Roman wanted to attack the Islamic state through Egypt. So, their presence in Egypt was a threat and could not be tolerated by the Caliph.
- In 638 AD, Amir bin al Aas urged the Caliph to authorize him lead a campaign against the Romans in Egypt to silence the threat
- Amir got the necessary permission from the Caliph. He left Palestine for Egypt with a force of 4000 officers and men
- The Muslim's forces entered Egypt and conquered the strongest fort of the Romans at Fustat. Fustat later became known as Cairo
- The fall of Fustat was a death blow to the Roman power in Egypt, for it was strategically located.
- Its fall angered Emperor Constantine II who immediately dispatched a big army to Alexandria to deal with the Muslims
- On hearing the news, Amir Bin al Aas moved up to Alexandria and besieged (surrounded) the city for six months. But the Romans did not surrender
- When he heard about Muslims' failure to subdue the Romans once and for all, Caliph Umar knew that something wrong was going on within the ranks (camp) of Muslims.
- He eventually wrote a letter to Amir urging him to tell Muslims to strictly follow the teachings (ways) of the Prophet (PBUH) if victory was to be achieved.
- Amir read the letter before the Muslims who immediately implemented Umar's orders and by the stroke of the pen, Alexandria was conquered after a heavy fight in 641 AD.
- The fall of Alexandria made Muslims conquer other fortresses in Egypt, rendering the whole country part of the mighty Islamic state.

### **Effects of the conquest of Egypt.**

- Thousands of the Byzantine soldiers died, other taken captives and others fled to Constantinople. Aretion, their command was also slain
- The Byzantine Empire lost a huge amount of wealth, food and money to Muslim forces which paralysed their future operations
- It should also be noted that, 4000 palaces and 4000 places of entertainment were all lost to the Muslims
- The conquest ended the inhuman annual custom of sacrificing a young girl to appease the gods of River Nile. It was believed, the sacrifice would keep the water level constant
- Many people embraced Islam and Christianity was given a death.
- The conquest of Egypt witnessed the expansion of Islamic state. the reason is that, Egypt was declared a Muslim state
- New cities were founded with the expulsion of the Romans. The cities included Fustat which was renamed Cairo, Alexandria to mention a few
- But Muslims did not enforce Islam onto non-Muslims. In this vein, local Christians and Jews were given freedom of worship by the Muslim conquerors.
- Various taxes imposed by the Romans were abolished and the general condition of the country improved.
- Prosperity and peace were seen in Egypt with the abolition of bad/oppressive leadership of the Romans
- The Miracles of Islam were displayed. It is said, Caliph Umar scribed a letter addressed to River Nile regarding the flow of the Nile waters.

### **FACTORS FOR RAPID EXPANSION OF THE MUSLIM STATE UNDER THE CALIPHATE OF UMAR**

- Umar's personal courage and ambition in advancing the cause of Islam dictated the expansion of the state to several areas
- His ability to mobilize and command men at the battle field. He always urged them to mobilize resources and also engage in military encounter
- His personal knowledge and the geographical conditions of Syria and Persia. He knew these areas as a trader even before he embraced Islam
- The respect, trust and confidence he commanded among fellow companions was another formidable factor
- His selfless habit of attending to all social and personal problems of individuals won him support from even the non-Muslims
- Umar created a strong army which worked selflessly to silence all external threats such as the Romans and Persians
- Related to the above, the unequalled ability of his commanders also facilitated easy conquests, and hence the expansion of the state. Amir Ibn al-Aas was one of them
- The Muslim army exercised endurance and patience as taught by the Quran. For instance, they would walk long distances with limited supplies (resources)
- The Muslim army also observed war ethics as dictated by the Quran was another factor that deserve mention. This won peoples' hearts
- The army was well motivated through the good pay which inculcated too much courage in them, and hence expansion of state

- The unity of purpose that prevailed among companions. Muslims were not divided which enabled them defeat the enemies
- The desire to please Allah and none else made him to serve Islam with zeal leading to the expansion of the state
- His ability to choose men of unprecedented talents to man various provinces was a key to success. One of them was Amir Muawiya in Syria
- Generosity and fair treatment of his captives won many hearts to Islam which aided the extension of state boundaries
- His constant consultation of the shurah council saved him from many would be mistakes (shortcomings)
- The lifestyle of the neighbouring rulers who lived in extravagancy and arrogance as opposed to his simplicity made him a redeemer to such ruler's respect
- His intelligence and quickness of mind (foresightedness) saved him from would be manipulators

#### **WHY WAS HE ABLE TO KEEP THE STATE TOGETHER**

- His command of respect and authority
- His insistence on the prevailing justice and equality to all
- He never took paramount decisions without consultation
- His system of constant communication with the provincial governors
- His decentralization of power among his governors. That is, they were his representatives in all capacities
- His intolerance of all un-islamic conduct especially among the governors
- His insistence on the rule of law (Sharia) and lack of bias or favoritism to particular individuals
- His economic policies especially in regard to tax collection. This was done humanely and peacefully
- His commitment to and respect for the agreements he entered with various rulers and communities kept the would be enemies under control

#### **INSTITUTIONS INITIATED BY CALIPH UMAR:**

##### **(a) Education:**

- Schools were opened during the Caliphate of Umar throughout the Caliphate which increased literacy levels within the Muslim community.
- He introduced the aspect of paying salary to the teachers in state owned schools. The Teachers at Medina were paid 15 dirhams a month
- Umar dispatched a group of Jurists to teach law (Sharia) in different parts of the state. for instance, AbdallahbnMas'ud was sent to Kuffa, Ma'qallbnYasir was sent to Basra etc
- He dispatched some companions who had learnt the whole Quran by heart to Syria to teach it to other Muslims. These included: UbadaibnSamit, Ma'dhibnJabal and Abu Dar'da
- In order to popularize the learning of the Quran, Umar made it compulsory for all Muslims to memorize some of its chapters. These are: Baqara. Nisae, Maida, Hajj and Noor. In these chapters, Islamic laws are given in details
- All students who memorized the whole Quran by heart were given scholarships and other facilities, thus promoting education in the Caliphate

- Umar introduced the concept of compulsory education at the time when nobody knew about it. This made Muslims learn Islamic law and the sciences of Quran
- Umar put an emphasis on the teaching the correct pronunciation of words. This developed Arabic language, which also simplified Quranic studies and recitation
- Umar gave less attention to hadith (sayings of the Prophet). With the exception of learned companions, he did not permit the general public to report hadith in order to avoid fabrications
- During his free time, Caliph Umar taught people the commands and prohibitions according to the teachings of Quran and hadith
- He appointed Abu Sufian teach Quran to the Bedouins. He also asked him (Abu Sufian) to taste their knowledge about the Quran.
- Caliph Umar is also celebrated for being the founder of Islamic jurisprudence (Fiqh) and also promoted its study throughout the Caliphate.

#### **(b) Mosques:**

- Caliph Umar instructed his governors to build mosques and about 4000 of them were erected during his Caliphate
- He ordered the sacred mosque of Mecca to be extended and decorated. He purchased houses surrounding it to be create space for its expansion
- Umar built a wall around the sacred mosque of Mecca to separate it from the township. The wall defined the boundaries of the mosque
- The Prophet's mosque of Medina was also extended (expanded) to cover the growing number of Muslims. He purchased houses surrounding it for its expansion
- He ordered the construction of a platform in the courtyard of Medina mosque and allowed those who wanted to recite poems and deliver speeches to use it
- There used to be no lights in the mosques of Mecca and Medina before Umar's Caliphate. TamimDhari supplied lamps for the mosques with the Caliph's permission
- The floor of masjid Nabawi was covered for the first time not with expensive carpets but with mats in order to preserve the simplicity of Islam
- Umar himself built a mosque in Jerusalem at a place called Sakhra, which became known as Umar's mosque

#### **(c) Administration**

- He created the Judiciary under Kadhis (Judges). The Kadhis were completely independent and paid good salaries so that they may not be bribed.
- A number of new cities were founded and these included Basra, Cairo (Fustat), Mosul, Kuffa to mention a few
- He divided the Islamic Caliphate into provinces each with a Capital. For instance, Hijaz had Mecca as its capital, Syria had Damascus
- He divided the provinces into districts each under an officer called an "Amiir". All of them would be invited to Mecca every year on the occasion of Hajj for general meeting
- He initiated the postal system for easy communication from the Capital to the rest of the state. Horses were used to carry messages all over the state
- Population census was introduced. It was carried out in the cities of Mecca and Medina for proper planning. This enabled him to know the poor, widows and orphans in the state.

- He introduced the Islamic calendar. The date of the start of the calendar was fixed as the date of Hijira of 622 AD. It is thus called the Hijira calendar
- He expanded the consultative council in a bid to strengthen his administration. Its work was to advise the Caliph on important matters of the state
- He enlarged the Baitulmaal (public treasury) and appointed an officer to govern it in each province of the Caliphate
- He expanded the Islamic state through conquests. In this vein, he conquered Persia, Syria and Egypt and silenced the enemies of Islam
- His personal care for the public and the poor deserves mention. He once found a man whose wife was in the throes of labour pains. Umar immediately called his wife who worked as a mid-wife
- Freedom of opinion was allowed on all occasions. This was extended to both men and women without discrimination. This strengthened his administration
- Muslims and non-Muslims were treated alike. He allowed the Jews and Christians to stay in the Caliphate and guaranteed their freedom of worship.

#### **(d) Security**

- Umar introduced police department to keep law and order. Abuhurairah was appointed police chief of Bahrain by the Caliph
- He introduced the institution of prisons and jails. He bought five houses in Mecca and used them as prisons. Jails were set up in other places of the Caliphate
- He was the first to establish the army as a state department. He encouraged Muslims to join it and were well paid and their families given allowances
- Umar mobilized all able bodied Muslims to join the army to serve their nation. This enabled him to raise a powerful army
- The army was divided into different barracks for efficiency purposes. Each barracks was headed by a commander appointed by the Caliph
- Umar was at the top of the security system as commander in chief of the armed forces. The command post was at Medina
- Soldiers were highly trained in military science. That is why they were always victorious against their enemies
- The police and the army were well paid as a way of energizing them to exercise state assignments
- All families of soldiers were well maintained by the state to give the soldiers ample time to concentrate on state duties
- The army always followed the strict rules of engagement put in place by the Prophet (PBUH) and consolidated by Abubakar
- The army was under the strict supervision of the state (Caliph). He always communicated to the soldiers who were at the battle front so that they did not divert from the tenets of the Quran

#### **(e) Economy**

- The tax on non-Muslim traders was introduced by Umar. This was because they never paid Zakat yet Muslim traders had to pay Zakat



- A number of Inns (rest houses) for travelers were built, hence easing peoples' movement from one place to another. Also, it generated income for the state
- Umar started allowance for the poor, under privileged and old non-Muslim citizens throughout the Empire
- He devised the policy of cultivating barren lands by assigning such lands to those who undertook it for cultivation. This increased food production
- A number of canals were dug for irrigation and for supply of fresh water. For instance, a nine mile long canal was constructed in Basra which brought water from River Tigris
- He built new roads and bridges to ease transport and communication. This boosted commerce not to mention the spread of Islam

#### **UMAR'S DEATH.**

- In 644 AD, Caliph Umar made his last pilgrimage to Mecca and returned to Medina to attend to state duties
- In the same year, he was stabbed by the Persian slave called Feroz (Pirus) Nahavandi, also known as Abu Lu'lu.
- Feroz attacked Umar as he was leading the morning prayers, stabbing him six times in the belly and finally in the navel
- Umar was left bleeding profusely. Feroz tried to flee but people from all sides rushed to capture him. In the process, he wounded 12 other people, 6 of them died later
- Some historians say, Umar was attacked in response to his conquest of Persia, which means Feroz was on retaliation move
- Others say that Feroz attacked the Caliph because he thought the Caliph was not fair in Judging the case between him and his master called Mughira
- It is said, Feroz slashed himself with his own blade and died (committed suicide) other than being brought to book.
- Caliph Umar died of the severe wounds three days later on Wednesday, 3rd of November, 644 (26<sup>th</sup> Dhul Hajj, 23 AH)
- As per Umar's will, he was buried next to Masjid al Nabawi alongside the Prophet (PBUH) and Caliph Abubakar by Aisha's permission

### ***Topic 3* THE CALIPHATE OF UTHMAN DHU AN-NURAYN.**

#### **HIS LIFE BEFORE CONVERSION TO ISLAM:**

- Uthman bin Affan is remembered as a pious, gentle and kind man, known for his modesty and generosity
- He was the third successor of the Prophet (PBUH) who ruled for a period of 12 years. He assumed the throne after the demise of Umar al Farooq
- Uthman was born in Taif, one of the town in the vicinity of Mecca. The exact date is disputed as both 576 and 583 are indicated by Muslim historians
- Uthman belonged to the Umayyad clan (branch) of the Quraish tribe. It was a prominent clan of the Quraish tribe

- Uthman's father was called Affan Ibn Abi al-Aas of the Umayya and his mother was known as Arwa bint Kurayz of Abdshams, both wealthy clans of the Quraish tribe in Mecca.
- Arwa's mother was Umm Hakim bint Abdul Muttalib, making Arwa the first cousin of Muhammad (PBUH) and Uthman his first cousin's son. Uthman had one sister called Amina
- Uthman's father, Affan died at a young age while travelling abroad, leaving Uthman with a large inheritance.
- Like Umar Bin Khattab, Uthman was able to read and write. This skill was not very common in the pre-Islamic Arabia
- He was a successful trader and a cloth merchant. This business made him one of the richest persons in Arabia
- Throughout his life, Uthman was known as a kind and generous man. Even before his conversion to Islam, he would freely give money to help those in need

#### **UTHMAN ACCEPTS ISLAM.**

- On returning from a business trip from Syria, in 611 AD, Uthman learned of Prophet Muhammad's declared mission
- After a discussion with Abubakar, Uthman decided to convert to Islam. Abubakar then took him to the Prophet (PBUH) to declare his faith. He thus became one of the earliest converts to Islam
- Abubakar and Uthman were very close friends in Mecca. So, when Abubakar explained the good news of Islam to him, he readily welcomed it.
- He embraced Islam at the age of 34. His conversion followed that of Ali, Zaid, Abubakar and a few others.
- His conversion to Islam angered his clan's men, the Umayyads, who bitterly opposed the Prophet's teachings
- He converted to Islam during the days when the Muslims were being abused and tortured by the Quraish in Mecca

#### **HIS CONTRIBUTION TO ISLAM IN MECCA**

- Uthman got married to Prophet Muhammad's daughter, Ruqayya. This further cemented the relationship between the two, leading to Islamic progress
- Uthman was abused and tortured by members of his own family for the sake of Islam. For instance, his uncle tied his hands and feet and shut him in a dark enclosed room
- Uthman participated in the first Muslims' migration for the sake of Islam. This was in 615 AD when he and his wife Ruqayya joined other Muslims to move to Abyssinia.
- He was one of the secretaries of the Prophet (PBUH) and participated in the recording down of the Quran
- He was among the Muslims who were boycotted by the Quraish aristocrats for three solid years (617-620 AD). But to his undying zeal for Islam, he did not give up
- He assisted the Prophet (PBUH) to teach Islam to other Muslims. He taught them to read the Quran since he was literate
- He always helped Muslims who were rejected by their families for embracing Islam. To such people, he provided food stuffs and money

## **HIS CONTRIBUTION TO ISLAM AFTER THE HIJIRAH**

- He migrated from Mecca to Medina for the sake of Islam which clearly proves his undying zeal for the new faith. He was able to sacrifice his life for the sake of Islam.
- While in Medina, he helped the Prophet (PBUH) in establishing the Muslim state. In this case, he participated in the formation of the Medina charter which created peace.
- He bought a well in Medina for Muslims' use. Muslims and non-Muslims used this water freely, which shows the generosity of Uthman
- Uthman participated in the building of the grand mosque of Medina. The mosque became the hub (center) of Islamic learning
- He participated in all battles fought to defend Islam except that of Badr in 624 AD when his wife Ruqayya was very sick. Ruqayya died before Muslims' Jihadists return to Medina
- After the death of Ruqayya, Uthman married Umm-Kuluthum, another daughter of the Prophet (PBUH), hence acquiring the title 'Dhu an-nurayn' meaning possessor of Two lights
- Every Friday, Uthman would buy slaves and set them free. Although he was wealthy, he had no servants. He equated servants to slaves.
- He was always a trusted advisor to the Prophet (PBUH) which saw Islam register progress in different fields
- In 628 AD, Uthman was sent to Mecca by the Prophet (PBUH) to inform them about Muslims' intention to visit the Kaaba to observe Umra rites. The event resulted into the signing of the treaty of Hudaibiyya
- He participated in the conquest of Mecca in 630 AD after the Meccas' violation of the treaty of Hudaibiyya. The event led to Islamic progress
- In the Tabook campaign against the Romans, Uthman gave in 1000 camels to support the Muslims' army. He also gave in horses and money
- He continued participating in the recording down the Quran. This was a significant contribution given the fact that Quran was revealed in parts and portions.
- He participated in burial arrangements of the Prophet (PBUH) in 632 AD.
- He was always supportive to the first three Caliphs in terms of advice, supporting financially Muslims programs to mention a few
- He used to pay Zakat hence boosting the Baitumaal (state treasury). The state treasury was used to cater for the poor, the needy etc.

## **HIS ASCENSION TO POWER.**

- Uthman was elected to office of the Caliph after the demise of Caliph Umar by a council of 6 men in 644 AD. He had clocked 70 years of age.
- Before his death, Umar had nominated a committee (panel) of six people to choose a Caliph from among themselves.
- They were to select the third successor within a period not exceeding three days after the death of Umar.
- The six persons were chosen from the senior companions of the Prophet (PBUH). These were Uthman bin Affan, Ali bin Abu Talib, Zubair bin Awwam, Talha, Sa'd bin Abiwaqqas and Abdul-Rahman bin Auf
- Out of the above six, the leading candidates were Ali bin AbuTalib and Uthmanbin Affan.

- Umar had directed that elections should not delay. That the successor should be determined within three days after his death
- The touchy issue was that, with the exception of Talha who was out of Medina on Umar's death, the other five had failed to nominate one another. It seemed all of them were ready for the office
- After long meetings, Abdul-Rahman bin Auf suggested that one person withdraws his name and then have the right to nominate the Caliph
- All agreed to the suggestion, but none was willing to withdraw till he himself withdrew his name to ease the exercise
- He consulted each of the candidates independently about each one's ability to manage the Caliphate.
- He consulted Ali and asked him whom he would wish to become Caliph after him in case he were to become one. Ali said Uthman and when asked the same question, Uthman suggested Ali
- Abdul-Rahman took his time making more consultations. He tried to get a unanimous vote but again he failed.
- At last, the third night came. In the morning of that night, he had to announce his decision. He sat the whole night holding talks with the other 4 members of the panel
- At last, the call to the morning-prayer brought these talks to an end. After the prayer, he stood up and addressed the general public thus:
- "Oh people, I have given my best thought to the matter. I have talked to different people and got their opinion. I hope you will not differ with my opinion."
- All accepted and he announced Uthman as the Caliph. He immediately took the pledge of loyalty at the hands of Uthman and he was followed by everybody including Ali. Thus, Uthman became the third Caliph
- Following the pledge of loyalty from the companions, Uthman gave an address to the people in which he upheld the policies of the previous Caliphs

## **MAJOR PROBLEMS FACED BY CALIPH UTHMAN.**

### **1. Problem of administering the provinces:**

- Caliph Uthman combined 3 provinces of Syria, Palestine and Jordan into one big province called Syria and appointed Muawiya bin Abu Sufian as its governor. This new arrangement did not please some Muslims
- In Iraq, governor Sa'd had a complaint with Abdallah bin Masood, the treasure. The case was investigated and it was discovered that Sa'd was not right. Uthman replaced him with Walid bin Uqba
- Still in Iraq, Walid who replaced Sa'd was not liked by some People as he was accused of drinking alcohol. Uthman removed Walid from office and appointed Sa'd bin al Aas as governor. This was in 30 A.H
- In Egypt, there was a conflict between Abdallah bin Sarh (revenue officer) and Amir bin al Aas (Army commander). Uthman investigated the case and found that Amir was not right. Amir was recalled back to Medina and Abdallah bin Sarh was made full governor. This annoyed Amir
- In Iran, which was under the administration of Basra, Governor Abu Musa was accused (wrongly) of favouring the Quraish. Uthman recalled him to Medina and appointed Abdallah bin al Amir as the new governor

## **2. The conspiracy of Abdallah Ibn Saba :**

- Abdallah Ibn Sabah, a Jew from Yemen converted to Islam to cause confusion among Muslims. He became a dangerous epidemic to Uthman's leadership. Most of the false accusations against the Caliph were made by Ibn Sabah
- They wrongly accused governors most of them being senior companions of the Prophet prompting the Caliph to punish them. For instance, Governor Walid was wrongly accused by the Sabaites in Iraq of consuming alcohol for which he was flogged by the Caliph.
- When the Caliph punished such officers after evidence being presented against them by the Sabaites, Ibn Sabah turned round and criticized the Caliph for punishing innocent people
- Caliph Uthman's house was besieged by the rebels in Medina, not allowing him to attend congregational prayers at the grand mosque. They did not even allow him to go for hajj rites in that year (35 AH)
- He confused prominent companions (Sahabas) of the Prophet into doubting the Caliph Uthman's judgment in administration
- He incited violence against the Caliph in various provinces in the Caliphate such as Egypt, Kuffa, Basra and Syria by making false claims against the governors
- As a result of the false claims, the people in the provinces of the Caliphate started demanding the transfer of the governors by the Caliph
- When Uthman died, Ibn Sabah misinformed Aisha that Ali had knowledge of Uthman's murder and that he (Ali) was friendly to the rebels (assassins/sabaites). This led to the battle of the camel of 656 AD
- When Uthman returned his uncle to Medina, Ibn Saba criticized Uthman for violating the Prophets' instructions. The Caliph was accused of favouring his kins
- He claimed that every Prophet left a wasi (administrator) who was his relative. He claimed that Moses made Haroon his wasi. So, Prophet Muhammad's wasi was his brother Ali. So the Caliphate of Abubakar, Umar and Uthman was unlawful
- He started to give wrong commentary of various verses of the Holy Quran and twisted their meaning in favour of his beliefs.
- The Sabaites also forged letters about the Caliph and the governors accusing them of injustice. The letters also indicated that Ali, Talha and Zubair had full sympathy with them and their mission and that they disliked the Caliph (These 3 were the leading sahabas at the time in Medina)
- When Ibn Sabah sent message to Muawiya that Ali was behind Uthman's murder, the result was the battle of Siffin of 657 AD

## **3. False accusations (Allegations):**

- He was accused of performing full prayer at Minna yet the Prophet (PBUH) and his two successors (Abubakar and Umar) used to shorten them.
- It was alleged that Uthman was extravagant and gave away money to his relatives, hence squandering the Baitummaal
- He was accused of burning the Holy Quran. This is when he ordered the burning of some copies that differed from the original copy compiled by Abubakar
- That he mistreated other companions of the Prophet (PBUH). For instance, that he forced Abu-Dhar to live in a remote village of Rabdha

- Caliph Uthman returned his uncle, Hakam to Medina after the Prophet had exiled him to Taif on account of mistreating his neighbours. Uthman also donated to him 100,000 dirhams.
- He was accused of introducing a tax on horses yet during the Prophet's time and the first two Caliphs, such tax never existed
- That he appointed young officers from Umayyad clan as governors yet they were inexperienced in administrative issues, were oppressive and misused public wealth
- That he employed his relatives some of whom were not upright (God-fearing). They gave Walid bin Uqbah as an example who was accused of drinking alcohol
- He was accused of favouring some governors and kinsmen to acquire private property. For instance Hakam, Marwan's father took the estate of Fadaq. Marwan was Uthman's secretary.
- He was accused of being a weak leader who allowed provincial governors to pile up wealth at the expense of state duties, yet the first two Caliphs never allowed such a thing
- He was accused of demolishing people's houses during the expansion of the grand mosque of Mecca and the Prophet's mosque of Medina
- He was accused of ignoring advice of Senior companions from among Muhajiroon and Ansar concerning state affairs
- He was accused of old age. That at 80 years, he could not easily react and handle situations which needed immediate action

#### **4. Rebellion in Medina and assassination of the Caliph**

- Caliph Uthman was killed by the rebels (Sabaites) on Friday, the 17<sup>th</sup> of Dhul hajj, 35 A.H (17<sup>th</sup> July, 656 AD) in Medina
- In 35 AH, the rebels started coming in small groups from various places like Basra, Kufa and Egypt. They were about 3000 in number
- The rebels wanted Talha to be the next Caliph. Others preferred Zubair while others were in favour of Ali bin Abu Talib
- A few days later, the people of Medina were surprised to hear shouts of "revenge", "revenge" in the streets of the city
- Ali bin Abu Talib tried to cool them down but they did not listen to him. They went straight to Uthman and told him to resign his post or else they would kill him
- Uthman however told them he was not ready to drop the responsibility entrusted to him by the Almighty Allah.
- The rebels then laid a siege on Uthman's house and this went on for forty days. They did not allow him to come out to attend congregational prayers
- Some brave Muslim youths like Hassan, Hussein, Muhammad bin Talha and Abdallah bin Zubair were guarding the gate of Uthman's house
- During the siege, the Caliph sent Abdallah bin Abbas to Mecca to lead Muslims in observance of Hajj rites and also inform people about the rebels
- A prominent companion called Mughira bin Shu'ba requested the Caliph to take action against the rebels but he refused saying this would lead to the death of many Muslims
- The rebels were afraid that since the Hajj was coming to an end, a number of supporters of the Caliph would come to Medina and silence them
- They then decided to kill the Caliph without delay. They climbed the back walls of the house and entered the room where Uthman was reciting the Quran

- One of the rebel hit his head with an axe while the next struck him with a sword. His wife, Naila tried to shield him but the fingers were chopped off
- After injuring Uthman, one of the rebels, an Egyptian named Amr bin Hamq cut off the Caliph's head. This took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> Dhul-Hajj 35 AH.

### **REVISION QUESTIONS:**

1. Under what circumstances was Caliph Uthman murdered?
2. Describe the murder of Caliph Uthman

### **CONSEQUENCES OF UTHMAN'S MURDER**

- The murder of Caliph Uthman tarnished the image of the person of Caliph as a successor of the Prophet (PBUH).
- It created a feeling among Muslims that the Caliph must be answerable to the Muslims for his actions and he could be removed from office
- Uthman's murder re-awakened the old Arab tribalism which the Prophet (PBUH) had struggled to eliminate
- It destroyed the unity of Muslims since the Umayyads and the Hashimites became enemies. The reason was that, the former accused the latter for the murder
- The assassination of Uthman led to the rise of Ali as the Fourth successor of the Prophet (PBUH).he was selected by Muslims in Medina since he was the most suitable person.
- It also caused misunderstandings between the Ansar and Umayyads as the center of power was shifted from Medina to Damascus in Syria where Muawiya had strong influence
- The city of Medina lost its position of being the seat of Islam. the next Caliph, Ali transferred his offices to Kuffa in Iraq while his rival, Muawiya transferred his to Damascus in Syria
- The Ansar lost their position in the Caliphate. These had shielded all people who had come from Mecca since the great hijira. This was no longer the case as companions moved to other places
- The assassination of Uthman introduced civil wars in the Community of Muslims. For instance, at Basra, Aisha engaged Ali in a heavy fight. Ali was also fought by Muawiya at Siffin
- The expansion of the Islamic state suffered a setback. The reason is that, there followed conflicts between Ali (The next Caliph) and other companions such as Aisha and Muawiya

### **ACHIEVEMENTS OF CALIPH UTHMAN**

- Uthman ended the rebellions in various provinces of the Islamic Caliphate. This brought peace and tranquility in the Caliphate, hence the growth of Islam
- Uthman's Caliphate also saw further expansion of the Islamic state. it was at this time that Islam reached the Atlantic coast in Africa
- He standardized the Holy Quran following the Quraish dialect. All other copies written in other dialects were withdrawn and burnt in a bid to safeguard the authenticity of the Holy Book
- Uthman constructed a huge dam to protect the city of Medina against floods
- He also regulated the supply of water in the city of Medina. Therefore, Muslims were able to access enough water for domestic use
- He established guest houses in different parts of the Caliphate which were to be used by travelers. This provided revenue to the state

- Uthman expanded the Prophet's mosque in Medina with increased number of Muslims. He purchased the surrounding areas to facilitate the expansion
- Uthman introduced farms for breeding camels and horses on a wide scale. In this way, he promoted the activity of rearing animals and trade
- Uthman built roads and bridges which facilitated transport and communication which also boosted commercial activities in the state
- Uthman sent teachers to the conquered territories to teach the new converts their religion
- Caliph Uthman also showed his courage and determination to serve Allah as he refused to resign his office as demanded by the rebels
- Uthman constructed mosques in various parts of the Caliphate. These were not only places of worship but also places of worship
- Schools were established in the Caliphate to facilitate the teaching of Islamic sciences, that is, Quran and Hadith. This promoted Islamic jurisprudence
- Caliph Uthman re-organised the administrative divisions of the Caliphate for easy governance
- Caliph Uthman built a number of canals in the Caliphate to encourage agriculture. This increased food production
- Uthman was the first Caliph to organize a naval force. This was seen in Syria during the administrative control of Amir Mawiyah
- He conquered some parts of Europe such as Spain when he deployed general Uqba bin Nafi (Nafi) as commander of the army. The chief commander was Abdallah bin Saraah

#### **UTHMAN'S CHARACTER**

- He was a very pious companion of the Prophet (PBUH) and a man of high character
- He was the most modest and shy of all the companions of the Prophet (PBUH)
- He was a strict follower of the sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH)
- He used to fear Allah very much and tears would roll down his cheeks when he remembered about life in the grave.
- He used to read the Quran so regularly and in fact he was killed while reading the Quran.
- He was a very generous companion of the Prophet (PBUH) and never hesitated to contribute in the cause of Allah
- Uthman was very soft in speech and if any person spoke to him in a harsh tone, he always replied gently
- He was very much interested in education and he established a library at the back of his house to allow Muslims use it for research
- Uthman was a very rich companion of the Prophet (PBUH). He never took allowances from the state treasury (Baitulmaal)
- Uthman was very humble and could sometimes sleep in the mosque covered with a simple blanket without any body guard.



## ***Topic4* THE CALIPHATE OF ALI ASADULLAH**

### **HIS EARLY LIFE:**

- Ali bin Abu Talib was born in Mecca in the year 600 AD, 30 years after the birth of the Prophet (PBUH)
- He belonged to the Hashim clan of the Quraish tribe. His clan was one of the respected families in Arabia
- Ali's father was called Abu Talib, one of the nine uncles of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). It is this Abu Talib who raised Muhammad (PBUH) following the death of his grandfather, Abdul Muttalib
- His mother was called FatumabintAsad of the Hashim clan. When Abu Talib (her husband) died, she embraced Islam and migrated to Medina with her son, Ali. She died in 625 AD
- The above clearly shows that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Ali were brothers since their fathers were all children of Abdul-Muttalib
- When Ali was still a child, his care was taken over by the Prophet (PBUH) after his marriage with Khadija. The Prophet took Ali as his own child.
- The Prophet (PBUH) loved Ali so much because of his noble qualities
- When the Prophet (PBUH) received revelation of the Quran in 610 AD, Ali was 10 years old. He embraced Islam, hence becoming the first youth to believe in Muhammad's mission.

### **HIS SERVICES TO ISLAM BEFORE HE BECAME CALIPH**

- Ali accepted Islam though still a young boy. He thus became the first youth to embrace Islam and he was among the earliest converts to Islam
- In 613 AD, though still a young boy, Ali vowed to protect the Prophet and eventually became his chief bodyguard, a service he rendered till the Prophet's death
- He sacrificed his life for the sake of Islam when he stayed in the Prophet's house the night the Quraish planned to assassinate the Prophet in 622 AD
- The items which the Meccans had kept with the Prophet (PBUH) were returned to them by Ali on the Prophet's instructions
- He migrated from Mecca to Medina for the sake of Islam. He thus contributed to the building of the Muslim state of Medina
- When Ali clocked 21 years, the Prophet (PBUH) married him to his daughter, Fatuma, hence strengthening the relationship between the two
- Ali joined other Muslims to participate in the construction of the Prophet's residence and the grand mosque of Medina
- He participated in all battles to defend Islam with love, courage and bravery. The battles included Badr, Uhud, Khandaq etc. As for the battle of Khandaq, it was only Ali who fought and killed one Abduwood.
- In the battle of Uhud, he suffered multiple injuries. Some historians say, 60 wounds were inflicted on him. Due to his bravery, the Prophet named him Asadullah, meaning the Lion of Allah
- He was the secretary of the Prophet (PBUH) at Hudaibiyya in 628 AD when Muslims signed a treaty with the people of Mecca

- He participated in the conquest of Mecca in 630 AD as a result of the violation of the Hudaibiyya treaty by the Quraish. It was Ali who held the flag of Muslims
- In the expedition of Tabuk in which the Prophet (PBUH) participated, Ali was left in charge of Medina on the Prophet's directives
- Ali was among the literates and he had deep knowledge of the Quran. He was among the companions who recorded down the Quran
- He also had deep knowledge on other Islamic sciences and due to this, the Prophet (PBUH) named him the 'Gate of knowledge'
- In 9 AH (631 AD), Ali was sent by the Prophet (PBUH) to Mecca to deliver to Muslims' pilgrims the verses of Quran which had just been revealed. The verses were about treaties between Muslims and non-Muslims
- When the Prophet died, Ali was one of the companions who arranged his burial (washing him, wrapping him and laying him in the grave)
- Ali also supported and helped the three Caliphs, that is, Abubakar, Umar and Uthman, rendering a great service to Islam

### **HOW WAS ALI ELECTED TO OFFICE**

- Ali bin Abu Talib was among the Muhajiroon who became the fourth successor of the Prophet (PBUH). He assumed office in the year 656 AD (35 AH) after the death of Uthman
- Following Uthman's assassination, the whole city of Medina was plunged into total confusion and violence. It was under such circumstances that Ali was to become the fourth Caliph
- After the burial of Uthman, Ali's name was proposed by some Muslims for the post of Caliph. Other people approached were Talha and Zubair.
- At first Ali refused to accept the office because of violence within the city of Medina which had caused insecurity
- Most people who had proposed his name were had taken part in the murder of Uthman. This put Ali in a state of confusion
- Other companions of the Prophet (PBUH) also urged him to accept the responsibility of Amīr al Mu'miniin (Caliph) because he was suitable for it compared to others
- Having been requested by fellow companions to accept the responsibility, Ali agreed and was finally declared the 4<sup>th</sup> Caliph
- Ali's acceptance of the mantle of leadership was the best thing to do given the fact that the whole city was now under the control of the rebels. So, there was need to restore order
- It therefore followed that on 21<sup>st</sup> Dhulhijj, 35 AH, Ali received pledges of loyalty from most of the Muslims. Those who did not pledge loyalty fled to Syria to join Amir Muawiya.
- First, the insurgents (Rebels) pledged their loyalty and they were followed by the general public of Medina.
- Some companions like Talha and Zubair hesitated to take the pledge, but they were forced into doing so by the rebels
- It is also noted that majority of the Umayyad family declined to pledge loyalty to Ali before solving the murder of Uthman
- Such were the circumstances under which Ali became the 4<sup>th</sup> Caliph at a time when the once powerful united Muslim state was under a big threat of civil strife and disunity

## THE BATTLE OF THE CAMEL (JAMAL) OF 656 AD

- The battle of the camel sometimes called the battle of Jamal took place at Basra in Iraq on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 656 AD. It was between Lady Aisha's forces and Caliph Ali
- It is called the battle of the camel because Aisha, the Prophet's widow commanded her forces while mounting (seated on) her camel
- At Basra, Ali and Aisha had tried to avoid war, but the Sabaites (Rebels) forced the two forces of believers into a bloody war
- The war was caused by the assassination of Caliph Uthman bin Affan. When the assassination took place, Aisha was in Mecca for pilgrimage. The sad news found her there.
- She was shocked the news of the tragic death of Caliph Uthman and she wanted the new Caliph, Ali bin Abu Talib to put the assassins to justice
- Aisha appealed to the people of Mecca for support in avenging Uthman's death before recognizing Ali as the next Caliph
- Meanwhile, Zubair bin Awwam and Talha bin Ubaida had left Medina and informed Aisha of the events surrounding Uthman's death
- The two informed her that, although they had pledged their loyalty to Ali, this was done under duress. They also wished that Ali should put the assassins to trial
- They said they supported Aisha in her quest for justice. The three (Aisha, Talha and Zubair) raised a force of 30000 men and marched to Basra against Caliph Ali
- They captured the city of Basra and rounded up a number of Ali's supporters and those who were suspected to have murdered Uthman. Those who were found guilty were killed
- Hearing the news, Caliph Ali raised a force of 20000 officers and men to march to Basra and settle the dust of turmoil
- The two armies met outside the city of Basra. Ali then suggested that negotiations should be carried out to resolve the conflict. This was done and the war fever was ended
- But when the people who had murdered Uthman heard that negotiations had gone on smoothly, they caused chaos on both sides
- They feared that, should peace prevail, Caliph Ali would have ample time to look for the rebels and bring them to book
- Just before dawn, the rebels came out and attacked Aisha's army. Aisha was made to think that it was Ali who had attacked her army
- On the other side, Caliph Ali's army was also surprised to hear (see) the opposing army launching an attack on them
- Soon, both armies were engaged in a serious battle. Aisha was in her tent seated on a camel. Some fighters surrounded the tent (the camel) to protect her
- When Ali saw the increasing number of people losing their lives in defense of the camel, he commanded the camel to be speared. This was done and it fell down.
- Muhammad bin Abubakar, Aisha's brother together with Ammar bin Yasir took Aisha and her tent to Medina safely on Caliph Ali's orders.
- This marked the end of the battle with victory on Ali's side. We cannot say Muslims wanted to fight and kill each other. What is clear is that the war was cultivated by the rebels.
- Several Muslims died including Talha and Zubair. In total, 10000 people lost their lives. Out of the dead were 70 people who were defending Aisha and her camel, and they were all Quraish
- This battle is also known as the first Fitna or Muslim civil war in the history of Islam.

## **EFFECTS OF THE BATTLE:**

- It opened a new chapter in the history of Islam called the Fitna period; the period of civil wars between great companions of the Prophet (PBUH)
- Lady Aisha's forces were defeated by Caliph Ali's forces. Her defeat marked the end of the rebellions in Basra
- Aisha was not mistreated as a captive of war. She was taken to Medina under the escort and care of her own brother, Muhammad bin Abubakar
- There was loss of life. In total, 10000 Muslims died including some great companions of the Prophet (PBUH), namely Talha and Zubair
- Caliph Ali was able to restore law and order in the city of Basra and the Caliphate in general
- There was loss of property in the course of fighting. For instance, Aisha's camel was killed to save Muslim's lives
- It was an eye opener to the Caliph to raise an army loyal to him ready to put down any other rebellion in the Islamic state
- After the battle, the rebels refused to go back to their areas of origin, they continued carrying out subversive activities in the Caliphate
- The war makes us learn that some people convert to Islam for fulfil their ulterior (selfish) motives. They are not genuine Muslims but simply hypocrites!
- The war gave birth to another war at Siffin. This was between Muawiya, the governor of Syria and Caliph Ali. Muawiya accused Ali of fighting Aisha, the mother of believers

## **THE BATTLE OF SIFFIN (657 AD)**

- It was fought between Muawiya bin Abu Sufian, the governor of Syria and Caliph Ali bin Abu Talib on the banks of river Euphrates in Siffin around the present-day Syrian city of Raqqa
- After attaining victory at Basra (battle of the camel), Ali turned his attention to Syria where Muawiya was the governor and who had proved to be rebellious.
- The Caliph left with an army of 80,000 officers and men. Muawiya also mobilized 120,000 men to face the challenge.
- One historian, Yaqubi wrote that, Caliph Ali had 80,000 men of which 70 had fought in the battle of Badr, 70 had taken the oath at Hudaibiyah and 400 prominent Ansar and Muhajroon. He says, Muawiya's forces were dominated by Syrians
- The commanders on Ali's side were Ali himself, Hassan bin Ali, Hussein bin Ali, Abbas bin Ali, Ammar Ibn Yasir, Ashtar, Muhammad bin Abu Bakr etc. Muawiya's force was commanded by himself, Amir bin al Aas, Marwan, Walid bin Utba etc
- The two armies had encamped at the site for more than two months, trying to avoid conflict and to settle the situation through negotiations.
- The negotiations were initiated by Caliph Ali but Muawiya remained stiff. He insisted on Ali's punishing the assassins which was impossible at this critical time.
- On July 26<sup>th</sup>, the would-be avoided war started and lasted till July 28<sup>th</sup>. It was a fierce battle that cost lives of many a Muslim.
- Faced with a disastrous defeat, Amir Bin al Aas, one of Muawiya's commanders made 5000 of his front soldiers to fasten copies of the Quran on their spears and lances.

- Amir ordered them to move towards Caliph Ali's soldiers, as they shouted: 'Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest. This is the Book of Allah. May Allah judge between us.'
- The cunning words had a magical effect on the Caliph Ali's soldiers who began to shout the same words from their side.
- The Caliph was very much surprised at this move. He became helpless when his army split into two. Some wanted the battle to continue while others wished to stop fighting
- Al Tabari reports that Muawiya said: 'Ali bin Abu Talib had two right hands. One of them was cut at Siffin, meaning Ammar bin Yasir and the other today, meaning al-Ashtar.'
- Abdallah bin Amru, one of Muawiya's officers said: 'surely I heard from the Prophet saying, Oh Ammar the rebellious group will martyr you.' This clearly shows that Muawiya was not right to fight Ali. He was rebellious!!
- The war ended in a stalemate. Nobody won the war as the matter was referred to arbitration

### **EFFECTS OF THE BATTLE**

- The battle came to an end with the general agreement between the two parties. So, it ended in a stalemate.
- Ali's army was divided. Some broke away and they became known as Kharijites (separators). These caused more chaos in the Caliphate
- The war proved the Prophet's prophecy. He once said: 'Oh Ammar, the rebellious group will martyr you.' Ammar bin Yasir was killed at Siffin by Muawiya's forces
- The negotiations between Caliph Ali and Muawiya failed and instead a civil war broke out in the Caliphate, hence fermenting further trouble
- Also, the arbitrations and the war itself unveiled the true colours of Amir Bin al-Aas. It shows how cunning and manipulative he could be in state matters.
- Muawiya later declared himself a caliph and started conquering some parts of the Caliphate. For instance, he conquered Egypt and governor Muhammad bin Abu Bakr was killed
- The Banu Umayyah established a dynasty that became known as the Umayyad dynasty and its first ruler was Muawiya. He assumed the Title, 'Muawiyah I'
- With the establishment of the Umayyad dynasty by Muawiya, hereditary rule was introduced in the Islamic state. In this case, leadership was from Father to son.
- The headquarters of the Islamic state were transferred from Medina to Damascus in Syria by Muawiya. This boosted the Syrians
- With the transfer of the headquarters from Medina to other areas, it lowered the position of the great city and the Ansar felt cheated
- The Kharijites started hatching plans of eliminating Ali, Muawiya and Amir Bin al-Aas. Their argument was that the trio were the cause of insecurity. Apart from the other two, Ali was killed
- The position (office) of the Caliph was tarnished, hence marking the end of the golden age of the Caliphate.
- The Muslim community was divided into rival groups. These were: Hashimites, Umayyads and Kharijites. The bond of unity which the messenger of God had created was broken

### **PROBLEMS FACED BY CALIPH ALI:**

- He got a lot of opposition from some great companions of the Prophet such as Zubair, Talha, Aisha, Muawiya to mention a few. This denied him energy to execute his duties.
- The battles (civil wars) in his caliphate caused no less problems. At the battle of Siffin alone, it is estimated that 65,000 Muslims perished. These were Muslims fighting and butchering each other
- Muawiya the governor of Syria, who self-styled himself as caliph, was another challenge. He refused to recognize Ali as Caliph after the death of Uthman. He even incited some Muslims against Ali.
- The Kharijite movement born out the battle of Siffin was another challenge. These elements caused chaos which eventually led to the death of the Caliph
- The hypocrites became another challenge. These were led by Abdallah Ibn Sabah, a Yemenite Jew who pretended to have embraced Islam. He incited Muslims against their leaders
- Ali assumed office of Caliph after Muslims had become divided over the death of Uthman, the third Caliph. He had therefore to work round the clock to bring them which was not easy
- By the time he became Caliph, the state treasury had run bankrupt. This means he could not solve immediate financial challenges yet Zakat was poorly observed.
- He lacked a loyal army. Yes, many Muslims supported him, but these were seen in some areas of the state. In Syria, the Muslims had been turned against him and therefore, could not render support
- His inability to make independent decisions was another challenge. He made some changes in administration which were rejected. For instance, the new governors he appointed were rejected
- The split in his army at the time unity was needed, became a serious epidemic. Part of the army joined Muawiya in Syria, putting the position of the Caliph at stake
- Ali was unfortunate that he had weak political representatives such as Abu Musa. This particular Abu Musa failed to properly represent the Caliph at the round table after the Siffin encounter
- Ali was not given enough time to look for Uthman's assassins. There was chaos everywhere in the state. So, he failed to bring the rebels to book. He could not rush into it for he would have punished wrong people
- Caliph Ali lost some territory to Muawiya, the governor of Syria. For instance, Yemen and Egypt were lost. This meant loss of revenue and loyalty of Muslims in those areas.

### **DEATH OF THE CALIPH:**

- Caliph Ali was killed by a Kharijite when he was leading the morning (Fajir) prayer at the mosque in Kuffa in Iraq.
- The Kharijites reasoned that, three people had to be eliminated if peace was to return in the state. The three were Ali, Muawiya and Amir bin al Aas
- They therefore chose three men to carry out this mission. Abdul-Rahma bin Muljim was sent to assassinate Ali, Bark bin Abdallah was sent to Muawiya and Amir bin Bark was sent to kill Amir bin al Aas
- They all agreed that the assassination plot was to be carried out on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Ramadhan, on Friday during morning (Fajir) prayers

- Ali was wounded with a poisonous sword and died three days after. Muawiya escaped with minor injuries. Amir bin al Aassurvived as he did not turn up for the morning prayer that day
- Ali died at the age of 63. He was buried at Najaf a few kilometers outside the city of Kuffa, bringing an end to his 4 year and 9 months reign
- He left the issue of his successor for the Muslim Ummah to decide. He could not name any since many companions refused to pledge allegiance to him. They fought him and died in action of fighting against him

### **EFFECTS OF HIS DEATH**

- The Caliphate period came to an end after the assassination of Ali, the fourth Caliph
- The shura system came to an end and was replaced by hereditary system of administration
- The simplicity and purity of the orthodox Caliphate system was destroyed
- The Ansar and all Arabs lost influence in the Caliphate as the Islamic headquarters were transferred to Damascus
- The state treasury became a personal property and it was highly misused by the leaders that followed
- Enmity between the BanuUmayyads and Hashimites increased which generated
- Further conflicts among Muslims
- It sparked off divisionism among Muslims leading to creation of religious sects such as Shia, Kharitesetc
- It created the dynastic type of rule in the Islamic state, beginning with the Umayyad dynasty. Its first leader was Muawiyaiabn Abu Sufian.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS OF CALIPH ALI**

- He tried to follow the administrative steps put up by his predecessors. For instance, he maintained Caliph Umar's decision of expelling the Jews of Nijran from the hijaz
- He carried out strict administrative control through strict supervision of state officialsas they executed (carried out) state duties affairs
- He was so strict on matters of accountability that he never even spared his relatives once they messed up with public funds
- He made special reforms in the department of taxation. In this case, he collected only God fearing taxes
- He abolished taxes on horses reasoning that the breeding of horses was vital for the civil and military purposes
- He had a strong affection for the poor and needy. The doors of state treasury were always open for these people
- Militarily, he constructed several forts along the borders of Syria to maintain law and order by checking any hostile forces
- He built a bridge on river Euphrates which solved transport and communication challenges. It also boosted trade
- In the field of religion, Ali's major task was to invite non-Muslims to the folds of Islam. He also did his utmost to educate Muslims about their religion
- He took strong measures against those people who abandoned Islam. This was majorly seen in Iran and Ar'menia

- He tried to maintain strict code of morals by initiating new punishments basing on the nature of the crime
- He initiated specific punishments for wine drinking. Earlier, the punishments had not been specified. Ali decided to give 80 lashes for wine drinkers
- With the punishment of death by stoning, he ordered the lower part of the criminals to be covered

***END***