Abu-Bakr As-Siddîq (the Man of Truth)

In the Name of Allâh, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

All the praises and thanks be to Allâh, prayers and peace of Allah be upon the Messenger of Allah and upon all his family and companions.

We have an appointment with a man; after the Prophets and Messengers the sun has never risen nor set over a better man than him.

He is a man whose faith has been weighed against the faith of the whole nation, and his faith over weighed it all.

He is a man who has spent all his money for the cause of Allah, upon which it was said to him, “What have you left for your family? He said the words of the confidant of his Lord, “I left for them Allah and His Messenger.”

It is Abu Bakr As-Siddîq, may Allah be pleased with him.

His name is Abdullah ibn ‘Uthman ibn ‘Amir; from the tribe of Quraish; his parents are from Tamim. He was generous, brave, firm and of sound opinions in grave situations. He was tolerant, patient, strong-willed, and a great scholar knowing about genealogy and stories. He was very trusting in Allah and confident about His promise. He was pious, away from suspicions, an ascetic in this worldly life and desiring for what is with Allah. He was an intimate companion, may Allah be pleased with him and may He please him. (The order and Refinement of the Beginning and the End, by Ibn Kathir, p. 17)

Ibn Al-Jawzi said, “You should know that the natural dispositions of Abu Bakr, may Allah be pleased with him, are well-known through his piety, fear (of Allah), asceticism, and modesty. Before becoming the caliph, he used to milk the sheep to the neighborhood; one morning, after he was acknowledged as Caliph he was walking in the market. A young woman from the neighborhood said, ‘Now he will not milk our animals,’ upon which he said, ‘nay, I will certainly milk your animals for you. I wish that this matter I went through will not change me.’ All the companions, may Allah be pleased with them, have acknowledged his virtues.” (At-Tabisirah [the Enlightenment] 1/400)

The man of virility and virtue

As-Siddîq, may Allah be pleased with him, was a man of virility and virtue, a man of
sound mind even on the days of pre-Islamic period. He has never drunk alcoholic
drinks in order that he does not lose his mind and act in an ugly manner.

The first man to embrace Islam

Abu Said al-Khudri, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated about the story of Abu
Bakr taking over the caliphate, he said, “Abu Bakr said, ‘Am I not the first man to
embrace Islam? Am I not the owner of such? Am I not the owner of such?’ [Narrated
by at-Tirmidhi]

The embracing of Islam by Abu Bakr has a greater benefit to Islam and Muslims
than the embracing of Islam of others because of his status and seriousness in
calling for Islam. By his embracing of Islam many celebrities followed his lead such
as Abdul Rahman ibn Auf, Sa’d ibn Abi Waqas, ‘Uthmân ibn Affân, az-Zubair ibn
al-Awwâm, and Talha ibn ‘Ubeidu-Allah. On the day he embraced Islam, he had forty
thousand dirhams which he spent in the way of Allah.

In the cause of Allah, he manumitted a number of oppressed slaves who were being
tortured such as Bilal, may Allah be pleased with him. He kept close to the
Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, in Mecca. He was his
companion in the cave, in the migration journey and then in Medina. He has
attended all his battles in full; Badr, Uhud, Al-Khandaq and Tabuk. (The order and
Refinement of the Beginning and the End, p. 17)

The virtues and good traits Abu Bakr As-Siddîq, may Allah be pleased with him

They are mentioned in a lot of Hadith and Quranic verses. From the verses:

Quranic verses about the virtue of As-Siddîq:

The words of Allah Almighty, {And Al-Muttaqûn (the pious) will be far removed from
it (Hell). (17) He who spends his wealth for increase in self-purification, (18) And
who has (in mind) no favour from anyone to be paid back, (19) Except to seek the
Countenance of his Lord, the Most High. (20) He surely will be pleased (when he
enters Paradise).} [Al-Layl 92:17-21]

Transliteration: Wasayujannabuha alatqa (17) Allathee yutee malahu yatazakka (18)
Wama liahadin AAindahu min niAAmatin tujza (19) Illa ibtighaa wajhi rabbii alAAala (20)
Walasadwa yarda

Ibn Al-Jawzi said, “There is a unanimous agreement that these verses are revealed
about Abu Bakr. The verses declare that he is the most pious of all the muslim
The words of Allah Almighty, {The second of the two; when they (Muhammad and Abu Bakr) were in the cave, he (prayers and peace of Allah be upon him) said to his companion (Abu Bakr): “Be not sad (or afraid), surely Allâh is with us.” Then Allâh sent down His Sakînah (calmness, tranquility, peace) upon him, and strengthened him with forces (angels) which you saw not,} [At-Tawbah 9:40]

The Muslims unanimously agree that the companion in the verse is meant to be Abu Bakr.

The words of Allah Almighty, {And he (Muhammad) who has brought the truth (this Qur’ân and Islâmic Monotheism) and (those who) believed therein (i.e. the true believers of Islâmic Monotheism), those are Al-Muttaqûn (the pious).} [Az-Zumar 39:33]

Al-Bazzar and ibn ‘Asâkir reported that Ali, may Allah be pleased with him, said, in interpretation of the previous verse, “the one who has brought the truth is Muhammad, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him. This who believed therein is Abu Bakr.”

This is what Ali says about As-Siddîq, why are you so sour, O unbeliever!

Some Hadith about the virtue of As-Siddiq

The Hadiths about the virtues of as-Siddiq are abundant. Among them are:

The first: Amr ibn al-‘As, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that he asked the Prophet, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, “Who is the most beloved person to you?” He said, ‘Aisha.’ I asked, “Among the men?” He said, ‘Her father.’” [Agreed upon]
The second: Mohamed ibn al-Hanafiyyah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “I said to my father – he meant Ali ibn Abu Tâlib, may Allah be pleased with him, ‘Who are the best people after the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him?’ He said, “Abu Bakr.” I asked, “Who then?” He said, “Then ‘Umar.” “I was afraid he would say ‘Uthman, so I said, “Then you?” He said, “I am but one of the Muslims.” [Narrated by al-Bukhari]

The third: Abu Said al-Khudri, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the prophet, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, said, “There is no one who had done more favor to me with his life and property than Abu Bakr ibn Abu Quhafa. If I were to take a Khalil (very close friend), I would certainly have taken Abu Bakr as one but the Islamic brotherhood is superior. Close all the small doors in this mosque except for that of Abu Bakr.” [Agreed upon]

The fourth: Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, said, “Whoever gives two kinds (of things or property) in charity for Allah’s Cause, will be called from the gates of Paradise and will be addressed, ‘O slaves of Allah! Here is prosperity.’ So, whoever was amongst the people who used to offer their prayers, will be called from the gate of the prayer; and whoever was amongst the people who used to participate in Jihad, will be called from the gate of jihad; and whoever was amongst those who used to observe fasts, will be called from the gate of Ar-Raiyan; whoever was amongst those who used to give in charity, will be called from the gate of charity.” Abu Bakr said, “Let my parents be sacrificed for you, O Messenger of Allah! No distress or need will befall him who will be called from those gates. Will there be any one who will be called from all these gates?” The Prophet replied, “Yes, and I hope you will be one of them.” [Agreed upon]

The fifth: Abu Bakr, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, said to him while they were in the cave 9during the migration journey), “O Abu Bakr! What say you of two persons whose third is Allah!” [Agreed upon]
The sixth: Anas, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, said, “The most compassionate person from my nation upon my nation is Abu Bakr...” [Narrated by Ibn Majah 125 and authenticated by al-Albani]

The seventh: Anas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “The Prophet, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, ascended the mountain of Uhud and he was accompanied by Abu Bakr, ‘Umar and ‘Uthman. The mountain shook beneath them. The Prophet, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, hit it with his foot and said, “O Uhud! Be firm, for on you there is none but a Prophet, a Siddîq and two martyrs” [Reported by al-Bukhari 3686]

The eighth: in the Hadith narrated by Abu Ad-Dardâ’ that after a quarrel has taken place between Abu Bakr and ‘Umar, may Allah be pleased with them, the Prophet, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, has said, “Allah has sent me (as a Prophet) to you (people) but you said (to me), ‘You are telling a lie,’ while Abu Bakr said, ‘He has said the truth,’ and consoled me with himself and his money.” He then said twice, “Won’t you then give up harming my companion?” After that nobody harmed Abu Bakr.” [Reported by al-Bukhari 3661]

Ibn Al-Jawzi said, “He, may Allah be pleased with him, was singled out to give fatwa in the presence of the Prophet, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him. The Prophet has told him to lead the prayers. He, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, has given a hidden statement that Abu Bakr replaces him in prayers.” (The Enlightenment 1/400)

Among the Hadith concerning this matter:

The first: Jubair ibn Mutim narrated that a woman came to the Prophet, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, who ordered her to return to him again. She said, “What if I came and did not find you?” as if she wanted to say, “If I found you dead?” The Prophet said, “If you should not find me, go to Abu Bakr.” [Agreed upon]
The second: Aisha said, “The Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, said to me in his fatal illness, ‘I feel like calling Abu Bakr and your brother and write a statement (to appoint the former as my successors) I fear that people should say something or wish for something and that someone would say, ‘I am worthier (of being a caliph), and Allah the believers will insist on Abu Bakr becoming a Caliph.” [Reported by Muslim]

The third: Abu Mûsa al-Ash’ari, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “The Prophet, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, became very sick so he said, ‘Tell Abu Bakr to lead the people in prayer.’” [Agreed upon]

Ibn Zam’a narrated that the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, ordered them to perform prayers. Abu Bakr was not present so ‘Umar came forward and led the prayers. The Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, said, “where is Abu Bakr? Allah does not allow that, nor do the Muslims.” [Reported by Abu Dawud 4660. Al-Albani said, “It is good and authentic.”]

Ibn Asâkir reported that Ali ibn Abu Talib, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “The Prophet, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, ordered Abu Bakr to lead people in prayers; I was present and I was a witness to that, I was neither absent nor ill. We have accepted for our world what the Prophet, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, has accepted for our religion.”

The words of the companions, the family of the prophet and the righteous ancestors about his virtues

‘Umar ibn al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “Abu Bakr is our master and he has manumitted our master (meaning Bilal).” [Reported by al-Bukhari]

He has also said, “I wished I were a hair in the chest of Abu Bakr.” [Reported by Musadad]

Ali, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “the best people after the Messenger of Allah are Abu Bakr and ‘Umar. Loving me and hating Abu Bakr and ‘Umar do not gather in the heart of a believer.” [Reported by at-Tabarani in Al-Awsat (the Middle)]

Ad-Daraqutni reported from Ja’far as-Sâdiq from his father Mohamed al-Baqir, that a man came to his father Zayn al-Abidin Ali ibn al-Hussein, may Allah be pleased with them, and said, “Tell me about Abu Bakr.” He said, “About as-Siddiq?” The
man said, “Do you call him as-Siddiq?” Zayn al-Abidine said, “May your mother be bereft; he was called so by the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, al-Muhajirîn (the migrants; the people of Mecca who migrated to Medina) and al-Ansar (the supporters; the people of Medina who supported the Prophet). He who does not call him As-Siddîq may Allah, Glorified and Exalted, not consider true his words in this worldly life and the Hereafter. Go and love Abu Bakr and ‘Umar, may Allah be pleased with them.”

Ibn al-Jawzi reported from Zayd ibn Ali that he said to those who renounce them, “by Allah, you should know that renouncing the two sheikhs (Abu Bakr and ‘Umar) is renouncing Ali; so go ahead (in renouncing them) or stop.”

His characteristics, may Allah be pleased with

Ash-Shu’abî, may Allah have mercy on him, said, “Allah Almighty has singled out Abu Bakr with four characteristics that no one else had. He, the Almighty, has called him As-Siddîq and no one other than him was named that. He is the companion of the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, in the cave (during the migration journey) and he is his companion in the migration journey. The Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, has ordered him to lead the prayers and the Muslims were their witnessing and present.”

Al-Hakim reported from al-Mussayyib that, “Abu Bakr was like a counselor to the Prophet, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, who used to confer with him in all his matters. He was his second man in embracing Islam, his second in the cave, his second in the arbor during the battle of Badr and his second to go to the grave (die). The Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, has never brought any man ahead of him.” (The History of the Caliphs by As-Sayûti, p. 56)

The grave matters that took place during his caliphate

- Executing the army of ‘Usama
- Fighting the people of apostasy and those who stopped paying the zakat (obligatory alms giving).
- Fighting Musaylimah the liar.
- assembling the Quran.
- starting the Islamic conquests in Iraq and Syria.

The things he was the first to do, may Allah be pleased with him

- He was the first to embrace Islam from men.
- He was the first to assemble the Quran.
- He was the first to name the Quran a mus.haf (the Arabic word for the book of the noble quran).
- He was the first to be called a caliph (in Arabic it means a successor) and he was
the first one whose congregation set an allowance for him.
- He was the first to establish a treasury.
- He was the first to be nicknamed ‘atîq (the freed from Hellfire) in Islam. (The History of the Caliphs pp. 73-74).

His bravery, may Allah be pleased with him

‘Urwa ibn Az-Zubair, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “I asked Abdullah ibn Amr ibn Al-‘Acs about the worst thing which the pagans did to the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him. He said, “[While the Prophet was praying in the Hijr of the Ka’ba;] ‘Uqba ibn Abu Mu’ait came and took the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, by the shoulder and put his garment around his neck and squeezed it violently. Abu Bakr came and caught him by his shoulder and pushed him away from the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, and said, “{Would you kill a man because he says: My Lord is Allah, and he has come to you with clear signs (proofs) from your Lord?}”” [Reported by al-Bukhari 4815]

His fighting, may Allah be pleased with him, to the people of apostasy and those who stopped paying the zakat is one of the greatest evidences of his courage. He said, “By Allah, if they refuse to pay me even a headband which they used to pay at the time of the Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, I would fight them for withholding it.”

His piety and asceticism, may Allah be pleased with him

At-Tabarani reported in his Musnad about al-Hassan ibn Ali ibn Abu Talib, may Allah be pleased with him, that he said, “In his death bed, Abu Bakr said to his daughter, ‘O Aisha! When I die take the milking animal we used to drink milk from, the bowl we used to dye (our cloth) in, and the velvet (garment) I used to wear and return them to ‘Umar. We used to benefit from them when I was looking after the matters of the Muslims.’ When he died, she sent them to ‘Umar who said, ‘May Allah have mercy on you O Abu Bakr. You have made it difficult for whoever comes after you (to be the caliph of the Muslims).’“

His modesty, may Allah be pleased with him

Ibn Asakir reported from Abu Salih al-Ghafari, that “Umar ibn al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him, used to take care of an old blind woman in some of the outskirts of Medina at night; waters for her and takes care of her matters. It was that when he comes to her he finds someone else preceded him to her and
performed what she wanted. ‘Umar lied in wait for him to see that it was Abu Bakr.
He used to come for her while he was the caliph, upon which ‘Umar said, ‘I swear
upon my life that it is you!’’

His high diligence, may Allah be pleased with him

Abu Huraira, may Allah be pleased with him, reported that the Messenger of Allah,
prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, has said, ‘Who has observed fast among
you today? Abu Bakr, may Allah be pleased with him, replied, ‘It is I.’ He (the
Prophet) said, ‘Who among you followed a funeral today?’ Abu Bakr, may Allah be
pleased with him, replied, ‘It is I.’ He (again) said, ‘Who among you visited an ill
person today?’ Abu Bakr, may Allah be pleased with him, said, ‘It is I.’ Upon this the
Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, said, ‘Anyone in whom
these good deeds are combined will certainly enter paradise.’’ [Reported by Muslim
1028]

His spending in the cause of Allah, may Allah be pleased with him

‘Umar ibn al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “One day, the
Messenger of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, commanded us to give
charity. At that time I had some property, so I said, ‘Today I shall surpass Abu Bakr
if I surpass him any day.’ I, therefore, brought half of my property. The Messenger
of Allah, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, asked, ‘What have you left for
your family?’ I replied, ‘The same amount.’ Abu Bakr brought all that he had with
him. The Messenger of Allah asked him, ‘What have you left for your family?’ He
replied, ‘I have left Allah and His Messenger for them.’ I said, ‘I shall never compete
with him in anything.’’’ [Reported by Abu Dawud 1678 and at-Tirmidhi 3675.
Al-Albani considered it good.]

{The second of the two; when they (Muhammad and Abu Bakr) were in the
cave,}[At-Tawbah 9:40]

الترجمة:04{ثانيًّانثين إنّهُما في الغار}

Transliteration:thaniya ithnayni ith huma fee alghari
Signs and news indicated his virtues. Al-Muhajirīn and al-Ansar unanimously agreed at acknowledging him as the Caliph. O you who hate him, mentioning him is fire in your hearts. Whenever his virtues are mentioned, they feel humiliated. He is {The second of the two; when they (Muhammad and Abu Bakr) were in the cave,} [At-Tawbah 9:40]

Transliteration: thaniya ithnayni ith huma fee alghari

Alertly and wisely, he acted during the period of apostasy. He accurately interpreted minute meanings from the noble Book. The loving one rejoices over his virtues while the hating one is enraged. The Shiites run away from an assembly mentioning him, but where to run? He is {The second of the two; when they (Muhammad and Abu Bakr) were in the cave,} [At-Tawbah 9:40]

Transliteration: thaniya ithnayni ith huma fee alghari

By Allah, we have not loved him for a purpose and we do not think it is with anybody else. However, we will abide by the saying of Ali which is sufficient for us, “We have accepted for our world what the Prophet, prayers and peace of Allah be upon him, has accepted for our religion.” (The Benefits by ibn al-Qayyim, pp. 111-112)

May Allah be pleased with Abu Bakr and may He please him. O Allah, we take You as our witness that we love Abu Bakr and all the Guided Caliphs and the companions. Prayers, peace, and blessings of Allah be upon our Prophet Muhammad and upon all his family and companions.

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