

## ISLAM 4: The CALIPHATE and CIVIL WAR

---

ABU BAKR (Abdullah ibn Abi Quhaafah / 573 - 634 AD)

| *al-Siddiq* / “the Truthful”

|  
A'isha oo Muhammad (c. 570 - 632) oo [ Khadijah ]

|  
FATIMA oo ALI

Medina

-*Ansari* -the residents of Medina

-*Muhajir* -the immigrants of Mecca who had moved to Medina

The Companions (*Sahaba*) - the advisors, main disciples, scribes, and family of Muhammad including Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali

Contenders for succession / CALIPH = the successor

-advisors to Mohammed: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman

> SUNNI / “traditionalists”

-the *caliph* (successor) should be the wisest, most **faith-filled**

-family of Mohammed: Ali (married to Fatima / they have 2 sons)

> SHIA (*Shiat Ali*) or Shi'ites / the “partisans of Ali”

-the *caliph* (successor) should be a **kinsman**

---

The RASHIDUN CALIPHS [ *ال خ ل فاء ال راشدون* / *al-Khulafā'u ar-Rāshidūn* ]

-the “Rightly Guided” or “Righteous” Caliphs

-often called simply “the RASHIDUN”

ABU BAKR (573 / r. 632 – 634)

Basic principles and conduct for war:

War is legitimate only for self-defense, to aid other Muslims, and if a treaty is broken. Once these circumstances ceased to exist, the fighting must stop.

Abu Bakr, following the guidelines of Mohammed, proclaimed the 10 rules for the Rashidun army:

O people! I charge you with ten rules; learn them well!

Stop, O people, that I may give you ten rules for your guidance in the battlefield. Do not commit treachery or deviate from the right path. You must not mutilate dead bodies. Neither kill a child, nor a woman, nor an aged man. Bring no harm to the trees, nor burn them with fire, especially those which are fruitful. Slay not any of the enemy's flock, save for your food. You are likely to pass by people who have devoted their lives to monastic services; leave them alone.

UMAR (Omar / Umar ibn al-Khattab / c. 580 / r. 634 – 644)

Established the vast political-administrative system of the new empire, the Caliphate

To his appointed governors:

Remember, I have not appointed you as commanders and tyrants over the people. I have sent you as leaders instead, so that the people may follow your example. Give the Muslims their rights and do not beat them lest they become abused. Do not praise them unduly, lest they fall into the error of conceit. Do not keep your doors shut in their faces, lest the more powerful of them eat up the weaker ones. And do not behave as if you were superior to them, for that is tyranny over them.

On his own universal responsibilities:

If a dog dies hungry on the banks of the River Euphrates, Umar will be responsible for dereliction of duty.

Umar -- Famous Quotes:

Acquire knowledge and teach it to people.

Be dignified, honest and truthful.

Don't forget your own self when preaching to others.

Avoidance of sin is lighter than the pain of remorse.

When you see that a scholar who loves the world, then his scholarship is in doubt.

If only men were as jealous of knowledge as they are jealous of women.

Learn the Arabic language; it will sharpen your wisdom.

Luxury is an obstacle.

Even if a man may be as straight as an arrow, he will still have some critics.

Fear Allah, for that is fortune; indifference to Allah is misfortune.

Be patient; patience is a pillar of faith.

UTHMAN (Othman / Osman / Uthman ibn Affan / c. 577 / r. 644 – 656) Umayyad clan

- installs his relatives and clan members in all positions of power in the Caliphate
- invasion of North Africa and Libya (651)
  - conquest of the Vandal (Germanic) Kingdom

- the compilation of the basic text of the Qur'an
- assassination of Uthman (656)

ALI (Ali ibn Abi Talib / c. 600 / r. 656 – 661)

- Ali vs. Mu'awiya Umayyad (related to Uthman)
  - governor of Syria in Damascus

- Ali vs. A'isha (c. 613 - 678 / daughter of Abu Bakr and wife of Muhammad)
  - she allies with Talha and Zubayr (also Companions of Muhammad)

-Ali's cousin Zubair:

“What a tragedy that Muslims who have acquired the strength of a rock are going to be smashed by colliding against each other.”

- the incident at Hawab
- the Battle of the Camel (656)
  - = the First Fitna (“sedition” / the first Muslim Civil War)

- sons of Ali:
  - HASAN ibn Ali ibn Abi Talib (625 - 670)
  - HUSAYN (Hussein) ibn Ali (626 - 680)

-Ali moved the Caliphate capital from Medina to KUFA (in Iraq) in 657

- Ali vs. Mu'awiya Umayyad again
  - the battle of Siffin (657)

-the KHAWARIJ / the Shurah : “Judgment belongs to God alone”  
God decides the victor in battle, men decide in arbitration  
They become the source of rebellion for centuries

- Mu'awiya Umayyad proclaims himself Caliph (660) in Damascus
- assassination of Ali (661)

Ali -- Famous Quotes:

A wise man first thinks and then speaks and a fool speaks first and then thinks.  
He who has a thousand friends has not a friend to spare,  
And he who has one enemy will meet him everywhere.  
Do for this life as if you live forever, do for the afterlife as if you die tomorrow.  
Train yourself in good behaviour with regards to what you dislike in others.  
A poor man is like a foreigner in his own country.  
No one has ever suffered from his people as I have.  
If poverty were a man, I would have slain him.

### The Umayyad Dynasty (661 – 750)

MU'AWIYA Umayyad (r. 661 – 680) from the Quraysh tribe

- leader of the Sunnis
- moves capital of the Caliphate to DAMASCUS
- death of Ali's son, HASAN (670)

Yazid I (r. 680 - 683)

- murder of Ali's son, Hussain (680) on his way to Kufa  
> the ASHURA Day of Mourning (for Shia)

Mu'awiya II (r. 683 - 684)

Marwan (r. 684 - 685)

Abd al-Malik (r. 685 - 705)

- the DOME of the ROCK in Jerusalem / Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem
- “Mohammed's Night Journey”

Al-Walid I (r. 705 - 715)

- invasion of the Iberian peninsula (711 > )
- Tariq ibn Ziyad > Jabal-al-Tariq

Sulayman (r. 715 - 717)

- siege of Constantinople (717 - 718)

Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz (r. 717 - 720)

Yazid II (r. 720 - 724)

Hisham (r. 724 - 743)

- Battle of Tours / Battle of Poitiers (732) / Charles Martel

Al-Walid II (r. 743 - 744)

Yazid III (r. 744)

Marwan II (r. 744 - 750)

---

## The Division of Islam

### SUNNI / the “Traditionalists”

- they honor the first 3 caliphs (Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman) and accept Ali as the least of the 4 caliphs
  - > an ELECTIVE THEOCRACY
- if the Qur’an does not provide a solution to a problem, consult the practice (the traditions) of Mohammed in Medina (the Hadith) as a guide
  - > hence, the “Traditionalists”
- for the Sunni, the *imam* is a leader of prayer

### SHIA/ SHI’ITES (*Shiat Ali*) = “partisans of Ali”

- they reject the first 3 caliphs and honor Ali
  - > a HEREDITARY THEOCRACY
- if the Qur’an does not provide a solution to a problem, consult the *IMAM*
- they believe that Mohammed designated Ali as his heir, and that Mohammed passed on divinely inspired knowledge to his heir
- they believe that the true caliph and imam carried both Mohammed’s blood and the mantle of spiritual authority
- the *IMAM* is a descendent of the Prophet and has the highest spiritual authority
  - he is empowered to interpret the Prophet’s message and faith without the possibility of error [infallibility]

### Other cults such as SUFI

- charismatic, mystic Muslims
- seek ecstatic union with God (as Divine Love)
  - in part by losing themselves (going into a trance) through dance
- pacifists