

HAZRAT 'UTHMAN IBN 'AFFAAN

(may Allah Almighty be pleased with him)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	2
"SHOULD I ﷺ NOT FEEL SHY OF A MAN OF WHOM THE ANGELS ARE SHY?"	3
HE ﷺ WAS ONE OF THE "ASHRATUN-MUBASHSHIRAH"	3
HE WAS GIVEN THE TITLE OF "DHUN-NURAIN"	3
HAZRAT 'UTHMAN ﷺ IS FAMOUS AS THE "JAMI'UL-QUR'AN"	4
HAZRAT 'UTHMAN ﷺ WAS A "HAFIZ"	4
HE ﷺ USED TO DO HOUSEHOLD WORK ALTHOUGH HE WAS ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST PERSONS IN THE WHOLE OF ARABIA	4
"KEEP STEADY, O UHUD, FOR THERE ARE A PROPHET, A SIDDIQ AND TWO MARTYRS ON YOU."	5
CONCLUSION	6

PREFACE

In the spirit of remembering the lives and contributions of the great luminaries of the Islamic tradition, for the purpose of being inspired by them, and for sending *Isaal-e-Sawaab* to their blessed souls as a token of gratitude, IECRC has been producing brief documents such as the one below. The inspiration gained from such information is the impetus for rectifying our actions, insha Allah and a catalyst for each one of us to attempt to follow in the footsteps of these shining stars. It is when we strengthen our connection with our past, that our hope for the future can be brightened, insha Allah.

The material for this document has been taken from the following sources:

1. <http://ourislamonline.tripod.com/usmanghani.htm>
2. The History of the Khalifas Who Took the Right Way by Imam Jalal ad-Din as-Suyuti رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ (1445 - 1505 CE)
3. Kitab-ur-Rooh by Allama Ibn Qayyim Al-Jawzi رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ (1292 - 1356 CE)

We appreciate your feedback and comments.

Thank You.

IECRC Staff



In the Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful
Prayers and Peace upon His Noble Messenger ﷺ

Hazrat 'Uthman ibn 'Affaan ؓ (b. 573 C.E.), was the third of the Rightly Guided Khalifas in Islamic history. He was a Companion of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ who was famous for his piety, character, generosity, and modesty. It is narrated on the authority of Hazrat Aisha ؓ that the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ gathered His garments around Him ﷺ when Hazrat 'Uthman ؓ entered and said *"Should I not feel shy of a man of whom the angels are shy?"*

Hazrat 'Uthman ؓ was one of the few persons of Mecca who knew reading and writing. When he grew up, he started business in cloth, which made him very rich. He **used his money in good ways and always helped the poor**. Hazrat 'Uthman ؓ was a soft natured and kind-hearted man. He ؓ was one of the *"Ashratun-Mubashshirah"*, i.e. those ten Companions who had been given the glad tidings of belonging to Paradise.

Hazrat 'Uthman ؓ accepted Islam when Hazrat Abu Bakr ؓ preached to him. He was one of those Muslims who accepted Islam in its very early days. He was the **fourth of four** after Hazrat Abu Bakr, Hazrat Ali and Hazrat Zaid ibn Harithah (may Allah be pleased with them all).

One of the daughters of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, Hazrat Ruqayyah ؓ was married to one of the sons of Abu Lahb (an arch-enemy of Islam). When the Holy Prophet ﷺ started to preach Islam, Abu Lahb asked his son 'Utbah to divorce her. Then the Holy Prophet married her to Hazrat 'Uthman ؓ. At the time of his migration the Holy Prophet ﷺ remarked: "Uthman is the first man of my Ummah to migrate (for sake of Allah) with his family." Hazrat 'Uthman ؓ migrated a second time with other Muslims to Medina. He could not participate in the first battle of Islam against non-believers of Mecca at Badr, because his wife was very ill. She died before the Muslims returned from Badr after the victory. The Holy Prophet ﷺ gave him glad tidings that he would get the same reward as though he had participated in the battle. After the death of Hazrat Ruqayyah ؓ, the Holy Prophet ﷺ married his next daughter, Hazrat Umm Kulthum ؓ with him and he was given the title of *"Dhun-nurain"* i.e., **the man with two lights**.

Hazrat 'Uthman ؓ had a beautiful handwriting because of which **the Holy Prophet ﷺ appointed him as one of the scribes of the "Wahy" (Revelation)**. He ؓ also used to write other documents (letters and messages etc.) of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

One of the magnificent services to Islam done by Hazrat 'Uthman ؓ was to safeguard any possible change in the codex of the Holy Qur'an. After the conquests by the Muslims hundreds of thousands of non-Arabs, whose mother tongue was not Arabic, accepted Islam because of its teachings. Hazrat Hudhaifah ؓ, one of the prominent Companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, went for battle during that time and noticed many differences in the manner of

recitation (*Qira'at*) of the Holy Qur'an. The Syrians recited in a way different from that of Kufis while the Kufis differed from Basris and so on. As a matter of fact these differences were due to the differences in the way of writing Arabic. Seeing this condition Hazrat Hudhaifah رضي الله عنه reported the matter to the Khalifah on his return from battle and suggested that the Medinese codex should be regarded as authentic, i.e. the Holy Qur'an, which was written and compiled in Book form during the time of Hazrat Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه and was kept with Ummul-mumminin Hazrat Hafsa رضي الله عنها. Hazrat 'Uthman رضي الله عنه took that Book from Hazrat Hafsa رضي الله عنها and canonised the Medinese codex. He asked Hazrat Zaid bin Thabit رضي الله عنه, the person who wrote it during the time of Hazrat Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه, to make copies of the same with the help of some other Companions like Abdullah bin Zubair and Sa'd bin 'As etc (may Allah Almighty be pleased with them all). Then he ordered all other copies, beside the Medinese codex, to be burnt and destroyed throughout the State. For this great service **Hazrat 'Uthman is famous as the "Jami'ul-Qur'an" (The compiler of the Qur'an)** although the Holy Qur'an was compiled in a book form by Hazrat Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه on the insistence of Hazrat 'Umar رضي الله عنه.

Hazrat Uthman رضي الله عنه was a great scholar of the Holy Qur'an and was a "Hafiz"(i.e. the one who commits the whole Holy Book to memory). **He was well versed in "Shan-i-Nuzul"**i.e. the chronology of revelation of various verses and the chapters of the Holy Qur'an, and was considered an authority in this respect. He was one of the few Companions who excelled in deriving laws from the verses of the Holy Qur'an. He was considered an authority on the laws of Hajj.

He رضي الله عنه was a strict follower of the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Somebody asked him the reason for smiling after wudu. He replied he had seen the Holy Prophet smiling after making wudu, so he smiled to follow him. Once he demonstrated to Muslims the correct way of making wudu according to the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

He رضي الله عنه used to fear Allah very much. Tears used to roll down his face because of Allah's fear. Whenever the consequences to be faced in the grave were described before him, he used to weep so much that his beard could get wet with tears. Sometimes he wept and cried seeing a corpse or a grave because of fear of Allah. He used to say, "Grave is the first stage among all the stages of the Hereafter. If a person is successful there, he would be successful on the Day of Judgment too. If a person faces difficulty in the grave, other stages would also be difficult for him."

He رضي الله عنه used to do household work although he was one of the wealthiest persons in the whole of Arabia. He would not wake his slave to take any help from him when he got up to perform "Tahajjud" Salat.

Hazrat Uthman رضي الله عنه was very soft spoken. If any person talked to him in a harsh tone he always replied gently. Once he was delivering "Khutbah" of Jumu'a Salat, a person shouted during the Sermon: "O Uthman, repent for Allah's sake and keep away from going wrong."

He immediately turned his face towards the Qiblah and exclaimed, "O Allah, I am the first to repent before Thee and to turn towards Thee."

He رضي الله عنه never took any allowance from the "Bait ul-Mal" for his services as a Khalifah. He was the most generous among all the wealthy Companions and never hesitated to spend his money for the cause of Islam and Muslims. His house was one of the biggest in Medina, which he built near the mosque of the Holy Prophet. **He established a library in the back of his house for the education of the Muslims.**

After the death of his second wife Hazrat Umm Kulthum رضي الله عنها, he married more women who bore him a total of eleven sons. Some of them died at an early age. One of his sons, Aban became famous and held high positions during the Umayyads. He had six or seven daughters.

Hazrat Uthman رضي الله عنه was assassinated on Friday, the 18th Dhul-Hijjah, 35 A.H. (July, 656 A.D.). He رضي الله عنه rests in Jannatul-Baqi in Madinah Munawwarah. Muhammad ibn Sirin رحمته الله (b. 636 CE) said: "The angels were never missing from the battles and the armies until the killing of 'Uthman رضي الله عنه. There was no disagreement on the new moons until the killing of 'Uthman رضي الله عنه."

Hazrat Uthman رضي الله عنه was a great martyr as prophesied in the following Hadith quoted by Bukhari and others:

Hazrat Anas رضي الله عنه narrated that the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم, Hazrat Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه, Hazrat 'Umar رضي الله عنه, and Hazrat Uthman رضي الله عنه went up Uhud (the mountain near Medina) and when it quivered because of them the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم forced it with His صلى الله عليه وسلم Blessed Foot and said, "**Keep steady, O Uhud, for there are a Prophet, a Siddiq and two martyrs on you.**"

In the above Hadith, Hazrat Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه had been said as the Siddiq (friend) while Hazrat 'Umar رضي الله عنه and Hazrat 'Uthman رضي الله عنه had been prophesied as the martyrs.

Hazrat 'Uthman رضي الله عنه was 82 years old at the time of his assassination and remained in the office of "Khilafas" for about 12 years. His words "I do not want to spill Muslim blood to save my own neck", will be remembered for ever in the history of Islam. He sacrificed his life to save Muslim blood.



CONCLUSION

It behooves Muslims to remember such a great personality and take lessons from his life; and as a small way of saying “thank you” for all his sacrifices and contributions to the Deen of Islam, and humanity at large, send *Isaal-e-Sawab* to his blessed soul.

Isaal-e-Sawab is the act of sending the reward of one’s good deeds to the souls of those who have passed away from this world and are experiencing a life in the *Aalam-e-Barzakh* (the realm in which the soul resides between death and the Day of Judgment). Allama Ibn Qayyim Al-Jawzi رحمته الله عليه (1292 – 1356 CE) says in his famous *Kitab-ur-Rooh* that:

“Worship is of two kinds, one monetary and the other physical. The Holy Prophet ﷺ has indicated by affirming the transfer of the rewards of charity, that all monetary worships are transferable to dead persons. And by allowing the transfer of the rewards of fast, He ﷺ has indicated that the rewards of all physical worship can also be transferred. And by affirming the transfer of rewards for Hajj, which is a unique combination of physical and monetary worships, the Holy Prophet ﷺ has informed His Ummah that the rewards of all kinds of worship may be dedicated to a dead person.”¹

The righteous people have taught that at a minimum, one should recite Surah Al-Fatiha once and Surah Al-Ikhlaas 3 times and pray to Allah Almighty to send the reward of this reading to the departed soul. There is no maximum limit as to how many good deeds one can or should dedicate.

May Allah Almighty on the occasion of this ليلة Urs (the day a Friend of Allah is united with His Lord) by the waseela of His Habeeb ﷺ give us the tawfeeq to remember his life and services to Islam and follow in his footsteps as our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ advised us by saying that all of His Companions are like stars and that we would be guided if we followed any one of them. (Aamin).



¹ Allama Ibn Qayyim Al-Jawzi رحمته الله عليه (1292 – 1356 CE). *Kitab-ur-Rooh*, translated by Matloob Ahmed. Adam Publishers, Delhi, 2001. pp. 130-131.