



UMAR IBN AL-KHATTAB

THE FORTRESS OF ISLAM



Compiled by Abū Muhammad Yahyā

Umar Ibn al-Khattab: The Fortress of Islam

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Author's Preface (Muqaddimah)

All praise is due to Allah alone, Lord of all that exists. I begin this humble work with the sincere intention to seek His pleasure alone, to serve His Book and the guidance of His Messenger ﷺ, to teach myself and my fellow believers, and to deepen my own understanding of His Revelation. I remind myself, before anyone else, that this writing is not for status, fame, nor recognition — but solely to seek His Face, His acceptance, and His forgiveness.

This reminder is for my own heart before it is for others, and I ask Allah to purify my intention from any hidden desires or worldly attachments, and to make every word a testimony for me and not against me on the Day when no soul will benefit except by what Allah has accepted from them.

Du‘ā:

O Allah, I ask You by Your Beautiful Names and Perfect Attributes to make this work sincerely for Your sake, and to accept it from me even with its shortcomings and deficiencies. Make it a means for me and those who read it to draw nearer to You, to reflect deeply upon Your Words, and to act upon what is contained therein.

O Allah, grant us beneficial knowledge, hearts that are humbled before You, and actions that are pure and righteous. Do not make this knowledge a proof against us, but rather a light in our graves, a companion in our loneliness, and a witness for us on the Day we meet You. Ameen.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Umar Ibn al-Khattab رضي الله عنه The fortress of Islam

His full name was ‘Umar ibn al-Khattab ibn Nufayl ibn ‘Abd al-‘Uzza ibn Riyah ibn Qurt ibn Razah ibn ‘Adi ibn Ka’b ibn Lu’ayy al-Qurashi al-‘Adawi. His kunyah was Abu Hafs, and his title al-Farooq (the one who distinguishes between truth and falsehood) was given to him by the Prophet ﷺ.



Lineage and Tribe:

He belonged to the Banu ‘Adi clan of the Quraysh tribe—one of the noble clans of Makkah.

Birth and Early Life:

- Born around 13 years after the Year of the Elephant.
- Known for his eloquence, strength, courage, and leadership even before Islam.
- Literate and educated—rare among the Quraysh.
- Worked as an ambassador and judge in Makkah, representing his tribe.

Acceptance of Islam:

- Accepted Islam in the 6th year of Prophethood.
- Islam became publicly stronger after his conversion.

The Prophet ﷺ said: “O Allah, strengthen Islam with the more beloved of the two to You: Abu Jahl or ‘Umar ibn al-Khattab.” ‘Umar was the one Allah chose. Sunan At-Tirmidhi (3682), Hasan

Ibn Mas’ud رضى الله عنه said: “‘Umar’s acceptance of Islam was a conquest; his migration was a victory; and his leadership was a mercy.” Mustadrak al-Hakim (4487), Sahih

Status in Islam

Al-Farooq – The One Who Distinguished Truth from Falsehood

The Prophet ﷺ said: “Indeed, Allah placed the truth upon the tongue and heart of ‘Umar.” Sunan At Tirmidhi (3682), Sahih

He boldly declared his Islam and prayed openly at the Ka’bah, causing fear among Quraysh.

Second Best of the Ummah After Abu Bakr

Ibn Taymiyyah رحمه الله said: “Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jama‘ah agree that the best of this Ummah after its Prophet is Abu Bakr, then ‘Umar...” Minhaj as-Sunnah

A Man of Strong Vision and Revelation Matching His Views

The Prophet ﷺ said: “There were among the nations before you people who were spoken to (i.e. inspired), and if there is anyone like that in my Ummah, it is ‘Umar.” Sahih al-Bukhari (3689), Sahih Muslim (2398) More than 30 instances where revelation confirmed his opinion, including:

- Taking the station of Ibrahim as a place of prayer (Surah al-Baqarah 2:125)
- Hijab (Surah al-Ahzab 33:53)
- Captives of Badr (Surah al-Anfal 8:67)

Khilafah and Leadership:

- Appointed by Abu Bakr after shura (consultation).
- Khilafah lasted for 10 years and 6 months.
- A period of vast Islamic expansion and administrative excellence.

Key events:

- Conquests of Persia, Egypt, and the Levant.
- Establishment of Bayt al-Mal (public treasury).
- Formation of Islamic calendar (Hijri).
- Appointment of governors with strict accountability.

He would say: “Even if a mule trips in Iraq, I fear that Allah would ask me, ‘Why did you not level the path for it, O ‘Umar?’” Al-Muwatta’ (Hadith on Governance)

His Worship and Zuhd (Asceticism):

- Extremely humble and austere.
- Would often cry in Salah out of fear of Allah.
- Frequently inspected people’s affairs at night.

Hudhayfah رضي الله عنه said: “Once ‘Umar placed a straw in his mouth and said: ‘Would that I were this straw!’” Az-Zuhd by Imam Ahmad

Major Events During His Khilafah

1. Expansion of Islam:

- Defeated the Persian Empire (Battle of Qadisiyyah, Nihawand).
- Took Jerusalem peacefully after traveling to receive the keys.
- Conquered Egypt under Amr ibn al-‘As.

2. Administrative Reforms:

- Initiated Islamic Hijri calendar.
- Established judiciary, police, and land registries.
- Standardized salaries for soldiers and officials.

3. Bayt al-Mal and Public Welfare:

- Established stipends for the poor, widows, and children.
- Personally checked food and water supply for the people.

Personality Traits of ‘Umar ibn al-Khattab رضي الله عنه

1. Justice:

- Would investigate cases personally.
- No one—rich or poor—was above the law.

The Prophet ﷺ said: “Among the nations before you, there were men who were inspired... and if there is any among my Ummah, it is ‘Umar.” Sahih al-Bukhari (3689)

2. Tough on Himself:

- Would say: “Hold yourselves accountable before you are held accountable.”

3. Humility:

- Patched his clothes.
- Rode a simple camel even when entering conquered Jerusalem.

4. Devotion:

- Prayed at night.
- Would weep often upon reciting Qur’an.

Lessons from the Life of ‘Umar ibn al-Khattab رضي الله عنه

1. Justice is Central to Leadership.
2. Fear of Allah Prevents Tyranny.
3. Accountability is Key to Reform.
4. Even Power Must Be Balanced with Humility.
5. Be Bold in Truth, Gentle in Private.

‘Umar’s Role in Key Battles During the Life of the Prophet ﷺ

1. **Battle of Badr (2 AH):**
 - Fought courageously.
2. **Battle of Uhud (3 AH):**
 - Stayed firm while others fled.
3. **Battle of Khandaq (5 AH):**
 - In the front ranks.
4. **Treaty of Hudaibiyyah (6 AH):**
 - Initially angered, but submitted when truth became clear.
5. **Conquest of Makkah (8 AH):**
 - One of the commanders.

Interactions with Specific Sahabah

1. **With Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه:**
 - Loyal supporter.
 - Praised him often: “Abu Bakr is our master and the best of us.” Sahih al-Bukhari (3662)
2. **With Ali رضي الله عنه:**
 - Mutual respect.

- Appointed him on several occasions for legal rulings.

3. With Ahlul-Badr:

- Always consulted them first in important matters.

His Final Illness and Will

Death:

- Stabbed by Abu Lu'lu' al-Majusi (a Persian fire-worshipper) while leading Fajr prayer.
- Died three days later in Dhul Hijjah 23 AH at the age of 63.
- Buried next to the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr رضي الله عنهما.

He asked permission from Aisha رضي الله عنها to be buried next to the Prophet ﷺ: She said: "Yes, I had reserved it for myself, but today I give preference to 'Umar." Sahih Muslim (2389)

- Appointed a Shura of 6 people: 'Uthman, 'Ali, Talhah, az-Zubayr, Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas, and 'Abdur-Rahman ibn 'Awf.
- Said: "Nothing worries me more than my responsibility over you."

Summary of 'Umar ibn al-Khattab رضي الله عنه

1. Accepted Islam early and caused a visible shift in Muslim strength.
2. Known for justice, courage, and boldness in truth.
3. Second greatest after Abu Bakr, affirmed by Ahlus-Sunnah.
4. His views often confirmed by revelation.
5. Reformed the Islamic world with justice, systems, and expansion.
6. Led the Ummah during one of the most critical times of its history.
7. Died as a martyr in the best place (Masjid), at the best time (Fajr), in the best manner (Salah), and is buried beside the Prophet ﷺ.