

The Islamic System of Khilafah

A short history of the 700 years of Islamic Khilafah

The Muslim Prophet died before nominating an official heir. The dispute over Khilafah was started in the aftermath of his death, the results of which were brought forward in form of eternal grouping and dissonance in the world of Islam. The Islamic scholars have drilled one concept in the heads of the Muslims very successfully, which is the Khilafah era being a glorious period in the history of the humanity, and that if they want the world to lead a happy and successful life, then it is a must to re establish the same era to the present day. Thus even a common Muslims, who does not take a lot of interest in the matters of religion and fiqh, also becomes a propagator of enforcing Islamic law, Khilafah and Shariah.

Here is a brief compilation of facts which are extracted from authentic Islamic publications, and which attempt to explain why and how the concept of Khilafah was practiced over a period of 700 years. The readers can decide for themselves whether they want to continue staying in the gutter by repeating the mistakes of the past, or if they would reform their ways and join the progressive world of the future.

2. The Rightly Guided Caliphs (Khulafa e Rashideen)

2a : Abu Bakar: After the death of the Prophet, the Ansar (residents of Madina) gathered at Taqueefah to choose a new caliph for the Ummah. Abu akar, Omar and Abu Ubaida from the Muhajir (the Makkah immigrants) also reached the place. Two of the tribes from Ansar, Banu Aus and Banu Khisraj were considered arch enemies, and neither were willing to accept someone from the other tribe as the caliph. One thing led to another and there was a commotion at the venue. Umar Bin Khattab took advantage of this situation and pledged allegiance to Abu Bakar, thus declaring him the Caliph. Saad Bin Ibadah, a renowned Ansari Sahabi (Muhammad s disciples) had a huge altercation with Umar Bin Khattab. Saad did not pledge allegiance to Abu Bakar all through his life, and never said his prayers in his Imamat. Afterwards, Saad was killed after being hit by a

random flying arrow in Syria. Word got around that the arrow which hit Saad was shot by a Jinn.

While Abu Bakar was being made the Caliph, Banu Hashim, the family of Muhammed was busy preparing for his funeral. So the family was never even consulted about the matter of choosing the Caliph. Also the Banu Hashim as well as many other disciples were in the favor of making Ali Ibn Abu Talib the Caliph. Therefore all of these people did not pledge allegiance, and they all gathered at Ali's house. Upon hearing this, a group of people led by Umar Bin Khattab surrounded the house of Ali and set the door to the house on fire. The door fell on the daughter of the Prophet, and she got injured, while she was carrying Ali's child Mohsin in her womb. After this, Fatima as well as the baby she was carrying died as a result of this injury. And thus started the phase of eternal grouping in Islam. Abu Bakar remained Caliph for nearly two years and before his death nominated his friend Umar bin Khattab as his heir. Abu Bakar was the father in law of Prophet Muhammad.

2b:Umar Bin Khattab

He was nominated caliph through will after the death of Abu Bakar. He was also the father in law of Prophet Muhammad. He was murdered by his own non Arab slave and so his caliphate came to an end. Before his death, he had nominated 6 people as possible candidates to become the next caliph, and had declared that these 6 will mutually decide on 1 person among them to become the next caliph. These people were Usman, Ali, Abdul Rehman bin Arf, Talha, Zubair and Saad bin Abi Waqas. The list of possible candidates did not include even a single Ansar and other non Arabs. Umar also instructed his son Abdullah, that if the group is evenly divided among 2 groups of 3 each, then he would decide who will be the Caliph from among them. He also told his son that if there is no consensus, then you take the side of the group which has Abdul Rahman bin Arf, and murder the rest of the candidates.

2c: Usman bin Affan

After the murder of Caliph Umar bin al-Khattab, the son-in-law of Prophet Muhammad, Usman was made the caliph. He hailed from the Umayyad tribe. His uncle Hukm bin al-Aas was exiled from Madina by Prophet Muhammad for showing insolence. Usman brought him back to Madina, along with his son Marwan. He also made Marwan the Head of Finance and Admin of the state. During this time, Waleed who was the adopted brother of the Caliph and the Governor of Kufa, made it a habit to lead prayers in the mosque while being completely intoxicated. Known older disciple Abu Zar Ghaffari criticised this state of affairs, and as a punishment he was exiled from Madina and forced to live in the desert on his own, where he died in a pathetic state. Due to these reasons and compounded problems, the people of Kufa, Basra and Egypt became extremely agitated. People from all of these cities came to Madina and registered their protest in front of the caliph. Despite making several promises about bringing improvements in the rule of law and matters of state, appropriate steps were not taken in time and this resulted in a revolt by the people. The city was surrounded by protesters and the caliph was murdered during the unrest. The murderers included Muhammad Bin Abu Bakr, son of Caliph Abu Bakr. Some books of history mention a Fatwa in relation to the murder of Usman, which was issued by Ayesha, the daughter of Abu Bakr and the favourite wife of Prophet Muhammad. Historical references are also found of statements given in favor of this murder by elderly disciple and Governor of Syria, Amir Muawiyah.

2d: Ali Bin Abu Talib

After the murder of Usman, the caliphate of Ali was announced in Madina. Meanwhile the daughter of Abu Bakr, Ayesha took a lashkar from Makkah and attacked and captured Basra with the help of Talha, Zubair and her nephew Ibn al-Zubair. At the same time, Amir Muawiyah bin Sufyan announced his caliphate in Syria. Ali attacked Basra to get it back from the hold of Ayesha and thus took place the first ever large scale and bloody war between the Muslims, which is called The battle of Jamal. This battle took the lives of around 30,000 Muslims. Ali came out as the conqueror,

while Talha and Zubair, who were part of the most revered ten disciples of Islam, lost their lives in this battle. This bloody war was followed by the battle of Sufein between Ali and Muawiya, which remained indecisive despite the loss of life of 120,000 Muslims. Thus the Islamic State was divided into 2 major groups. Ali fought a war with the Khwarij (apostates??!) after the Sufein war which caused loss of life for thousands of Muslims. One Kharji Ibn e Maljam attacked Ali during Fajar prayers, and he eventually succumbed to injuries he got from this attack.

2e: Hasan Ibn e Ali

After the murder of Caliph Ali, his son and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad was made the Caliph, whereas Muawiya continued to be the Caliph in Syria. Hasan was quiet perturbed by the conduct of his associates and was sick and tired of war, blood and gore. Therefore he made a pact with Muawiya and stepped away from everything. He remained caliph for 6 months. He was poisoned by his own wife Jindah which caused his death. It is stated that Jundah poisoned him on the instructions of Yazeed bin Muawiya.

3. The Caliphs of Umayyads (Sons of enemies of Prophet Muhammad)

3a. Caliph Muawiya bin Abu Sufiyan

He became the Caliph of the entire Islamic State after forming a pact with Hasan Ibn e Ali. He nominated his son as the next Caliph before his own death.

3b. Yazeed Ibn e Muawiya

Yazeed became the Caliph after the death of his father Muawiya. Hussain bin Ali, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad refused to pledge allegiance to Yazeed. As a response, Yazeed slaughtered Hussain, his accomplices, and the entire male members of his family at Karbala, on 10th Muharram. The females of the family were arrested and taken as prisoners of war from Karbala to Koofa and then from Koofa to Syria. The Army of Yazeed

attacked Madina, raped thousands of unmarried girls and got them pregnant. They also desecrated Masjid e Nabawi, made it into a stable where they tied their horses, and killed hundreds of Muslims. They also set Kaaba, the holiest place for Muslims, on fire, after which Ibn e Zubair reconstructed it. Then one day Yazeed passed away in mysterious circumstances.

3c. Muawiya bin Yazeed

After Yazeed's death, his son Muawiya the Second became the caliph, whereas Ibn e Zubair who was the nephew of Ayeha, declared his caliphate in Makkah. According to sources, Muawiya was murdered by either poisoning or he was knifed to death.

3d. Marwan bin Al Hukm

After Muawiya's death, Marwan declared his caliphate in Syria while Ibn e Zubair continued to rule in Makkah. At the same time a group of people rebelled to avenge the murder of Hussain bin Ali, in the leadership of Mukhtar Taqfi in Koofa. The Islamic State was divided in three groups. Marwan married Laila, who was Yazeed's widow and mother of Muawiya the Second. Laila smothered Marwan to death while he was sleeping.

3e. Abdul Malik Bin Marwan

Son of Marwan, Abdul Malik made Caliph and attacked Makkah to capture Hijaz. He bombarded Kaaba with large sized stones and balls of fire which were shot using ancient sling shots. He killed Ibn e Zubair and kept his body hanging by the wall of Kaaba for 2 to 3 months. Afterwards he destroyed Kaaba

3f. Waleed bin Abdul Maalik made caliph next. After Waleed, his brother Suleman made Caliph

3g. Suleman nominated Umer bin Abdul Aziz as Caliph, and his brother as his next in line. Umer remained a caliph for two years and then was

poisoned by someone from his clan of the Ummayyads poisoned him to death

3h. Yazeed followed his brother to become Caliph, and killed another candidate for the caliphate, also named Yazeed, in Karbala

3i. Yazeed was followed by his brother Hasham, who was followed by an inept Caliph Waleed bin Yazeed. He remained Caliph for only 6 months and died under mysterious circumstances.

3j. Ibrahim bin Waleed

Ibrahim followed his brother Waleed, but a person called Marwan bin Muhammad along with his followers denounced this Caliphate and announced himself as the Caliph.

3k. Marwan bin Muhammad

Marwan removed Ibrahim and became caliph. He then had the dead body of ex Caliph Yazeed Naqis dug out on charges of murdering another ex Caliph Waleed, and hanged the dead body. Meanwhile the Abbasids had a movement in place to overturn the rulership of the Ummayyads. As a result Marwan was killed and with him the era of Ummayyad caliphate came to an end. Thus started the era of Abbasids ruling, who were the offspring of Prophet Mohammad's uncle Abu Talib.

4. The Abbasids take over after thousands of Muslims were murdered in Damascus

4.1 The beginning of Abbasid dynasty - Safah Abdullah took over as the first Caliph of the Abbasids. He passed away due to smallpox

4.2 Mansoor Ibn e Jaffar - Brother of Safah made Caliph. He kicked out his own uncle Essa from being next in line and announced his son Mehdi as the heir

4.3 Mehdi Abu Abdullah - He made his son Moosa Hadi his heir, and his other son Haroon Rasheed the heir of Moosa Hadi. He was killed by poisoning

4.4 Moosa Hadi became the Caliph next. He was choked to death by his own mother Khezran and Haroon Rasheed

4.5 Haroon Rasheed came to power with help from his mother. He made his son Ameen his heir according to the wish of his wife Zubeda. He then divided his state into 3 and made his other 2 sons Qasim and Mamoon his heirs too

4.6 Ameen Rasheed became the Caliph after his father passed. He removed his brother from his part of the caliphate which resulted in a bloody war between Muslims. Ameen was killed in this war

4.7 Mamoon ur Raheed came into power after killing his brother Ameen. Mamoon got his daughter married to the 8th Shia Imam, Ali Raza bin Moosa, and declared him as his heir. The family of Mamoon, the Abbasis, did not approve of this decision. As a result they pledged allegiance to Mamoon's uncle Ibrahim bin Mehdi and attacked Mamoon. During this time Imam Ali Raza was poisoned to death and this resulted in an end to the revolt against Caliph Mamoon. It is assumed that Mamoon had Ali Raza poisoned to bring an end to the revolt against him m

4.8 Motasim Billah was made Caliph after the death of Mamoon ur Rasheed

4.9 Wasiq Billah was made Caliph after Motasim's death

4.10 Mutawakkil Billah followed Wasiq. He named his 3 sons Muntasir, Motazir and Moeed heir apparent in sequence one after the other. But afterwards Mutawakkil wanted to make Motazir supersede the sequence on the wish of his favourite concubine who was also the mother of Motazir.

This created an unsavoury situation as a result of which Muntasir had his father and his advisor ateh bin Khaqan killed

4.11 Muntasir Billah came to power after killing his father, and he removed his brothers Motazir and Moeed from the sequence of monarchy. Muntasir was poisoned through his medical aide Ibn e Taifur, who was instigated to carry out this act by the Turk followers of Motazir

4.12 After Muntasir s death, his nephew Mustaeen Billah was made the caliph, while the Turks pledged allegiance to Motazir. Caliph Mustaeen and his uncle Motaxir remained engaged in a bloody war for a very long time. During this time Mustaeen was removed from Caliphate and was put into incarceration. While in jail, Mustaeen was killed on the orders of his uncle Mutazir

4.13 The Caliphate was snatched from the hands of Mustaeen and handed over to Motazir Billah. He removed his brother Moeed from the heir-ship and got him killed while he was in jail. Meanwhile Muhammad bin Wasiq aka Mahnds outadi Billah overthrew Motaxir with the help of the Turks. Motair was also killed while in prison

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4.15 Muhtadi Billah was made Caliph after Motazir. He had kept his cousin Mutamid Ali ullah in jail. The friends of Mutamid got hold of Mutadi and put him in jail, where he was killed by the method of having his balls squeezed (seriously)

4.16 Mutamaid Ali ullah became Caliph after Muhtadi. Later he had strong disagreements with his brother Muwaffiq and the latter confined him to his

quarters, but Mutamid kept on being the Caliph regardless

4.17 Motazid Billah, the nephew of Mutamiid and the son of Muvaffiq became caliph after Mutamid s death. Caliph Mutazid caught many sexually transmitted diseases as he was a sex addict, and died very soon.

4.18 Muktafi Billah was the son of Motazid and he followed in the line after the former's death

4.19 Muqtadir Billah was the son of Muktafi and he became Caliph next. Ibn e mutazir removed Caliph Maqtadir from the throne and established his own caliphate. But later Muqtadir got Ibne Mitazir killed and continued his own Caliphate. It was during his rule that the Fatmids captured Egypt .Masoor Halaaj who famously raised the slogan of ' I am the truth', was hanged during Muqtadir's regime. There was a revolt against the caliph and he was eventually killed

4.20 Qahir Bllah was made Caliph after Muqtadir whereas he got one Muhammad bin Muktafi. who was also a claimant o the Caliphate. Razi Bin ullah, son of Muqtadir, ended the regime of Qahir Billah and put him under house arrest. He died during this time

4.21 Razi Billah, son of Muqtadir then became the Caliph

4.22 Muttaqi Lillah, brother of Razi, made Caliph after his death. He was captured by the followers of Mustakfi Billah while he was travelling. They put hot irons through his eyes and put him in jail, which resulted in his death

4.23 Mustakfi Billah was the next Caliph. He was captured by the followers of his cousin Mutiullah, put in jail where he passed away

4.24 Mutiullah became the Caliph after that.He soon had a paralysis attack

4.25 Mutiullah made his son Taiullah Caliph. Taiullah was captured by his

cousin Qadir Billah, sent to jail and that is where he lost his life

4.26 Qadir Billah made caliph after that

4.27 Qaim bi Amrillah son of Qadir Billah made Caliph after his death. Qaim died under mysterious circumstances

4.28 Muqtadi bi Amrillah followed his grandfather to become the Caliph. He was poisoned to death by his female slave

4.29 Mustazhir bi Amrillah was the son of Muqtadi and he made Caliph next

4.30 Mustarshid Bi Amrillah was the son of Mustashir and made the next Caliph. He was killed

4.31 Rashid bi Amrillah was made caliph after his father's death, but he was also killed by non Arab dacoits

4.32 Muqtadi bi Amrillah was next after his father 's death

4.33 Mustajid bi Amrillah son of Muqtadi was made the caliph next

4.34 Mustazi Bi Amrillah was the next in line

4.35 Al Nasir La deenillah was made Caliph next, he was the son of Mustazi. He had a massive abrasion in his bladder and kidney stones were released from his body. He committed suicide by taking sleeping pills

4.36 Zahir bi Amrillahm son of Al Nasir became the caliph next

4.37 Mustansir Billah was the next Caliph

4.38 Mustasim Billah was the son of Mustansir and he became the next Caliph. During his regime the Mongols attacked and captured Baghdad

which was the capital of the Islamic State, under the leadership of Hulagu Khan. Mutasim was also killed during this attack