

SUMMER IMMERSION

BLISS BOUND



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SESSION 7

Umar ibn Al-Khattab Conditions For His Governors

- Soft but not weak
 - Softness is a means of empowerment
 - Softness and weakness can be separated when you don't let someone make you a doormat
- Firm but not harsh
 - The Prophet (SAW) was soft, but also very firm
 - However, firmness should not become oppression
- Financially aware but not stingy
 - The Prophet (SAW) said that a person with two qualities would never smell the fragrance of Jannah: stinginess and arrogant
 - It's important to be careful with money, but never hoard
 - If you count and give, Allah will count and give you
- Generous but not wasteful
- Must live amongst the people as a leader
 - He was present in all of the gatherings of the people
- Must be knowledgeable of the deen

His Worship

- He donated his garden because he missed one prayer in jama'ah (congregation) because of it
- Umar competed with Abu Bakr in worship
 - During the expedition of Tabuk, Umar donated half of his wealth, thinking he would beat Abu Bakr
 - Abu Bakr donated everything he had
- Umar's weeping could be heard at the back of the masjid
- He was concerned about his salah after he was stabbed by Abu Lulu Al Majoosi
 - Fajr was the first thing he asked about when he gained consciousness

His Justice

- Service is not worship - both are necessary
- He set the standard of how to conduct transactions
- He would stroll in the city at night to make sure everything was okay
 - Once, Walid ibn Mughira was there
 - Before this, Umar had removed Khalid from the position of a general and appointed Abu Ubaydah (who was a general during the Prophet's life, unlike Khalid)
 - People criticized Umar for this and said he had something personal against Khalid, but this wasn't true
 - Umar pretends he is Khalid, and asks "what do you think of what Ameerul Mumineen did to me?"
 - Walid says, "Khalid! Why are you back in Medina?"
 - Umar says, "Ameerul Mumineen removed me from being general"
 - Walid says, "You have the right to be general"
 - Umar says, "What do we do then?"

- Walid says, "Khalid, as much as I love you, we will not go against what Ameerul Mumineen says - we will do as he says."
- The next morning, Umar called Khalid and Walid, and he said, can you both tell me what you were talking about last night?
 - Walid started shaking and Khalid was confused
 - They went back and forth
- Finally, Umar said, "Walid, you were talking to me." Walid got afraid
- Umar said, "Allah has blessed me with such people in my community who support what I do even when they don't agree with it."
- Umar wanted to purchase the land of Abbas, which was next to Masjid An-Nabawi
 - Umar asked Abbas to sell his land, and he refused
 - They went to court, and Umar lost the transaction
 - Later, Abbas offered him his land as a gift
 - Umar was confused
 - Abbas said, "I was upset that you asked me to sell it to you, you should have asked me to give it to you. Also, I wanted to set the precedence that you can't force someone to sell something to you in our religion."

His Zuhd

- Aisha once saw a group of people walking lazily with their heads down
 - She asked who they are and someone said that they were the ascetic ones of Medina
 - She said that she knew that Umar was more of a zahid than them, but he was powerful in his walk and the way he conducted himself

Muwafaqat

- There are 17 instances where Umar gave an opinion and Allah affirmed it in the Quran (these are called muwafaqat)
- Ruling on hijab
- Ruling on alcohol
- Captives of Badr
 - Prophet (SAW) asked Abu Bakr and Umar for their opinions on how to deal with the captives from the Battle of Badr
 - Abu Bakr said to let them pay for their ransom if they could and let them free, and for poor captives to teach ten illiterate people in Medina and be freed
 - Umar said to kill them
 - The Prophet (SAW) went with Abu Bakr's opinion
 - Allah revealed in Quran that the opinion of Umar was correct because those captives would come back to fight the Muslims again