

# بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## باب في التفضيل

### Chapter 8: Preference [of the Companions Concerning Rank] [4627–4631]

Prepared by Abū al-Ḥasan Mālik Ādam al-Akhḍar

[4627] Nafi‘ (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) said that Ibn ‘Umar (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) stated: “During the time of Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), we did not deem anyone [from the Companions] equal to Abū Bakr al-Ṣiddīq (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ), then after him ‘Umar (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ), then ‘Uthmān (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ). After this, we did not differentiate between them.”<sup>1</sup>

[4628] Sālim b. ‘Abd Allāh said that that Ibn ‘Umar (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) stated: “We used to say—while the Messenger of Allāh (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was alive: ‘The best of the Prophet’s *Ummah* after him is Abū Bakr, then ‘Umar, then Uthmān.’”<sup>2</sup>

[4629] Muḥammad b. al-Ḥanafīyah said: “I asked my father (i.e. ‘Ali b. Abū Ṭālib): ‘Who is the best of people after Allāh’s Messenger?’” He said: “Abu Bakr.”

“Then who?”

“Umar.”

I was afraid of asking him who was next, lest he say ‘Uthmān. I said: “Then you, O my father?”

‘I am merely one of the Muslims,” he said.<sup>3</sup>

[4630] Muḥammad al-Firyābī said: “I heard Sufyān say: ‘Whoever claims that ‘Ali (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) was more deserving [of the Caliphate] than the two of them (i.e. Abū Bakr and ‘Umar), he has charged Abū Bakr and ‘Umar, the Muhājirūn and the Anṣār—may Allāh be pleased with all of them—with error, and I do not hold that with this [belief] his deeds will rise to the heavens.’”<sup>4</sup>

[4631] ‘Abbād al-Sammāk said: “I heard Sufyān al-Thawrī say: ‘The successors are five: Abū Bakr, ‘Umar, ‘Uthmān, ‘Ali and ‘Umar b. ‘Abd al-Azīz.’”<sup>5</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Al-Albānī has graded this narration authentic in his checking of *Sunan Abū Dawūd* (no. 4627)

<sup>2</sup> Al-Albānī has graded this narration authentic (no. 4628)

<sup>3</sup> Al-Albānī has graded this narration authentic (no. 4629)

<sup>4</sup> Al-Albānī states that the chain is *Ḥasan Maqtu‘* (no. 4630)

<sup>5</sup> Al-Albānī states that the chain is *Ḍa‘īf* (weak) (no. 4631)

**Some benefits from the explication of *Shaykh Aḥmad al-Najmī* (رحمة الله):**

- ❖ The people of the *Sunnah* implemented these *Aḥādīth*. Until even the *Khawārij* who made *Takfīr* of all of the Companions excluded Abū Bakr and ‘Umar from this. However, the *Rāfiḍah*—may Allāh give them what they deserve—began with them, making *Takfīr* of them, cursing and disparaging them; and refuge is sought with Allāh. However, no attention is paid to the people of innovation; rather, the only [recognized] statement is that of *Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jama‘ah*.
- ❖ ‘Ali b. Abū Ṭālib is considered fourth [in rank] by *Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jama‘ah*; rather, there is consensus among the Companions concerning this, and they agreed upon giving precedence to ‘Uthmān [over ‘Ali], and none of them differed in this—even ‘Ali b. Abū Ṭālib, as he was from the first to pledge *Bay‘ah* to ‘Uthmān. So anyone from the *Shī‘ah* or other than them from those who incline towards their speech, and claim to be upon the *Sunnah*, they are in error.