

# LANGAT SINGH COLLEGE

NAAC Grade – 'A'

(A Constituent unit of B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur)

## Department Of Persian



### **:- ONLINE CLASS E-MATERIAL :-**

Topic :- Life and Works of 2<sup>nd</sup> Caliph Umar Al Khattab (ra)

M. A 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester (Persian)

Course No & title :- Per 104 Core. History of Islam

By

**MD. IMTEYAZ ALAM**

Assistant Professor (Guest), Department Of Persian

L. S. College, Muzaffarpur, Bihar

(Call + WhatsApp :- 9031203050) (Email :- imteyazjnu@gmail.com)

1. *Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭab*, son of Al-Khattab, was one of the most powerful and influential Muslim caliph in the history of Islam, was born in 584 CE in Mecca to the Banu Adi clan of the Quraish tribe, which was responsible for the arbitration among the tribes. He was a senior companion of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad. He succeeded Abu Bakr (632–634) as the second caliph of Islam on 23 August 634.

## *Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭab*

584 to 634

2. He was an expert Muslim jurist who best known for his pious and just nature, which earned him the epithet *Al-Farooq* which means, the one who distinguishes between right and wrong. According to some hadiths that identify him as the second greatest of the shahaba after Abu Bakr.



3. Under the reign of Caliph Umar, the caliphate expanded at an unprecedented rate, ruling the Sassanid empire and more than two-thirds of the Byzantine Empire. According to Jewish tradition, Umar set aside the Christian ban on Jews and allowed them inter into Jerusalem and to worship. Umar was eventually killed by the Persian Piruz Nahavandi in 644 CE.

4. Umar in his early days, learned to read and write in his youth and developed a love for poetry and literature. According to the tradition of Quraish, in his teenage years, Umar learned martial arts, horse riding and wrestling He was tall, physically powerful and later became a renowned wrestler. He was also a gifted orator who succeeded his father as an arbitrator among the tribes.

5. Umar became a merchant and made several journeys to Rom and Persia where he is said to have met various scholars and analyzed Roman and Persian societies. As a merchant he was unsuccessful. Like others around him, Umar was fond of drinking in his pre-Islamic days.

7. He recommended Muhammad's death.<sup>22</sup> He firmly believed in the unity of the Quraish and saw the new faith of Islam as a cause of division and discord as well.

### Umar during Muhammad's era

6. In 610 Muhammad started preaching the message of Islam. However, like many others in Mecca, Umar opposed Islam and even threatened to kill the Prophet Muhammad. He resolved to defend the traditional polytheistic religion of Arabia.

8. Due to persecution, Muhammad ordered some of his followers to migrate to Abyssiniya. When a small group of Muslims migrated, Umar became worried about the future unity of the Quraish and decided to have Muhammad assassinated.<sup>23</sup>

### Conversion to Islam

9. Umar converts to Islam in 616, one year after the Migration to Abyssinia. The story was recounted in Ibn Ishaq's *Sīrah*. On his way to murder Muhammad, Umar met his best friend Nuaim bin Abdullah who had secretly converted to Islam but had not told Umar. When Umar informed him that he had set out to kill Muhammad, Nuaim said, "By God, you have deceived yourself, O Umar! Do you think that Banu Abd Manaf would let you run around alive once you had killed their son Muhammad? Why don't you return to your own house and at least set it straight?"

10. Nuaimal Hakim told him to inquire about his own house where his sister and her husband had converted to Islam. Upon arriving at her house, Umar found his sister and brother-in-law Sayeed Bin Zaid (Umar's cousin) reciting the verses of the Quran from Surah Ta-Ha. He started quarreling with his brother-in-law, when his sister came to rescue her husband, he also started quarreling with her. Yet still they kept on saying "you may kill us but we will not give up Islam". Upon hearing these words, Umar slapped his sister so hard that she fell to the ground bleeding from her mouth.

11. When he saw what he did to his sister, he calmed down out of guilt and asked his sister to give him what she was reciting. His sister replied in the negative and said "You are unclean, and no unclean person can touch the Scripture." He insisted, but his sister was not prepared to allow him to touch the pages unless he washed his body. Umar at last washed his body and then began to read the verses that were: *Verily, I am Allah: there is no God but Me; so serve Me (only), and establish regular prayer for My remembrance* (Quran 20:14).



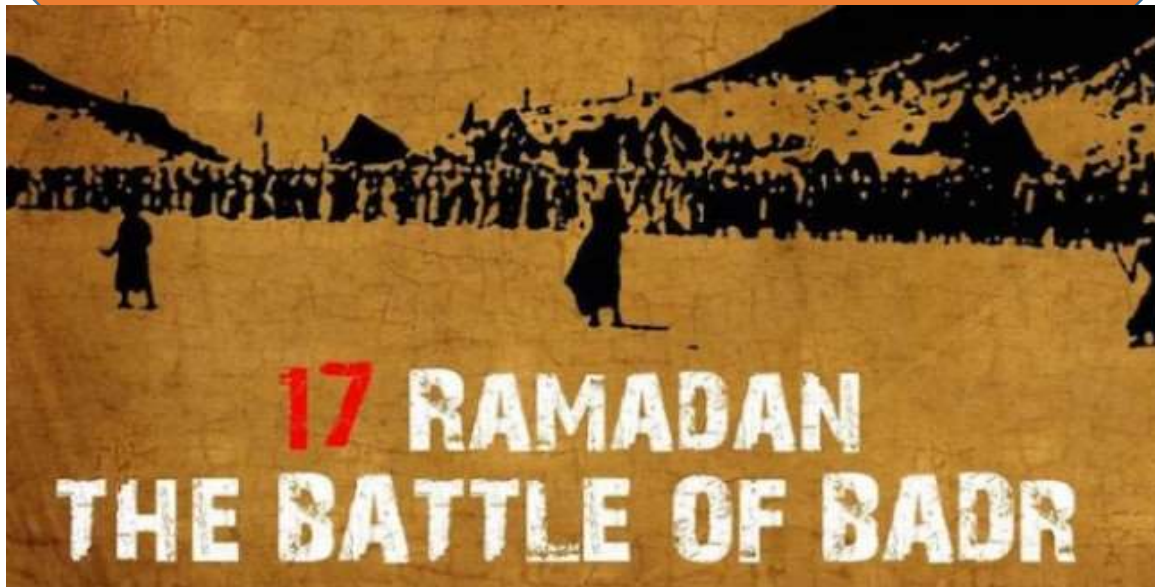
12. He wept and said "Surely this is the word of Allah. I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah." On hearing this, Khabbab came out from inside and said: "O, Umar! Glad tidings for you. Yesterday Muhammad prayed to Allah, 'O, Allah! Strengthen Islam with either Umar or Abu Jahl, whomsoever Thou likest.' It seems that his prayer has been answered in your favour."



13. Umar then went to Muhammad with the same sword with the intention to kill him but accepted Islam in front of him and his companions. Umar was 39 years old when he accepted Islam.

14. After the conversion, Umar went to inform the chief of Quraish, Amr ibn Hisham, about his acceptance of Islam. According to one account, Umar thereafter openly prayed at the Kaaba as the Quraish chiefs, Amr ibn Hisham and Abu Sufyan Ibn Harb, reportedly watched in anger. This further helped the Muslims to gain confidence in practicing Islam openly. At this stage Umar even challenged anyone who dared to stop the Muslims from praying, although no one dared to interfere with Umar when he was openly praying.

15. Umar's conversion to Islam granted power to the Muslims and to the Islamic faith in Mecca. It was after this event that Muslims offered prayers openly in Masjid Al Haram for the first time.





## Umar Migration to Medina

17. In 622 CE, Muhammad ordered his followers to migrate to Medina. Most Muslims migrated at night fearing Quraish resistance, but Umar is reported to have left openly during the day saying: "Any one who wants to make his wife a widow and his children orphans would come and meet me there behind that cliff. Umar migrated to Medina accompanied by his cousin and brother-in-law Sayeed Ibn Zaid.

16. After the Umar acceptance of Islam, Abdullah bin Masoud said, Umar's embracing Islam was our victory, his migration to Medina was our success, and his reign a blessing from Allah. We didn't offer prayers in Al-Haram Mosque until Umar had accepted Islam. When he accepted Islam, the Quraysh were compelled to let us pray in the Mosque.



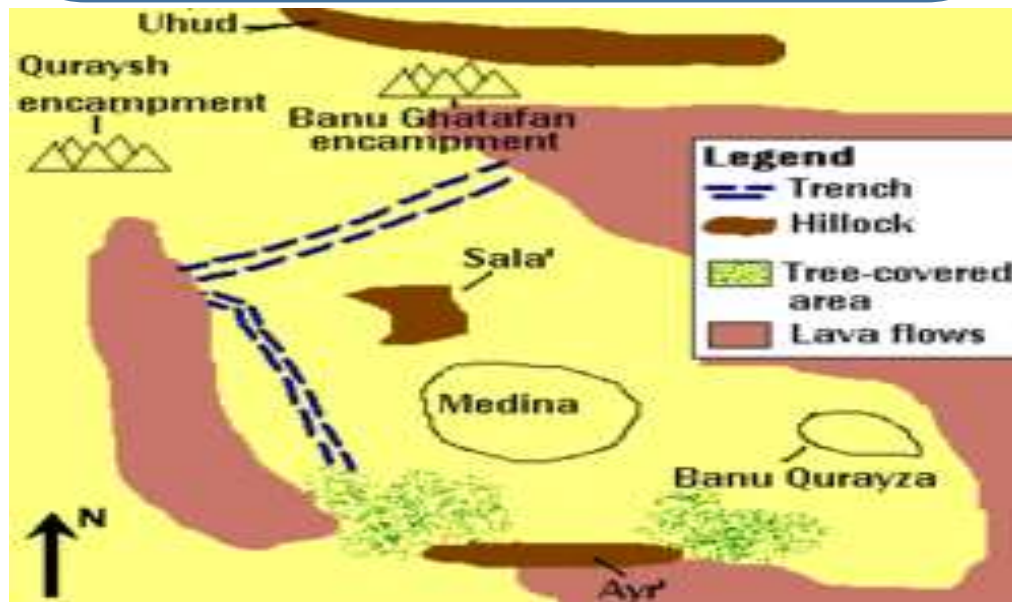
### Life in Medina

18. When Muhammad arrived in Medina, he paired each immigrant with one of the residents of the city, joining Muhammad Ibn Maslamah with Umar, making them brothers in faith. Later in Umar's reign as caliph and Muhammad ibn Muslamah would be assigned the office of Chief Inspector of Accountability. Muslims remained in peace in Medina for approximately a year before the Quraish raised an army to attack them.

19. In 624, Umar participated in the first battle named The Battle of Badr between Muslims and Qoraish in Mecca, in Mecca. In 625 he took part in the Battle of Uhud. Later in the year, Umar was a part of a campaign against the Jewish tribe of Banu Nadir. In 625 Umar's daughter Hafsa was married to Muhammad. Later in 627 he participated in the Battle of Trench and also in the Battle of Qurayza.

20. In 628 Umar witnessed the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah. In 628 he fought in the Battle of Khaybar. In 629 Muhammad sent Amr ibn al-Aas to Zaat-ul-Sallasal, after which, Muhammad sent Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Jarrah with reinforcements, including Abu Bakr and Umar, whereupon they attacked and defeated the enemy.

21. In 630, when Muslim armies rushed for the conquest of Mecca, he was part of that army. Later in 630, he fought in the Battle of Hunayn and the Siege of Taif. He was part of the Muslim army that contested the Battle of Tabuk under Muhammad's command and he was reported to have given half of his wealth for the preparation of this expedition. He also participated in the farewell Hajj of Muhammad in 632.

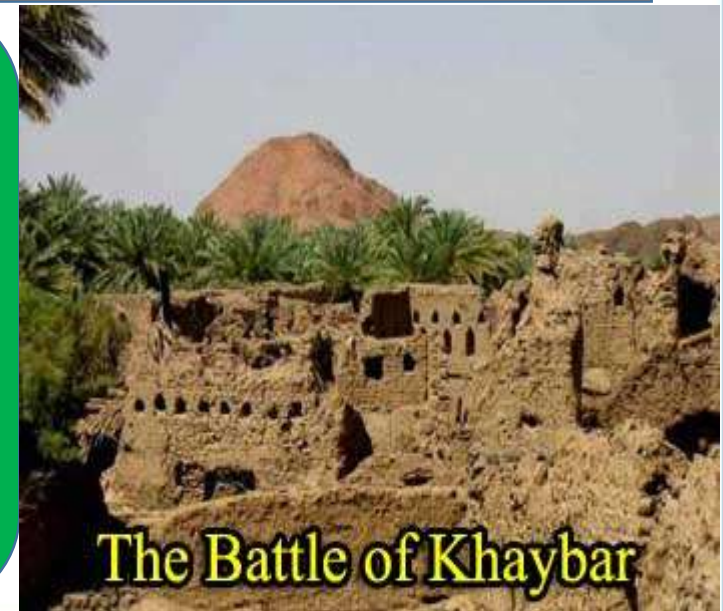


### Umar during Abu Bakr's era

22. Due to the delicate political situation in Arabia, Umar initially opposed military operations against the rebel tribes hoping to gain their support in the event of an invasion by the Romans or the Persians. Later, he came to agree with Abu Bakr's strategy to crush the rebellion by force. By late 632 CE, Khalid ibn Walid had successfully united Arabia after consecutive victories against the rebels.

23. During his own reign later, Umar would mostly adopt the policy of avoiding wars and consolidating his power in the incorporated lands rather than expanding his empire through continuous warfare.

24. When more than 300 huffaz (memorizers) of the Quran died in the Battle of Yamamah, Umar advised Abu Bakr to compile the Quran in the form of a book.



**The Battle of Khaybar**

### Umar Appointment as a caliph

25. Abu Bakr appointed Umar as his successor before dying in 634 CE. Due to his strict nature, Umar was not a very popular figure among the notables of Medina and members of Majlis al Shura; accordingly, high-ranking companions of Abu Bakr, attempted to discourage him from naming Umar. Nevertheless, Abu Bakr decided to make Umar his successor.



26. Umar was well known for his extraordinary willpower, intelligence, political astuteness, impartiality, justice and care for the poor. Abu Bakr is reported to have said to the high-ranking advisers:

**Reign as caliph**

## Initial challenges

28. Even though almost all of the Muslims had given their pledge of loyalty to Umar, he was feared more than loved. Umar was a gifted orator, and he used his ability to improve his reputation among the people.

29. Umar ordered a general amnesty for the prisoners, and their immediate emancipation. This made Umar quite popular among the Bedouin tribes. With the necessary public support on his side, Umar took the bold decision of recalling Khalid ibn Walid from supreme command on the Roman front.

**Political and civil administration**

30. The government of Umar was a unitary government, where the sovereign political authority was the caliph. The empire of Umar was divided into provinces and some autonomous territories, e.g., Azarbaijan and Armenia, that had accepted the suzerainty of the caliphate.



31. Every appointment was made in writing. At the time of appointment an instrument of instructions was issued with a view to regulating the *Wali's* conduct. On assuming office, the *Wali* was required to assemble the people in the main mosque, and read the instrument of instructions before them.



**What was the Umar's general instructions to his officers**

32. Remember, I have not appointed you as commanders and tyrants over the people. I have sent you as leaders instead, so that the people may follow your example. Give the Muslims their rights and do not beat them lest they become abused. Do not praise them unduly, lest they fall into the error of conceit. Do not keep your doors shut in their faces, lest the more powerful of them eat up the weaker ones. And do not behave as if you were superior to them, for that is tyranny over them.

33. Various other strict codes of conduct were to be obeyed by the governors and state officials. The principal officers were required to travel to Mecca on the occasion of the Hajj, during which people were free to present any complaint against them. In order to minimize the chances of corruption, Umar made it a point to pay high salaries to the staff. Provincial governors received as much as to seven thousand dirham annually besides their shares of the spoils of war.

34. Umar was the first to establish a special department for the investigation of complaints against the officers of the State. This department acted as the Administrative court, where the legal proceedings were done personally led by Umar. The Department was under the charge of Muhammad ibn Maslamah, one of Umar's most trusted men. In important cases Muhammad ibn Maslamah was deputed by Umar to proceed to the spot, investigate the charge and take action.



35. Sometimes an Inquiry Commission was constituted to investigate the charge. On occasion, the officers against whom complaints were received were summoned to Medina, and charged in Umar's administrative court. Umar was known for this intelligence service through which he made his officials accountable. This service was also said to have inspired fear in his subjects.



### 36. Umar was a pioneer in some affairs:

1. Umar was the first to introduce the public ministry system, where the records of officials and soldiers were kept. He also kept a record system for messages he sent to Governors and heads of state.

2. He was the first to appoint police forces to keep civil order.

He was the first to discipline the people when they became disordered

### Reforms

37. Under Umar's leadership, the empire expanded rapidly & he began to build a political structure that would hold together the vast territory. He undertook many administrative reforms and closely oversaw public policy, establishing an advanced administration for the newly conquered lands, including several new ministries and bureaucracies, and ordered a census of all the Muslim territories.

38. During his rule, the garrison cities of Basra and Kufa were founded or expanded. In 638, he extended and renovated the Masjid al Haram (Grand Mosque) in Mecca and Al Masjid al Nabawi (Mosque of the Prophet) in Medina.

39. He also permitted Jewish families to resettle in Jerusalem, which had previously been barred from all Jews. He issued orders that these Christians and Jews should be treated well and all of them the equivalent amount of land in their new settlements.

40. Umar also forbade non-Muslims from residing in the Hejaz for longer than three days. He was first to establish the army as a state department.

41. Umar was founder of fiqh , or Islamic jurisprudence has been regarded by Sunni Muslims as one of the greatest Faqih, as he started the process of codifying Islamic law.

42. In 638, his fourth year as caliph and the seventeenth year since the [Hijra](#), he decreed that the Islamic Calander should be counted from the year of the Hijra of Muhammad from Mecca to Medina.

43. In 641, he established Bayt al maal, a financial institution and started annual allowances for the Muslims. As a leader, 'Umar was known for his simple, austere lifestyle.

## Military expansion

44. The military conquests were partially terminated between 638 and 639 during the years of great famine in Arabia and plague in the Levant. During his reign the Levant, Egypt, Cyrenaica, Tripolitania, Fezzan, Eastern Anatolia, almost the whole of the Sassanid Persian Empire including Bactria, Persia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Caucasus and Makran were annexed to the Rashidun Caliphate.

45. According to one estimate more than 4,050 cities were captured during these military conquests. Prior to his death in 644, Umar had ceased all military expeditions apparently to consolidate his rule in recently conquered Roman Egypt and the newly conquered Sassanid Empire (642–644). At his death in November 644, his rule extended from present day Libya in the west to the Indus river in the east and the Oxus river in the north.

## Great famine

46. In 638 CE, Arabia fell into severe drought followed by a famine. Soon after, the reserves of food at Medina began to run out. Umar ordered caravans of supplies from Syria and Iraq, and personally supervised their distribution. His actions saved countless lives throughout Arabia. The first governor to respond was Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Jarrah, the governor of Syria and supreme commander of the Rashidun army.

47. Later, Abu Ubaidah paid a personal visit to Medina and acted as an officer of disaster management, which was headed personally by Umar. For internally displaced people, Umar hosted a dinner every night at Medina, which according to one estimate, had attendance of more than a hundred thousand people.

## Great plague

48. While famine was ending in Arabia, many districts in Syria and Palestine were devastated by plague. While Umar was on his way to visit Syria, he was received by Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Jarrah, governor of Syria, who informed him about the plague and its intensity, and suggested that Umar go back to Medina.

49. Umar tried to persuade Abu Ubaidah to come with him to Medina, but he declined to leave his troops in that critical situation. Abu Ubaidah died in 639 of the plague, which also cost the lives of 25,000 Muslims in Syria. After the plague had weakened, in late 639, Umar visited Syria for political and administrative re-organization, as most of the veteran commanders and governors had died of the plague.



### Welfare state

50. To be close to the poor, Umar lived in a simple mud hut without doors and walked the streets every evening. After consulting with the poor, Umar established the first welfare state, Bayt al maal. The Bayt al-mal aided the Muslim and non-Muslim poor, needy, elderly, orphans, widows, and the disabled. The Bayt al-mal ran for hundreds of years, from the Rashidun Caliphate in the 7th century through the Umayyad period (661–750) and well into the Abbasid era. Umar also introduced a child benefit and pensions for the children and the elderly.

## Assassination

51. In 644, Umar was assassinated by a Persian slave named Abu Lulu. His motivation for the assassination is not clear. One possible explanation was that it was done in response to the Muslim conquest of Persia. During one of rituals of Hajj, the Ramy al Jamarat (*stoning of the Devil*), someone threw a stone at Umar that wounded his head

52. On 31 October 644, Piruz attacked Umar while he was leading the morning prayers, stabbing him six times in the belly and finally in the navel, that proved fatal. Umar was left profusely bleeding while Piruz tried to flee, but people from all sides rushed to capture him; in his efforts to escape he is reported to have wounded twelve other people, six or nine of whom later died, before slashing himself with his own blade to commit suicide.

53. Umar died of the wounds three days later on Wednesday 3 November 644. As per Umar's will, he was buried next to Al-Masjid al-Nabawi alongside Muhammad and Caliph Abu Bakr by the permission of Aisha.

## Death

54. Umar died on 3 November 644; on 7 November Uthman succeeded him as caliph. After prolonged negotiations, the tribunal decided to give blood money to the victims, and released

55. Umar's son Ubaidullah on the ground that, after the tragedy of Umar's assassination, people would be further infuriated by the execution of his son the very next day.

## Assessments

56. One writer states that Umar was a political genius and, as an architect of the Islamic Empire,

A modern researcher writes about Umar:  
56. He used to monitor public policy very closely, and had kept the needs of the public central to his leadership approach. As second caliph of Islam, he refused to chop off the hands of thieves because he felt he had fallen short of his responsibility to provide meaningful employment to all his subjects.

57. Caliph Umar knew that, just having a vision is not enough unless it is supported by effective strategies. He didn't only have a vision; he truly transformed his vision into actions. For example, to ensure that nobody sleeps hungry in his empire, he used to walk through the streets almost every night to see if there is any one needy or ill. As a ruler of a vast kingdom, his vision was to ensure that every one in his kingdom should sleep on a full stomach.



58. How was the reign of Umar, one can imagine through these words of Caliph Umar, Umar said,

If a dog dies hungry on the banks of the River Euphrates, Umar will be responsible for dereliction of duty.

