

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The History of the Four Caliphs

Itmām al-Wafā' fī Sīrat al-Khulafā'



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AL-KHUDĀRĪ BAK AL-BĀJŪRĪ

With full-colour maps



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Foreword



IN THE NAME of Allah. All praise is to Allah, Lord of the Worlds. May countless peace and blessings be showered upon our Master Muhammad, a Mercy for the worlds; the one who inspired his Companions and us to reach the pinnacles of excellence.

During the years I spent in Syria, I came across this work of the late Shaykh Muḥammad Khudarī Bak al-Bājūrī of Cairo (may Allah have mercy on him). I found it to be concise, yet comprehensive enough to provide a sufficient overview of the lives of the four rightly-guided caliphs ﷺ. There were two features that made it stand out for me. One was that it provided a clear and straightforward narrative of the first four caliphs, as well as that of the fifth, Hasan ibn 'Alī ﷺ. Written for the layman, it avoided long excursions into the variant narrations, technical intricacies and obscure historical detail found on many issues. Such excursions often become the source of disinterest for the non-academic reader.

The second notable point was the balanced and refreshing way in which the author dealt with contentious issues related to the four caliphs. This included issues exploited by sectarians to divide the Ummah, such as 'Alī ibn Abī Tālib's ﷺ delay in giving the pledge (*bay'a*) to the first caliph Abū Bakr al-Šiddīq ﷺ, the validity of the insurgency against the third caliph 'Uthmān ﷺ, the battles of the Camel and Šiffīn, and the disputes between the fourth caliph 'Alī and Mu'āwiya ﷺ. His analysis of these events leaves the reader with a clear and pure conscience regarding the great Companions of the Prophet of Allah ﷺ, a religious demand on us, and an increase in love and respect for their achievements in the face of tremendous difficulty (may Allah be pleased with them all).

These factors, coupled with a shortage of high-quality analytical work on the four caliphs in English, compelled me to translate and publish this work. Unfortunately, I was unable to personally work on it through White Thread Press and suggested that it be undertaken by Turath Publishing. Our dear friend Yahya Batha of Turath is to be commended for taking up the request and seeing the work through to its final stages. The result of this endeavor is before you today. The translation strives to preserve the author's straightforward style, fast-paced account of the battles, and internal struggles of the four caliphs. The text has been enhanced with informative maps, not found in the original text, to illustrate the advances made by the various caliphs. A small section from the original Arabic, where the author included lengthy discussions on the underlying principles of Islam, has been omitted, retaining only the historical accounts for this publication.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the contributions of the following in this project: Maulana Mohammad Mohammadi for the original translation; Mufti Husain Kadodia and Muftī Ayyub Jeena for their revision; Aadil Wainwright for his thorough editing; Nauman Vania for the cartography of the maps; and Muhammad Ansa and Maulana Shoaib Shah for their assistance.

We pray that Allah accepts this work from the author and all of us as a sincere exercise of *da'wa* to the beautiful way of Islam and the glorious lives of these inspiring luminaries (may Allah be pleased with them all).

ABDUR-RAHMAN IBN YUSUF MANGERA

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About the Author



HE IS MUHAMMAD ibn 'Afīfī al-Bājūrī, popularly known as Shaykh al-Khuḍarī. He was a scholar of Sharī'ah, literature and Islamic history. He was born in Egypt in 1289 AH/1872 CE and lived in Zaytūn, a suburb of Cairo. He graduated from Madrasah *Dār al-'Ulūm* and surpassed his contemporaries as a scholar, researcher, orator, educator and reformer. During the course of his life he was an Islamic judge in Khartoum, an educator in the Islamic Judicial School in Cairo for a period of twelve years, a Professor in Islamic history at the University of Egypt (now named The University of Cairo) the Deputy-Head of the Islamic judicial school and an inspector for the Ministry of Education.

He contributed to the literature of Islām with a collection of valuable books on history, literature and Sharī'ah. He aimed to gather beneficial information in his compositions and relied on the authentic primary sources in each field.

He was keen to introduce the new generations to the Islamic tradition and to present it to them in its purest form, without interpolation, complexity, innovation and triviality. His writing style is distinguished by its purity, eloquence, and level-headedness embellished with beautiful, tactful yet powerful admonition whenever he found the opportunity.

His power of oration and genuine feeling for the religion were displayed in his responses to important events related to the circumstances of Muslims at the time. He was as his friend, Professor Muṣṭafā Ṣādiq ar-Rāfi'ī, described him: "A reformer and a caring educator."