



A STORY TO READ ALOUD

The Story of Abu Bakr as-Siddiq

أبو بكر

Two friends in a dark cave, and the words: do not be sad, Allah is with us.

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The Story of Abu Bakr as-Siddiq

"Do not grieve; indeed Allah is with us."

At-Tawbah 9:40

Come with me. Today, we're going on a journey... far, far away... and long, long ago.
Picture a cave. A small one, high up on a rocky mountain, in the dark.

Two men are hiding inside it. They have been running all night. And now they are pressed against the cold stone at the back, holding their breath.

Because outside, right outside, there are footsteps.

Men are searching. Angry men, who have come a long way looking for them, and who are now standing so close to the mouth of the cave that the two men inside can hear them talking.

One of the two men in the cave is so frightened that he whispers: if any of them just looks down at his feet... he will see us.

And his friend, calm, in the darkness, right beside him, whispers back six words that people have been repeating ever since.

"Do not be sad. Allah is with us."

The frightened man was called Abu Bakr, radiyallahu anhu. And this is his story.

Long, long ago, in the city of Makkah, there lived a merchant named Abu Bakr, radiyallahu anhu.

He was not a king. He was not a warrior. He was a cloth merchant, a businessman, who bought and sold in the market, and who was very good at it.

And everybody in Makkah liked him.

He was gentle. He was soft-hearted, he cried easily, and he was not ashamed of it. He was so honest that if he told you something, you simply believed it, because Abu Bakr did not lie.

He knew everybody's family. He remembered people's names. And when somebody was in trouble, he was usually the first one there.

He also had a very close friend, a man from his own city, a few years older than him, known throughout Makkah as al-Amīn, the trustworthy one.

That friend was Muhammad ﷺ.



If He Said It

Then one day, Allah chose Muhammad ﷺ to be His final messenger.

And he began to tell people the truth: that there is only One God. That the statues they had been bowing to could not hear them or help them. That we should worship Allah alone.

Most of Makkah laughed. Then they got angry. Then they got cruel.

But Abu Bakr, radiyallahu anhu, heard it... and believed. Straight away. He was one of the very first grown men in all the world to become a Muslim.

And later, something happened that showed everyone exactly what kind of man he was.

The Prophet ﷺ told the people that in a single night, Allah had taken him on an amazing journey, all the way to Jerusalem, and then up through the heavens, and back again. In one night.

And the people of Makkah thought that was the funniest thing they had ever heard. They ran to Abu Bakr, delighted, certain that this would be the thing that finally broke his belief.

"Your friend says he went to Jerusalem and back in one night! What do you say about that?"

And Abu Bakr did not even pause.

He said: "If he said it... then it is true."

That was it. No arguing. No hesitating. If he said it, then it is true.

And from that day, he was given a name that stayed with him forever: as-Siddiq, the one who always tells the truth, and always believes the truth when he hears it.

Now, in Makkah in those days, there were people who were kept as slaves. And when some of them became Muslim, their masters treated them terribly.

There was a man called Bilal, a tall man with a beautiful, deep voice. And his master used to take him out into the desert in the burning middle of the day, and lay him down on the scorching sand, and put a heavy stone on his chest, and tell him: say the names of our idols, and I will stop.

And Bilal, with that great stone crushing down on him, would say only one word.

Ahad. One. Allah is One.



Buying Bilal's Freedom

Abu Bakr, radiyallahu anhu, found out.

And Abu Bakr, the cloth merchant with the soft heart, did not make a speech about it. He went to Bilal's master and he bought Bilal. Paid his own money. And then set him free.

And he did not do it just once. He did it again, and again, and again, spending his own wealth to buy people out of slavery and let them go, until his money had gone down and down and down.

His own father, who was not a Muslim yet, said to him: "Son, if you must free people, at least free the strong ones who can protect you!"

And Abu Bakr said, and this is the whole of him, in one sentence,

"I only want what is with Allah."

The years went on, and Makkah became too dangerous.

So Allah gave His Messenger ﷺ permission to leave, to travel to a city far to the north, called Madinah. And of everyone in the world, the Prophet ﷺ chose one person to travel with him.

He chose Abu Bakr, radiyallahu anhu.

They slipped out of Makkah in the dark. And instead of going north, which is where anybody chasing them would look, they went south, up into the mountains, to a cave called Thawr.

And there they hid. Two men, in the dark, in the quiet.

But they had to eat. And somebody had to bring them food.

So every evening, when it got dark, a girl climbed that mountain.

Her name was Asma. She was Abu Bakr's daughter.

She would wait until nightfall, when nobody could see her, and then she would carry food and water all the way up the rocky path to the cave, and hand it in, and climb all the way back down again before morning, as though nothing at all had happened.

And on the very first night, something went wrong.



The Two Belts

She had wrapped up the food, and she had nothing to tie the bundle with. Nothing at all. She looked around for a strap, for a cord, for a strip of cloth... and there was none.

So Asma took the belt she was wearing... and she tore it in half.

She used one half to tie up the food. And she kept the other half around her waist.

And when the Prophet ﷺ heard what she had done, he gave her a name for it, a title she carried for the rest of her life.

Dhat an-Nitaqayn. The one with the two belts.

So while you are picturing those two men hiding in the dark... remember there was a young girl walking up a mountain in the night to keep them alive. Bravery does not always look like a sword. Sometimes it looks like a torn belt and a long climb in the dark.

And then the searchers came.

Right up the mountain. Right to the mouth of the cave. Close enough to hear their voices.

And Abu Bakr, radiyallahu anhu, his heart nearly stopped. Not for himself. Never for himself. He was frightened for the Prophet ﷺ. He whispered: if one of them just looks down, he will see us.

And the Prophet ﷺ said to him:

"What do you think of two, when Allah is the third of them?"

"Do not be sad. Allah is with us."

And the men outside... turned around... and walked away.

They never looked down.

Allah put those very words into the Qur'an, so that they would never be forgotten. And when Allah tells the story of that night, He calls Abu Bakr the second of the two, the one who was in the cave, and He says: do not grieve, indeed Allah is with us.

Out of every human being who has ever lived, Abu Bakr, radiyallahu anhu, is the one Allah mentions in the cave.



Allah Is With Us

Years later, in Madinah, there came a day when the Muslims badly needed help, and the Prophet ﷺ asked everyone to give whatever they could.

People gave generously. One companion brought half of everything he owned, half!, and everyone was amazed.

Then Abu Bakr, radiyallahu anhu, came.

And he brought... everything.

All of it. Every coin in his house.

And the Prophet ﷺ looked at him and asked, gently: "What did you leave for your family, Abu Bakr?"

And Abu Bakr said:

"I left them Allah and His Messenger."

That is the story of Abu Bakr as-Siddiq, radiyallahu anhu.

Not a prophet, he never was, and he would have been the first to tell you so. Just a cloth merchant from Makkah with a soft heart and an honest tongue, who believed his friend when the whole city laughed... who spent his money buying other people their freedom... who sat in a dark cave while danger walked past outside... and who gave away everything he owned and called it a good trade.

And now... slowly... we leave the mountain and the little cave behind... the cool dark, the quiet, the two friends waiting for morning... and we travel back home. To right here. Right now.

But carry Abu Bakr, radiyallahu anhu, with you, wherever you go. Because his whole life was really about one thing.

Being a good friend. The truest kind. The kind who believes you, and stands beside you, and does not run away when things get frightening.

Be that friend. And when you are the one who is scared, in the dark, or in a new place, or on a night when everything feels too big, remember what was whispered in that cave.

It means... do not be sad. Indeed, Allah is with us. Say it with me... slowly... the way it was said in the dark...

Lā taḥzan... inna-llāha ma'anā.

Talk about it

Read a question aloud and let your child answer before you show the choices. Then ask: what would you have done?

1. Who said, if he said it, then it is true?

- a. Abu Bakr (RA)
- b. Umar (RA)
- c. Bilal (RA)

2. In Abu Bakr (RA)'s story, what does as-Siddiq mean?

- a. The truthful one
- b. The strong one
- c. The patient one

3. In Abu Bakr (RA)'s story, what work did he do in Makkah?

- a. He sold cloth
- b. He watered sheep
- c. He served a king

4. What did Abu Bakr (RA) say about the one-night journey?

- a. If he said it, it is true
- b. Let me think about it
- c. Ask him for proof

5. Who bought Bilal (RA) his freedom?

- a. Abu Bakr (RA)
- b. Umar (RA)
- c. Prophet Yusuf

6. In Abu Bakr (RA)'s story, how often did he buy people free?

- a. Again and again
- b. Only one time
- c. Once each year

Answers: 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a



Hear this story

Read it again online, or listen to it narrated in the Sukun Kids app.

sukunkids.app/stories/abubakr

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