

Khalifa Uthman bin Affan - Governors of Uthman

Abu Musa Ash'ari during the Caliphate of Umar

Abu Musa Ash'ari was the Governor of Basra during the caliphate of Umar. During this period, some complaints were made against him to Umar. The main complaints against him were: that out of the captives he had kept sixty persons for himself; that he had paid one thousand dinars to a poet; that he had a maid Aquila who was paid a stipend which was twice the stipend paid to other Muslims; that he had entrusted most of his work to a young man Ziyad.

Umar held a regular inquiry into these charges. Abu Musa Ash'ari offered his defense as follows: He had kept these slaves for himself; they were under his charge till they were ransomed. The amount of the ransom was duly credited to the Baitul Mall. He had paid the poet out of his own money and not out of the Baitul Mall. There was something exceptional and extraordinary with the physical make up of the maid for she consumed twice as much as a common person. Under the circumstances it was necessary to assign her two shares. The young man Ziyad was very intelligent, and as Governor he was justified in making use of his intelligence in public interest.

Umar after a detailed inquiry exonerated Abu Musa Ash'ari of all the charges leveled against him, and allowed him to continue in his office.

[View Page](#)

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