The Daughters of Muhammad

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Women has been exploited always. Islam is the only religion that revives human values and has raised the status of woman.

This book presents a vivid picture of the life of the Prophet’s daughters. It shows their love for their father, the Prophet and their simple life in spite of being his daughters, the difficulties they faced from the enemies of Islam and how they encountered them.
DAUGHTERS OF MUHAMMAD
THE FINAL MESSENGER OF ALLAH

By
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DEDICATION

To the mother of Believers, wife of Prophet ﷺ

SAYYIDA TAYYIBA
KHADEEJATUL KUBRA

Whose high courage, noble character, deep insight, prudence and self-sacrifice added a glorious chapter to the history, preaching and spreading of Islam.

With utmost respect and faith.
DEDICATION

Lo! Men who surrender unto Allah and women who surrender and men who believe and women who believe and men who obey and women who obey and men who speak the truth and women who speak the truth and men who persevere and women who persevere and men who are humble and women who are humble and men who give arms and women who give arms and men who fast and women who fast and men who guard their modesty and women who guard (their modesty) and men who remember Allah much and women who remember (Allah)

Allah hath prepared for them forgiveness and a vast reward.

(Holy Qur'an, Surah Ahzab, 35)

A WORD FROM THE AUTHOR

If one studies the history of mankind carefully, then one comes to the conclusion that throughout the lot of women was miserable. Eversince she was subjected because of her lack of physical strength. Also in the pagan Arab society the ego of women, their self-esteem and personality were crushed. She could be bought and sold just like any other commodity.

The Arabs then thought it to be a source of disgrace if a girl was born to them. Often new born girls were buried alive. They thought of girls not even as their children, only sons were considered as such. Islam is the only religion which revived the dignity of man and which raised women from their sunken state.

Laws concerning women were sanctioned. It is no exaggeration to say that Islam has given to all the women of the world their due rights. Be it inheritance, education or marriage, for everything there are laws and regulations protecting the interests of women.

In today's modern world man is exploring the skies above and is digging deep into the bowels of earth. Yet everywhere in the modern western world, be it Europe or America, women is exploited in the name of progress. She has become nothing but a toy in the hands of man.

We should learn a lesson therefrom. And we should study the sacred lives of the Holy Prophet's female companions, which will surely also illuminate our lives. The lives and circumstances of those noble souls will hopefully attract many women to the ways of our religion, Islam.

Anyone can easily study the biographies of the Holy Prophet's female companions. The book in your hands is an attempt in this direction.
There are a number of books available about the daughters of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. In this book I tried to present their biographies. Their sacred lives are an excellent example for us and our success in this world and salvation in the Hereafter lies in following the ways of those noble souls.

I Pray to Almighty Allah that He accepts this effort of mine.

I am especially grateful to my dear wife who requested, rather insisted that I should write this book. May Allah grant her a rich reward for her request.

In the end I want to say that this book was written with utmost respect and faith. Whatever mistake I made therein is a blame on my human weaknesses and lack of knowledge.

Requesting you for Dua:

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EPilogue

Just like the religion of Islam with its entire teachings is superior to all other religions, likewise the Prophet of Islam, the Mercy for the worlds the seal of Prophethood Muhammad Mustafa, Ahmad Mujtaba holds a unique and greatly exalted rank among the prophets, because of the minute preservation of his teachings and their implementation.

It is a very special miracle of Allah's final Messenger ﷺ that the details of his sacred life have been preserved with such accurateness, whereas the major part of the teachings and lives of the former prophets excepting a few doctrines and incidents - are lost to mankind.

One can say with certainty that so much has been written about the last of Prophets ﷺ for whose sake the heavens and the earth have been created as has not been written about anyone else. The biographers and historians have preserved each and every aspect of his pure life for the whole world of Islam. As time passed, more and more importance has been given to his perfect character and sacred life. Thousands of books have been written on this subject right from the times of Allah's final Messenger ﷺ till today. The well-renowned, though very biased western scholar and orientalist Margoliouth could not help but acknowledge this fact in his work "Muhammad" which was edited in 1905 as a part of the "Heroes of the Nations" series. The sentence with which he opened the epilogue to this book, has become proverbial:

"The long list of Muhammad's biographers knows no end, but to gain a place therein is a matter of pride."

It is an undeniable fact that no words can aptly describe the perfection and nobility of the Last Messenger of Allah ﷺ. It is pure life is a sea without a shore, no paper and no ink would suffice to give his biography its due right:

"The praises of the Mustafa are a sea without a shore And no
sweet talk can ever reach its coast."

Whenever a biographer of the Holy Prophet ﷺ concludes his work, his soul is echoing that:

"The paper has all finished, yet so much of praise is left verily one needs a boat to cross this sea without shore."

There is perhaps no book of Seerah, History, Rijal, Genealogy and Interpretation in which, along with the sacred life of the "Teacher of the Book" ﷺ, the lives and ways of his noble daughters are not mentioned, but in general the life of the Holy Prophet ﷺ is in focus. There are hardly any book describing in particular the lives of the Holy Prophet's ﷺ noble daughters. In Arabic and Urdu there are a few works on this subject, but till today they mostly lack historical facts and the desirable literary depth.

Hafiz Haqani Mian Qadri's book "Pyare Nabi ﷺ ki pyari Sahibzadian" is, in spite of its brevity, a very useful addition to the books already written on this subject.

A noble character is that rare pearl, the acquisition of which should be mankind's main objective. One can only begin to lead a virtuous and pure life after studying the lives of virtuous and pure people and by acting according to the teachings and religious instructions left by them. From the virtuous life they led, we should learn a lesson and we should strive to follow the example given by them as much as possible.

Their manners, their moral principles, their noble character and self-sacrifices should be for us like a tower of light on the highway of our lives. If we leave it aside, then we have no right to hope for success in this world or the next. Nobility of character is our actual and unexhaustable wealth, which would even mock even at the treasurers of Qaroon and the riders of carnegy and Rockefeller. We should not let go a single moment without trying to acquire that treasure which has been laid open for us in the lives of Allah's Final Messenger ﷺ and his noble daughters. All the worlds riches should be sacrificed on the altar of that search and acquisition. Those pure daughters whose biography has been attempted in this book, were souls of such exalted stations, they moulded their thinking, their emotions and their very existence according to the high ideal of human nobility, character and manners which was given in the sublime teachings of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

**DAUGHTERS OF MUHAMMAD ﷺ THE FINAL MESSNGER OF ALLAH**

The learned author of the Book realised his idea to write a biography of the Holy Prophet's ﷺ daughters in a most excellent manner. Concise and yet comprehensive he described their sacred lives in a lively, easy to grasp language. No doubt this book is a valuable addition, a true treasure of knowledge to the books already existing on this subject.

Reading this book makes one almost see the scenes described therein. It is an outstanding work, worth or the pride of all those who love the Holy Prophet ﷺ, his family and companions ﷺ.

In this short book have been mentioned such historical incidents and points of knowledge which hither to thirsted for their description.

This work contains the fruits of extensive research along with valuable informations, enlightening insights and thought provoking incidents.

This effect of the author is highly laudable one. I pray to Almighty Allah that He may accept this work, grant the author ever-lasting fame and make this book a source of continuous reward for the author. Ameen.
The genealogical table of the Holy Prophet's daughters

When the Holy Prophet's four daughters had attained maturity, they were married to men from the clan of Hashim and the clan of Umayyah, two major branches of the tribe of Quraish. All the Holy Prophet's son-in-laws were relatives, the degree of relations can be taken from the blessed genealogical table given below:

Qusayy

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Sayyida Zainab R.A's BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD

Sayyida Zainab R.A was the oldest of the Holy Prophet's daughters. She was born in Makkah Mukarramah, five years after the Messenger of Allah ﷺ had married Sayyida Khadeejatul Kubra. Muhammad ﷺ was then thirty years old. Sayyida Zainab's age at the advent of Islam was ten years.

The first to embrace Islam, after Allah had conferred the honour of prophethood on His beloved servant Muhammad ﷺ was Sayyida Khadeejatul Kubra. Sayyida Zainab R.A accepted the true religion of Allah alongwith her august mother. Some biographers have stated that Sayyida Zainab R.A has been the Holy Prophet’s first born. According to some others Sayyida Zainab R.A has been born first, but all are agreed that Sayyida Zainab R.A was the oldest of the four blessed daughters. She started to do some of the domestic chores when she was five or six years old. Sayyida Khadeejatul Kubra's age was then approximately 50 years.

Sayyida Zainab R.A had inherited her parent's virtuous conduct and immaculate character.

This practical live had made her skillful and taught her the art of managing a household. Further nature had bestowed on her a...
sharp mind and keen understanding.

Sayyidah Zainab was brought up and trained under the tutelage of her mother, Sayyidah Khadeeja. The Holy Prophet's love for ehr knew no limits. She was a darling child and loved extremely by both her parents.

It has been said that just to the same extent as she was loved by her parents and looked after, she had to suffer oppression from the disbelievers.

The Holy Prophet once said: "Zainab is the most beloved to me out of my daughters. She had to suffer the most at the hands of the disbelievers because of her love for me."

SAFYAH ZAINAB'S LOVE FOR HER AUGUST FATHER

When the Messenger of Allah started to proclaim his prophethood and began to call people to the Oneness of Allah, then the whole city of Makkah raised hue and cry in protest, the whole city was enraged. The Makkans had become his bitterest enemies. The disbelievers of Makkah used all means available to them to vex and torment the Messenger of Allah. He was sheered at wherever he went and thorns were strewed in his way. Yet Allah's beloved Prophet never cursed anyone.

Sayyidah Zainab would often accompany her august father, the chief of all Prophets on those painful trips and she could try to help and serve him as much as she could. Once, at Mina, the Holy Prophet was calling the people to the true faith and preaching to them, when some rascals started to make fun of him. Some of those miserable wretches even hurled stones at the Messenger of Allah. The Mercy for the worlds, in spite of being pelted with stones, prayed for the people. The Holy Prophet was being wounded, when suddenly innocent 10 years old girl came running to him, signs of great sorrow on her little face. In her despair she not even noticed that the collar of her shirt was torn and that her scarf had flown from her head. In one hand she had a glass

of water, in the other a handkerchief. She gave her august father Muhammadur Rasoolullah some water to drink and started to clean his wounds with her handkerchief, crying ceaselessly. So deep was her concern for her father, that she was not even aware of her torn dress and the scarf which had flown away. When the people saw this scene they asked who this little girl was. They were told that this is Zainab, the daughter of Muhammad.

When the Holy Prophet saw his innocent girl in such despair, tears welled up in his eyes. He took her in his arms and said: "My dear daughter, come do cover up your collar. Why are you so upset? My daughter, do not fear that your father might perish in Allah's way. For sure Allah is your father's guardian. He helps his and protects him."

Her struggle to support the true religion of Allah even under such unfavourable circumstances and her contribution towards the spread of Islam are examples of her noble character, her self-sacrifice and her high morals. There is no doubt that Sayyidah Zainab's personal ability, her firm faith and extra ordinary conduct to serve our honour and respect.

SAFYAH ZAINAB'S MARRIAGE

The name of Sayyidah Zainab's maternal aunt, i.e. the real sister of Sayyidah Khadeeja was Hala Bin Khuwailid. Sayyidah Hala's eldest son was Abul Aas. He was a virtuous, soft tempered and well mannered young man. Sayyidah Hala requested, rather insisted that Sayyidah Khadeeja to give Sayyidah Zainab in marriage to Abul Aas.

Abul Aas Bin Rabia was a great, extremely honest and trustworthy trader, whose business connections reached from Makkah to Syria, Iraq and Yaman. His acuteness in settling immediately accounts with other traders had become proverbial. Great traders of Makkah would make contracts with him and entrust their goods to him. Because of these virtues he enjoyed a high honourable position among the traders.
He had a very far reaching business. His honesty and trustworthiness were well-known, therefore he was often referred to as 'Al-Ameen' Sayyidina Abul Aas ﷺ aunt Sayyidah Khadeeja رضي الله عنها was well aware of his virtues and she loved him dearly. Whenever he came back from a long business-trip he would present himself to his venerable aunt's home and tell her about his pleasant trip, the situation in the market. His aunt Sayyidah Khadeeja رضي الله عنها would also help him with her knowledge and wise counsel.

Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ was also pleased to have this virtuous young man in his home. He showered him with love and affection, honour and respect. And why should he not do so, after all Abul Aas ﷺ and Muhammad Bin Abdullah ﷺ were not strangers. They both were of noble descent and their ancestry met in their common forefather Qusayy.

Abul Aas ﷺ was a modest, bashful young man, he was in the bloom of his youth, full of manly vigour and bravery. Yet, just like the offspring of the nobles, he was perfectly modest at the same time. One indication of his bravery is that among the Arabs he was known as "lion of Hijaz".

Mother of the Believers, Sayyidah Khadeejatul Kubra رضي الله عنها has, after consultation with her amongst husband ﷺ accepted the proposal sent by her sister. The Holy Prophet ﷺ never opposed Sayyidah Khadeejatul Kubra رضي الله عنها in any matter, but he always accepted her opinion in moments of distress and she always helped him in matters of religion. Thus Sayyidah Zainab رضي الله عنها was wedded to Sayyidina Abul Aas ﷺ. The Holy Prophet ﷺ himself read the Sermon of Nikah and Sayyidah Khadeeja رضي الله عنها gave a dower to her beloved eldest daughter. Abul Aas gifted a large sum of money to the household, as was the custom of the nobles at that time. Sayyida Hala sent precious raiments and perfumes so that the marriage may be celebrated in a becoming manner.

Thereafter Sayyidah Zainab رضي الله عنها was sent to live with her husband, her cousin Abul Aas ﷺ, on occasion of great joy for all the participants. In Sayyidah Zainab's ﷺ dowry there was a priceless Yamanite necklace made of cornelian. She always held this necklace in high esteem, thinking it to be a reminder, a blessed gift of her beloved mother.

THE BOYCOTT AGAINST BANU HASHIM AND SAYYIDAH ZAINAB'S ﷺ STEADFASTNESS AND PATIENCE

The Quraisah had returned from Ethiopia without success. Their anger was beyond control, because Islam had spread its light all over, in spite of their heavy opposition.

Finally they had decided to besiege the Holy Prophet ﷺ and his family. It was decided that no one should have anything to do with banu Hashim, neither meet them, nor maintain relations with them, nor send them any food items nor have any business with them.

This was put into writing and the document was hung at the door of the Holy Ka'bah. Abu Talib took his family and went into an isolated valley of his which is known as 'Shu'ab Abi Talib'.

Among the detainees there were also Mother of the believers, Sayyidah Khadeejatul Kubra رضي الله عنها, and her four daughters Sayyidah Zainab, Sayyidah Ruqayya, Sayyidah Um Kulthoom and Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها. Since the Quraisah prevented Banu Hashim from taking along any food items the people had to sustain themselves by eating the leaves of trees.

Other children cried aloud because of hunger, but Sayyidah Zainab رضي الله عنها, who was also among them, was a picture of contentment, gratitude, patience and silent submission. Not only she herself remained patient, but she also urged her sisters to be so.

Sometimes Abul Aas ﷺ managed to send some eatables secretly to the detained family. The Holy Prophet ﷺ acknowledge of this large heartedness and courage of his son-in-law by saying "Abul Aas ﷺ has discharged the rights of his in-laws".

After three torturous years of isolation Banu Hashim was delivered from its difficulties and the people were allowed to return.
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ABUL AAS AND SAYYIDAH ZAINAB

Sayyidina Abul Aas was the real nephew of Sayyidah Khadeeja, his mother's name was Hala Bint Khuwailid, who was Sayyidah Khadeeja's sister. Sayyidah Khadeeja loved her nephew, who also her son-in-law, dearly. This was so because of his good character and manners and the excellent way in which he treated his wife, Sayyidah Zainab.

Sayyidina abul Aas held the house of the Holy Prophet almost as high in esteem as the Holy Ka'bah.

THE RELATION BETWEEN THE HOLY PROPHET AND SAYYIDINA ABUL AAS

Sayyidina Abul Aas did not accept Islam in its early stages, he became a Muslim only after the Battle of Badr. Yet he was such an honourable, element and virtuous person that he never interfered in Sayyidah Zainab's religious affairs, nor did he ever yet her because of her being a Muslim. The Holy Prophet considered him to be sympathetic and friendly inclined.

The Quraishi leaders tried several times to separate Sayyidina abul Aas and Sayyidah Zainab, offering him to marry any of the girls of the Quraish if he just would divorce the Holy Prophet's daughter. When they became more and more impertinent, then Sayyidina Abul Aas once exclaimed "By Allah, I swear I shall never ever leave my wife."

When the Holy Prophet got to know about this he expressed his appreciation and gratitude and he prayed for abul Aas welfare. He said "Abul Aas is a person who loves justice and for me he is an excellent son-in-law."

THE MEETING BETWEEN SAYYIDA ZAINAB AND ABUL AAS AFTER HER ACCEPTANCE OF ISLAM

Sayyidah Zainab accepted Islam immediately after her father, Sayyidina Muhammad‍ had been appointed as the Final Messenger of Allah and revelation started to come down on him Abul Aas was at that time on a business-trip. The news of a prophet's appearance reached him while he was still on his journey. When he returned home Sayyidah Zainab confirmed what he had heard and also told him about her acceptance of Islam. He was perplexed and said to her: "Oh Zainab, have you also thought what might happen in case I do not believe in your father?" She replied, "How could I bely my honest and trustworthy father, who throughout his life never spoke a single lie? By Allah, he is speaking the truth and your aunt - my mother, my sisters, Ali, Abu Bakr, Uthman, Zubair Bin Awwam, all have believed in him. I cannot even think how you could bely him and deny his prophethood". He said, "My beloved, I have no doubt in the integrity of your father and neither do I bely him. Nothing is dearer to me than to go with you on the way you have chosen, but I am afraid of the people's talk, that they would say, I have forsaken the religion of my ancestors for the sake of my wife. Sayyidah Zainab said "On that you also were one of the first to embrace Islam, just like Uthman Bin Affan, Zubair Bin Awwam and others."

THE TIME OF TRIAL IN MAKKAH

When the people of Makkah started to oppress the Muslims more than they could endure, then Allah's beloved Messenger decided to migrate to Madinah.

The Holy Prophet trusted Abul Aas fully. Thus when the Holy Prophet left for Madinah he let his daughter Sayyidah Zainab, stay back in Makkah along with her husband, Abul Aas. Under heavy sighs and tears Sayyidah Zainab bad
farewell to her august father. He comforted her and encouraged her at the time of his departure. Abul Aas did his best to keep Sayyidah Zainab’s happy, not for a single moment he let her become dispirited. For this very reason the Messenger of Allah spoke very often well of Abul Aas in the Sunan of Ibn Majah is mentioned that the Holy Prophet had said, "I have given my daughter in marriage to Abul Aas. So far he has fulfilled whatever he had promised me."

It is quite obvious how much Abul Aas must have meant to his noble father-in-law and how dear he must have been to him. The Quraish started pressing Abul Aas more than ever to divorce Sayyidah Zainab Bint Muhammad, but Abul Aas remained adamant. His resolution was firm, neither his threats nor their promises could change his mind. He said, "By Allah, I would not exchange Zainab for any girl from among the Quraish. I swear, I shall never leave my wife."

THE CAPTIVES OF THE BATTLE OF BADR

The first military encounter between the forces of disbelief and the army of Islam was the Battle of Badr. In it Allah caused the pagans to be routed in an exemplary way and bestowed a glorious victory on the Muslims. Forced by the pagans, the Holy Prophet’s son-in-law had to participate in the battle, something he did only extremely unwillingly. His participation was a mere formality. He was captured by Sayyidina Jabeer Ansari. The Holy Prophet and Sayyidina Abu Bakr discussed what should be done with the captives. It was decided that they should not be put to death and that they should be allowed to leave after paying ransom.

THE HOLY PROPHET’S LOVE FOR SAYYIDAH ZAINAB AND SAYYIDAH KHADEEEJA’S NECKLACE

The people of Makkah paid ransom for the captives of Badr and took them back home after their release. Abul Aas sent a letter to his wife Sayyida Zainab in which he had written,"Zainab, I have been captured by your father, therefore arrange for money so that I can ransom myself and return home to you."

Sayyidah Zainab took her precious necklace which she had got as dowry from her mother and sent it to her father through the hands of Umar Bin Rabia as ransom for her husband Abul Aas.

The Holy Prophet was deeply touched when he saw the necklace. Tears trickled down from his eyes and fell on his blessed shirt as he remembered his beloved wife Sayyidah Khadeejah and his beloved daughter Sayyidah Zainab. Images of days bygone came before his eyes and even those who were with him started to cry.

Then the Messenger of Allah addressed his followers: "My daughter has sent her necklace, the only souvenir of her mother, to you so that she may thereby ransom her husband, my son-in-law, Abul Aas. If you agree I shall return this relic of her mother to her."

Tears flowed from the Holy Prophet’s eyes, the eyes of him for whose sake the heavens and the earth have been created. The companions cried out in one voice: "Oh Messenger of Allah, we shall return this necklace to your daughter and shall release her husband Abul Aas from capture."

What an extraordinary sense of equality and justice! The Holy Prophet had won the war, he had full authority over the life and wealth of the Muslims, who would ever have revolted against any of his decisions or resented them, yet the Holy Prophet did not decide himself. He first consulted the companions whether to return the necklace and asked them for permission. After everyone had gladly given his permission, the Holy Prophet released Abul Aas, gave the necklace to him and said: "Oh Abul Aas, since so long I am away from my daughter and I long to see her. Therefore when you return home to Makkah, then send my daughter to me."

Abul Aas returned to Makkah, deeply grieved. He hugged his children and took them lovingly in his lap. Sayyidah Zainab
asked him, “How did the Apostle of Allah ﷺ treat you?” Abul Aas replied, “He treated me the way a generous and noble person treats someone”. Then she said: “Yet you continue to follow the religion of your forefathers.” Abul Aas did not say anything. His eyes were cast down, his face showed signs of embarrassment: Abul Aas was in a state of perplexion. There was the love for his wife, his children, the excellent treatment which Allah’s Messenger ﷺ gave to him and along with that an inclination towards the true faith. Deep inside he had made his decision.

SAYYIDAH ZAINAB ﷺ ARRIVES AT MADINAH

After returning back home to Makkah, Abul Aas sent his wife Sayyidah Zainab ﷺ, who also went on a long stay in Madinah. She mounted the camel and Kinanah drove the camel. In one hand he had the reins and in the other he had bow and arrow. Sayyidah Zainab was seated in the litter tied on the camel’s back. Their journey had only started when the people of Makkah got wind that Sayyidah Zainab ﷺ is leaving for Madinah.

In broad daylight, in the Wadi of Zu Tuwa a group of infidels intercepted the travellers. Among those rescals was also Habbar Bin Aswad, a cousin of Sayyidah Khadeeja ﷺ and an uncle of Sayyidah Zainab ﷺ. His enmity towards Allah’s Messenger ﷺ however made him forget the degree and relationship he had with Sayyidah Zainab ﷺ. With him there was a person by the name Hisham. He ordered Sayyidah Zainab ﷺ to return to Makkah. Sayyidah Zainab ﷺ who was very anxious to meet her father, flatly refused to go back.

The only reason the pagans had to prevent Sayyidah Zainab ﷺ from travelling to Madinah, was to cause distress to the Holy Prophet ﷺ. They were very well aware of how much he longed to see his beloved daughter, and how much it would hurt him if Sayyidah Zainab ﷺ would be stopped from leaving

Makkah.

Sayyidah Zainab ﷺ kept insisting on going to Madinah, in spite of the pagans heavy opposition. In the end Habbar picked up a stone and hurled it at Sayyidah Zainab ﷺ, which injured her and caused her to fall down from mount. Hisham who wanted to kill Zainab, daughter of Muhammad ﷺ, the Apostle of Allah ﷺ rushed forward with his dagger drawn. But in an instant Kinanah came rescue and those wretches ran away. One historian has stated that Sayyidah Zainab ﷺ was pushed down from the camel by Habbar. She was expectant at that time. When she fell she hit a rock and started to bleed profusely. Due to her heavy injury the journey had to be delayed for some time. However she recovered quickly and after a few days only she and Kinanah set out for Madinah once more. The Holy Prophet ﷺ had been informed of his daughter’s coming. Sayyidina Zaid ﷺ received the travellers at one place and Kinanah gave Sayyidah Zainab ﷺ in the protection of Sayyidah Zaid ﷺ. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ had himself come to a place called batan, to receive his daughter. On seeing her condition he started weeping so much that his voice was choked.

It almost broke his heart when his beloved daughter Sayyidah Zainab ﷺ narrated to him the cruelties of the disbelievers, which she had to bear. Allah’s messenger saw with his own eyes the faces of torture which his beloved daughter faced. He had to endure and his heart was bleeding. Whenever a prophet of Allah invokes a curse on the disbelievers, they are bound to be destroyed. But peace be on the Mercy for the Worlds, who even now prayed for the good of his people, that they may be guided to the right path. In one tradition is mentioned that when Habbar and his gang injured Sayyidah Zainab ﷺ then Heaven apprised the Holy Prophet ﷺ thereof. Allah’s Messenger ﷺ inspired his perfect patience, ordered that Habbar be burned to death. But the next day he said: “The right to punish a living being with five belongs solely to Allah, therefore if you get hold of Habbar then don’t burn him, but kill him.”
REASONS WHY SAYYIDAH ZAINAB
was made to suffer

Why was Sayyidah Zainab made to suffer and why did she bear those hardships? The answer to this is that she bore them for the sake of Islam and the only reason for which she was tortured was the fact that she was Zainab, daughter of Muhammad. Because of being the daughter of Allah’s Messenger, she had to endure all kinds of hardships, difficulties and heart-wrenching pain.

To stop her from migration, to subject her to violence, to hurt her will an arrow, all this way only due to her being the daughter of Muhammad, the Apostle of Allah. Excepting this she should not be blamed of anything. When she was finally reunited with her father and when she had told him about all what had happened to her, then the Noblest of Allah’s Messengers said, “Out of my daughters Zainab is the most excellent, because of the sufferings she had to bear for my sake.”

(One point needs to be understood here, the excellence of Sayyidah Zainab which the Messenger of Allah had mentioned, is due to her patience and her enduring of pain and hardships. The excellence of Sayyidah Fatima Zahra to which the Holy Prophet had born himself witness is due to her dominion).

The Holy Prophet was so pained because of his daughter’s sufferings, that he announced, “People, if you get hold of Habbar who had tortured my daughter, then burn him alive!”

On the next day Allah revealed to His messenger, “Oh Prophet no one except me has got the right to punish a living being with fire.” After Makkah was conquered Habbar was constantly in hiding. Finally he found a place of refuge, a place where he was safe. That place was nothing else than the seom of the Holy Prophet’s blessed shirt. Habbar came to him in repentance, he kneeled down before the Messenger of Allah and said: “Oh

Apostle of Allah, I have trasgressed crimes committed by me and for my acts of disobedience. I admit my ignorance in front of you. I have become a Muslim. Treat me as you deem proper for surely I deserve it. The Holy Prophet was deeply affected by the sufferings of his daughter, but when her tormentor came to him with the intention of becoming a Muslim then the wounds of his blessed heart sustained before were healed. The Messenger of Allah said: “I have forgiven you. May Allah treat you leniently, because only by His grace you were guided to Islam, and through the acceptance of Islam all former sins are forgiven.”

What an outstanding example of noble character and excellent conduct.

SAYYIDINA ABUL AAS ACCEPT ISLAM

Because of trade the Quraish would go very often to Syria. Abul Aas was in one of those trading caravans heading for Syria. After business was done, when the caravan was on the way back home, they encountered a troop of Muslims under the leadership of Sayyidina Zaid. Many of the Quraish were taken prisoners. Abul Aas who had kept himself aloof from fighting, headed for Madina and reached there before the caravan. Somehow he managed to come to Sayyidah Zainab’s house and beseeched her to grant him protection, which she did. The other people of the caravan arrived shortly thereafter at Madinah. Neither the Muslims nor the Holy Prophet himself knew that Abul Aas was not only in Madinah, but in his wife’s Sayyidah Zainab’s house.

Allah’s Messenger led the people in the morning prayer. After he ended Sayyidah Zainab, called him from the women’s row. She said: “My dear father, Abul Aas came to me and adud me for protection. So! granted him.” The Holy Prophet was surprised to hear that. (It should be understood that this incident took place before women were ordered to offer their prayers in their homes.)

After the prayers the Holy Prophet’s companions usually engaged themselves in the remembrance of their lord and in the
recitation of Holy Qur'an. Allah's Messenger addressed them: "By Allah who is alone and has no partners and in whose hands my life is. Zainab just told me that Abul Aas is under her protection. I did not have the least knowledge of this before she told me about it." Then he said: "Have you heard what I said?" The companions answered: "Yes, mein Messenger of Allah, we have heard you." Then Allah's Messenger went on. Even if the humblest of the Muslims grants protection to anyone, then no doubt it is valid and inviolate. The Muslims should keep in mind that there is nothing objectionable in Zainab's granting protection to Abul Aas." Then he said to Sayyidah Zainab: "Look well after Abul Aas and treat him honourably! but refrain from conjugal relations with him." Sayyidah Zainab said: "My dear Father, please tell the Muslims to return Abul Aas goods to him, since whatever he had with him was not just his personal property, but much thereof had been entrusted to him by the people of Makkah." The Holy Prophet said: "This matter I cannot decide until I have consulted my companions. The decision of this affair rests with them."

Then he addressed his companions: "You are all aware of the fact that Abul Aas is a close relative. My eldest daughter is his wife, inspite of Islam having separated them, yet their bond of marriage is intact. You may set him free and return his goods to him, if it pleases you, but if you are not pleased, then understand, there is no pressure on you. You have got a right over his goods."

The companions decided unanimously that his goods should be returned to him. He was given his wares and was bidden farewell with utmost respect. Then he departed to Makkah. On arriving there he gave the people whatever they had entrusted to him, and then he enquired: "Have all of you got back their deposits?" The people answered: "Nothing has been kept back by you. We found you to be a noble, honest and extremely trustworthy man." Then he announced aloud, in front of all the Makkah disbelievers: "I bear witness that there is no God but Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and messenger." Abul

Aas acceptance of Islam left the pagans of Makkah dumbfounded. Sayyidina Abul Aas kept on proclaiming the oneness of Allah. Then he said: "The only thing that stopped me from accepting Islam while I was in Madinah was my fear that you people would say "Abul Aas wants to usurp our deposits! Now that I have by the grace of Allah, returned that trust to their rightful owners and relieved myself of the burden of deposits, now I have proclaimed my faith." Saying this much he left Makkah and headed for Madinah. There he presented himself to the Apostle of Allah and said: "Oh Prophet of Allah, I believe in your prophethood.

The Holy Prophet asked: "Abul Aas, why did you not embrace Islam when the people of Madinah had returned your goods to you?" - "Oh Messenger of Allah", replied Sayyidina Abul Aas, I had accepted Islam in my heart, but did not express if by my tongue. So that the people would not say that Abul Aas accepted Islam only because he wanted to take back his goods, or that they would say he accepted Islam but with deception."

The people of Madinah were delighted when they heard about Sayyidina Abul Aas's acceptance of Islam and so was Sayyidah Zainab, daughter of Muhammad. The Holy Prophet himself restored their wedlock.

Ibn Hisham writes that when Sayyidina Abul Aas returned from Syria with the things the idolators had deposited with him, then someone asked: "Why don't you accept Islam and keep all the goods for yourself, after all it belongs just to pagans." Abul Aas replied: "How can I misappropriate something even if it was only the deposit of a pagan." If I would do what you say, then my Islam would be stained by something as obnoxious as betrayal and I am not a traitor."

REMOVAL OF ONE DOUBT

In this connection it is necessary to remove one doubt, that is: how was it possible that the wedlock of Sayyidah Zainab and Abul Aas remained in tact whereas the former was a believer and the latter was an infidel? The answer to this is that in
the initial stages of Islam it was not necessary that both partners were Muslims. In that stage there were many couples in which one partner was a believer and the other not. Based on this the marriage of Sayyidah Zainab رضي الله عنها and Sayyidina Abul Aas رضي الله عنها remained intact and the couple was not separated.

It was not before the Treaty of Hudaybiyyah in the year 6 A.H. that Allah made Muslim women unlawful for disbelievers.

PLEDGING ALLEGIANCE TO THE HOLY PROPHET

Sayyidah Zainab رضي الله عنها, daughter of Muhammad ﷺ also had the honour of pledging allegiance to the Holy Prophet ﷺ, therefore she is counted among those who had taken pledge at his hands. Sayyidah Zainab رضي الله عنها is that virtuous lady who had the honour of accepting Islam in its earliest stage. She is counted among the first women to accept Islam. Among the girls she was the first to believe in the prophethood of Sayyidina Muhammad Mustafaa ﷺ. It should be noted here that all the Holy Prophet ﷺ daughters, i.e. Sayyidah Zainab, Sayyidah Ruqayya, Sayyidah Um Kulthoom and Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها, had taken pledge at the hands of Allah’s final Messenger ﷺ.

HER DEATH

Sayyidah Zainab رضي الله عنها, made many sacrifices for the sake of Islam. She braved endless hardships with patience and fortitude.

The wound she sustained at the time of her migration had healed, but after some time it broke up again and proved in the end fatal. In the year 8 A.H., at the age of 31, Sayyed Zainab رضي الله عنها, the beloved daughter of Allah’s final Messenger ﷺ, succumbed to her injury. She had faced many calamities for the sake of her father's religion.

When she departed for her eternal abode her father wept due to the heavy shock which his daughter’s death was for him.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ was deeply grieved by Sayyidah Zainab's رضي الله عنها demise, so were her sisters Sayyidah Ruqayya, Sayyidah

Um Kulthoom and Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها.

The Muslim women gathered when Sayyidah Zainab رضي الله عنها had breathed her last. They were not able to control their feelings and started wailing and mourning aloud. Sayyidina Umar Farooq رضي الله عنها tried to silence them harshly, but Allah's Messenger ﷺ stopped him saying that this is not the time for strictness. Then he addressed the women, telling them not to please the devil with their wailing. He also told them that tears which flow from the eyes and a heavy heart are a mercy from God and whatever is expressed by the tongue or done by the hands comes from the accursed devil.

(In this connection Muslim women should note one point well: When his beloved daughter Sayyidah Zainab رضي الله عنها died, then Holy Prophet ﷺ taught his Ummah that wailing, screaming, beating of face and chest and strewing dust on one’s head when a near and dear one dies are remnants from the Days of Ignorance and not a teaching of Islam. Islam urges Muslims to be patient and such times. Certainly, when a beloved person dies one feels griefed and tears flow from one’s eyes, but showing patience even in such moments is the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and therefore the course to be followed.)

The Holy Prophet ﷺ himself arranged the supervised Sayyidah Zainab's رضي الله عنها last bath which was given to her by Sayyidah Sawda, Sayyidah Ummne Salama and Sayyidah Umme Aiman رضي الله عنها.

It has been narrated that when Sayyed Zainab رضي الله عنها passed away Sayyida Umm Atia had come to the Holy Prophet's ﷺ house. He said to her: "Make arrangements for Zainab's bath. Get water and berry-leaves. Boil the leaves in the water and then wash her three or five times. In the end apply some camphor to her.

When Sayyidah Zainab رضي الله عنها was given her last bath the Holy Prophet ﷺ heart was heavy and tears kept flowing from his eyes. Her shroud consisted of her father's blessed linen cloth, which he especially gave for this purpose, and some other pieces of cloth.
SAYYIDAH ZAINAB’S FUNERAL PRAYER

After Sayyidah Zainab was bathed and shrouded the Final Messenger of Allah led her funeral prayer, in which also the women of Madinah took part. All Senior companions, Sayyida Abul Aas and Sayyidah Zainab’s sister had also joined, being a pictured grief and sorrow.

SAYYIDAH ZAINAB’S BURIAL

Sayyidah Anas narrates that when the Holy Prophet’s daughter Sayyidah Zainab died, then one group of us, i.e. the companions, presented themselves to the Holy Prophet volunteering to help in the preparations for the burial. We arrived at the grave. The Apostle of Allah was very sad. None of us could muster the courage to speak to him. It took still some time for the grave to be dug, so the Prophet of Allah sat down near it. We also sat down next to him. All of us felt a strange sensation of bewilderment. Then it was announced that the grave was ready. Allah’s Messenger got up and entered the grave to inspect it. His brow was over shadowed by clouds of sorrow. A bit later when the came out of the grave his pain was soothed to some extent. The signs of grief were less apparent on his noble countenance and he seemed composed. The companions asked : "Oh Messenger of Allah, how come that you were so depressed before you entered the grave and we did not dare to ask you about that and now you seem to be relieved?" He answered : "I had kept the horrors of the grave in my mind, its narrowness and its darkness. Then I prayed to my lord "Oh Allah, my daughter Zainab is weak and frail. Please, in Your endless Mercy, make her grave spacious for her." Allah had accepted my prayer. So I am relieved," So much concerned was the Holy Prophet for his daughter that from her death till her burial her personally supervised all the necessary preparations for her beloved daughter’s last journey, so far that he even inspected her grave and especially interceded with his lord for her so that she may pass this stage in comfort and ease. She has been buried in Jannatul Baqi. May Allah shower his blessings and mercy on her in abundance.

WHY SAYYIDAH ZAINAB HAS BEEN CALLED A MARTYR

Sayyeda Zainab, daughter of Muhammad, faced endless difficulties and hardships with patience and fatitude. The wound she had sustained at the time of her migration was the cause for her death. Therefore scholars and the pious ancestors refer to her as "Shaheeda" that means a martyr.

Allamah Ibn Katheer wrote, "She died like a martyr."

Because of all the pains she endured the Muslims call her by the honorary title "Shaheeda."

SAYYIDINA ABUL AAS PASSES AWAY

Sayyidina Abul Aas was greatly grieved by the death of his beloved wife Sayyidah Zainab. He engaged himself in worship excessively. After some time he became seriously ill and did never fully recover. He passed away in the year 12 A.H.

SAYYIDAH ZAINAB’S CHILDREN

Sayyidah Zainab gave birth to two children - a boy who was named Ali and a girl who was named Umamah.

In some books is stated that she had given birth to two boys, one of them passed away in infancy.

Sayyidah Usamah Ibn Zaid narrates in this connection that a son of Sayyidah Zainab was in the throes of death. This child was very dear to the Holy Prophet. Sayyidah Zainab called for her august father when the condition of the child grew worse. He sent reply "Go to Zainab, give her my Salaam and tell her that whatever Allah gives or takes all belongs to him. She should therefore remain patient."

Sayyidah Zainab in her utter distress urged her father to come in the name of Allah. The Holy Prophet then got up
immediately and went. With him were Sayyidah Saad Ibn Ubada, Sayyidina Maaz Ibn Jabal, Sayyidina Ubayy Ibn Kaab and Sayyidina Zaid Bin Thabit. On arriving at Sayyidah Zainab's house they got to know that the child was suffering the pangs of death. The Holy Prophet ﷺ took the little one in his lap, where he breathed his last. When the loving grandfather looked at his beloved grandchild he saw the agony in which death brings reflected in the face of the infant. The Mercy for the worlds ﷺ could not bear this sight. Tears welled up in his eyes and rolled down over his blessed cheeks. The companions asked: "What is this? Oh Messenger of Allah, you too are crying!" He replied: "It is the child of my beloved daughter Zainab. This child is very dear to me. Then he went on: "Allah shows mercy to those who show mercy."

The fact that Allah's Messenger ﷺ and his companions رضي الله عنها came to console Sayyidah Zainab رضي الله عنها when her child died, and the tears which the Apostle of Allah ﷺ shed, show how much he must have loved his daughter and grandchildren.

**SAYYIDAH ZAINAB'S SON ALI IBN ABIL AAS**

The Holy Prophet ﷺ own sons Sayyidina Tayyib and Sayyidina Tahir had passed away during their infancy, this is one reason why the Holy Prophet ﷺ was so particularly fond of his grandchildren. Abo his grandson Sayyidin Ali was very dear to him. When Sayyidina Ali Ibn Abil Aas was born he was sent to Banu Ghadeera for suckling. After Sayyidah Zainab's migration to Madinah he was brought up under the special tutelage of his noble grandfather, the Holy Prophet ﷺ at the occasion of the conquest of Makkah he was sent along with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ on the same ride. Abo this grandson of the Holy Prophet ﷺ died at a young age Sayyidina Ali Ibn Aas was brought up by the Prophet of Allah ﷺ, who took him in his lap on many occasions, taking him along. When he was able to walk he would always stay with the Holy Prophet ﷺ, even during prayers, and the

**SAYYIDAH FATIMA ZAHRA'S TESTAMENT**

The leader of the women of Paradise, Sayyidah Fatima Zahraa
willed before her death that her husband Sayyidina Ali should marry her niece Sayyidah Umamah since she would replace me for my children.

Sayyidina Ali then, in accordance with his wife’s wish, married Sayyidah Umamah, but she did not bear him any children. She was in his wedlock at the time he attained martyrdom. Thereafter she was married to Naufil Ibn Mugheerah Ibn Harith Ibn Abdul Muttalib.

THE LAST DAYS OF SAYYIDINA RABIA AND HIS DEATH

Sayyidina Abul Aas and Sayyidah Zainab loved each other endlessly. Their solace lay in being together. Sayyidina Abul Aas treated his wife well, a fact for which the Holy Prophet had praised him several times. Because of the love they had for each other, Sayyidina Abul Aas was shaken and distressed by his wife’s death. He kept staying at Sayyidah Zainab’s grave. He cried for days and nights on end, but his tears would simply not stop to flow. The Messenger of Allah told him to exercise paternal care, so Sayyidina Abul Aas consoled himself with the worship of his lord. But the grief which the death of his beloved wife caused him made him so weary that he became seriously ill. He felt that his end was near, so he called his children and told them that soon he would meet their mother in paradise, the same paradise in which also their august grandfather Sayyidina Muhammad, the apostle of Allah is enthroned.

SAYYIDAH RUQAYYA

Sayyidah Ruqayya was the Holy Prophet’s second daughter. She was three years junior to her eldest sister Sayyidah Zainab. Her mother gave birth to her seven years before the Divine Mission of Sayyidina Mustafa. He was then approximately 33 years old.

SAYYIDAH RUQAYYA’S UPBRINGING

Sayyidah Ruqayya was brought up by her august parents, Sayyidina Muhammad Mustafa and Sayyidah Khadeejatul Kubra. In her were combined all those qualities which are highly praise worthy for females. She was intelligent, witty, modest, bashful and she did all her work in a well-organized manner.

SAYYIDAH RUQAYYA’S ACCEPTANCE OF ISLAM AND PLEDGING ALLEGIANCE TO THE HOLY PROPHET

Sayyidah Khadeejatul Kubra was that noble lady who had the honour of being the very first person to embrace Islam. Alongwith her also her daughters accepted the true faith and pledged allegiance to their august father, the Messenger of Allah.

SAYYIDAH RUQAYYA’S FIRST WEDDING

Before the advent of Islam and in accordance with the customs prevalent then, the Holy Prophet gave two of his daughters i.e. Sayyidah Ruqayya and Sayyidah Um Kulthoom in marriage to his paternal uncles’s Abu Lahab’s two sons Utba and Utaiba. But the girls had not been sent yet to love with
their husbands. As a matter of fact Sayyidah Khadeeja رضي الله عنها was not very happy with this union. She thought it to be no source of goodness, blessing and honour. The only reason she had to agree to it, was her desire to please her husband, thinking that Abu Lahab was the uncle of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, a near relative. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ himself was not too pleased with there marriage of his girls, but he kept the rights of kinship in mind. Sayyidah Khadeeja’s رضي الله عنها reservation were because of Abu Lahab’s wife Um Jameel, who was also the mother of Utba and Utaiba. She was well-known for her quick temper and her vicious tongue. People in Makkah would say that Abu Lahab was a hen-pecked husband who had no standing in his own hose. He and his children were helpless before Um Jameel, who was by nature stone hearted, cyncic, bad tempered and who drew a particular joy from harming people. Um Jameel was extremely jealous of Sayyidah Khadeeja رضي الله عنها because the latter was a very noble, dignified, well-mannered and mild-tempered lady, loved and respected by the Quraish and other Makkah ribes. For these reasons Sayyidah Khadeeja رضي الله عنها was worried that Um Jameel’s abuses might harm her innocent children. The thought of her two girls marriage into such a household tortured her, yet she never mentioned these thoughts to her husband, because she always had his comfort and ease in mind, especially since he now started to seclude himself frequently in the cave of Hira. There he would engage himself in worship and meditation.

Here it is necessary to clarify that all this happened before Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ was granted the honour of prophethood. Sayyidah Ruqayya رضي الله عنها was then approximately seven years old. One full year after her marriage was the Holy Prophet ﷺ honoured with apostleship.

Once he climbed on mount Safa, a hillock in Makkah, and addressed the people: "Oh people, all my life I spent among you, therefore you can well judge whether I am an honest man or a liar. Each and every moment of my forty years of life I spent among you, do you therefore have any doubt in my honesty and

truthfulness? If I was to tell you that behind this mountain there is an army standing, ready to attack you, would you believe me?" The people said: "You are al-Amin, al-Sadiq, we never ever heard you speak a single lie. No doubt we would believe you!" He then said: "I warn you of a near punishment, I warn you of Divine wrath ready to descend on you!" On hearing this Abu Lahab shouted enraged: "Was this the only thing for which you gathered us here?"

Thus began Abu Lahab’s hefoly opposition against Muhammad the Final Messenger of Allah ﷺ.

**ABU LAHAB’S OPPOSITION REACHES ITS HEIGHT**

Abu Lahab, in spite of being the Holy Prophet’s ﷺ paternal uncle, was his greatest enemy. He did not let a single chance to trouble the Apostle of Allah ﷺ go. His wife Um Jameel was as wicked as he. At night she would go to the forest, cut thorny branches and strew them in the path where Allah’s Messenger ﷺ would walk. When their oppression reached its height, then Allah revealed the following Surah.

"The power of Abu Lahab will perish, and he will perish. His wealth and gains will not exempt him. He will be plunged in flaming five. And his wife, the wood-carrier. Will have upon her neck and halter of palm-fiber." (Holy Quran, Surah 11)

**UTBA DIVORCES SAYYIDAH RUQAYYA**

Abu Lahab once called his son Utba and ordered him: "Divorce your wife Ruqayya, daughter of Muhammad ﷺ otherwise I will not keep any relation whatsoever with you."

Utba then went to Allah’s Messenger ﷺ and told him that he had divorced his wife. Obviously this union was dissolved because of the enmity towards Islam which Abu Lahab and his family had. It should be understood that inspite of Sayyidah Ruqayya having been married, she had not started to live with her husband yet, therefore the marriage was unconsummated. Sayyidah Ruqayya
was not to be blamed for this divorce, the only reason for which she had to suffer was the fact that she was the daughter of Sayyidina Muhammad ﷺ, the Apostle of Allah. All Abu Lahab wanted to attain by making Utba divorce his wife Sayyidah Ruqayya ﷺ was to trouble the Holy Prophet ﷺ. He knew that it is just natural for a father to be grieved when the wedlock of his daughter breaks. But this divorce was a mercy in disguise, through it Allah the Most High saved those chaste innocent girls from being made to live in this unwholesome pagan environment.

Both parents, the Holy Prophet ﷺ and Sayyidah Khadeeja ﷺ were content that their daughters (Um Kuthoom was also divorced, as will be mentioned later) were saved from a dreadful future, from being exposed to Um Jameel’s wickedness and from the evil influence of a pagan household. All the four sisters were also happy and Sayyidah Ruqayya ﷺ thanked Allah that He saved her from His enemy and the enemy of His messenger ﷺ.

**UTBA PERISHES**

In one narration it has been stated that the Holy Prophet ﷺ was so offended by Utba having divorced his wife, that he cursed him thus: “Oh Allah, let one of your wild beasts come over Utba, then let him be torn apart and devoured by him.”

Allah heard the invocation of His most noble prophet ﷺ. Once Utba and his companions went to a forest, when a tiger appeared out of a sudden, killed Utba and divorced him. But some of the traditions do not agree on the authenticity of this narration.

**SAYYIDAH RUQAYYA ﷺ IS MARRIED BY SAYYIDINA UTHMAN ﷺ**

After Utba divorced Sayyidah Ruqayya ﷺ, the Holy Prophet ﷺ married her to Sayyidina Uthman ﷺ.

Sayyidah Abdullah Ibn Abbas ﷺ narrates that once the Holy Prophet ﷺ had said: “Allah the Great revealed to me that I should marry Ruqayya to Uthman Ibn Affan ﷺ,” thus she was married to him while still in Makkah and was also sent to live with him.

One Sahabi has narrated that the Holy Prophet ﷺ gave one of his daughters in marriage to Sayyidina Uthman Ibn Affan ﷺ. When she died then he married his second daughter to him. Sayyidina Uthman ﷺ was also desirous of becoming Sayyidah Ruqayya’s ﷺ law wife husband, but when the Holy Prophet ﷺ had married her to Utba, he remained silent. Sayyidina Uthman ﷺ was the son of the Holy Prophet’s cousin Urwah. Urwah’s mother Ummul Hakeem Bidaa and the Holy Prophet’s father Abdullah were both born from Abdul Mutallib’s wife Fatima Bint Amru Ibn Aiz Makhzoomia.

By nature he was virtuous, abstentious, integre, upright, charitable and he was also an affluent, wealthy person. After Sayyidah Ruqayya’s ﷺ divorce her fathers were looking for a new son-in-law and his choice fell on Sayyidina Uthman ﷺ, who was himself desirous of this union. The Holy Prophet ﷺ welcomed his new son-in-law and Sayyidah Ruqayya’s ﷺ was thus married to Sayyidina Uthman Ibn Affan ﷺ.

**SAWWYIDINA UTHMAN'S ﷺ ACCEPTANCE OF ISLAM**

Sayyidina Uthman’s ﷺ maternal aunt Sayyidah Suda Bint Kuraiz had accepted Islam in its earliest stage. Once she invited her nephews Sayyidina Uthman ﷺ to accept Islam in the following words: “Uthman, Oh Uthman! You are handsome and wealthy. There is a prophet amongst us who has proofs clear like daylight. He was sent to us by Allah the Most High with the truth. The Criterion (i.e. the Qur’an) is being revealed to him. I urge you...
you should also follow him. Let not the false idols deceive you!"

Once the Holy Prophetmet Sayyidina Uthman and addressed him thus: "Uthman, I present you paradise if you want, then accept it. No doubt I am a Messenger sent by Allah to guide you and show you the right path. If you follow me you shall benefit and if you refuse then you shall suffer a tremendous loss." On hearing this Sayyidina Uthman read immediately the Kalimah (i.e. the Islamic confession of faith that there is no God besides Allah and that Muhammad is his messenger) and became a Muslim.

Sayyidina Uthman was the eighth person whom Allah gave the glad tidings of paradise, due to his excellence.

His acceptance of Islam was very important since he was a highly respected and influential person, he was the Qurais's apple of the eye and honoured by all the Arabs. He was endowed with political insight, sagacity vast assets and a pleasant appearance. Further he was very rich. The Muslims were strengthened by his conversion, especially since he would donate vast mounts of wealth for the sake of Islam and for the sake of Jihad.

His uncle imposed tremendous hardships on him and even imprisoned him. Sayyidina Uthman then said to him: "By Allah in whose hands my life is and who, in His endless mercy, sent a noble Prophet to us. Even if you were to behead me I would not give up Islam, each part each fiber of my body vibrates with Islam, echoes the call of Islam." When his uncle realised that Sayyidina Uthman remained steadfast ones his religion and that no kind of oppression would ring him away from it, then he released him from prison.

**SAYYIDAH RUQAYYAH AND SAYYIDINA UTHMAN EXEMPLARY COUPLE**

Sayyidah Ruqayya and Sayyidina Uthman were an exemplary couple. Their love and respect for each other had become proverbial among the women of the Qurais. Their beauty was described thus: "The most beautiful two persons witnessed by man are lady Ruqayya and her husband Uthman."

Sayyidah Ruqayya was brought up by her august parents, Sayyidina Muhammad, the Apostle of Allah and the Mother of the Believers Sayyidah Khadeejatul Kubra. She was a very refined young lady. Her and Sayyidina Uthman's married life was an extremely pleasant one. Never there was any friction or discord between them. There was nothing to match the love they had for each other. People used to say about their love and companionship:

"The most admirable couple seen by man are Ruqayya and her spouse Uthman."

Sayyidina Usama Ibn Zaid said that: "Once the Holy Prophet gave some roasted meat to me so that I may bring it to Sayyidah Ruqayya's house. When I went there I saw that Sayyidah Ruqayya sat on one cot, and Sayyidina Uthman sat on another. They were an exemplary couple that I could not help looking at one, then at the other, for quite some time. When I returned to the Holy Prophet I told him about this and he asked: "Usamah, did you ever see a couple more excellent than them?" I said: "No, not until today?"

**SAYYIDINA UTHMAN'S LOVE FOR THE HOLY PROPHET**

Once Sayyidina Uthman had prepared an excellent dish from dates and clarified butter. Some of it he had sent to the Holy Prophet. However when the gift arrived he was not at home, he had gone to visit the Mother of the Believers Sayyidah Um Salama. When he returned from there then Sayyidina Uthman's sweet dish was handed over to him and he asked who had sent it. He asked who had sent it, Sayyidina Uthman had sent it", he was told. Right then the Messenger of Allah lifted his hands and supplicated: "Oh Allah, Uthman wants to please you, so be pleased with him."
EMISSION TO ABYSSINIA

It was the initial stage of Islam and the young Muslim community had to face many hardships and trials. When oppression had reached its peak, then the Holy Prophet advised the Muslims to migrate to Abyssinia. It has been narrated that eleven men and four women migrated. Among them were Sayyidina Uthman and Sayyidah Ruqayya. This was the first migration in the history of Islam. Thereafter two more badges departed to Abyssinia. When the pagans of Makkah found out that the Muslims are leaving, then they sent a delegation to the Negus, the King of Abyssinia, along with some gifts. This delegation had an audience with the Negus' ministers and advisors. After they had talked for some time and handed over the gifts, they mentioned the actual reason for their coming. They said that some people from Makkah had left their home town and settled done in Abyssinia and since it was likely that these immigrants spread any mischief these people should not be given asylum.

They also requested the ministers to recommend them to the King. On the next day the Makkah delegation had an audience with the king. The courtiers supported the delegates' demands. The Negus ordered that the Muslims be brought to his court. So that he may ask them about the new religion they had invented.

SAYYIDINA JAFER'S EMOTIONED SPEECH

Sayyidina Jafar attempted forward as a representative of the Muslims. He then addressed the Negus: "Oh King of Abyssinia. We were an ignorant people. We used to worship idols and were polluted with all kinds of filth. We used to eat cadavers and indulge in all kinds of obscurities, vexed our neighbours and one brother would oppress the other. The strong would exploit the weak. During this sunless state of ours Allah brought forth such a person from amongst us whose honesty, trustworthiness, integrity and nobility is known to all and sundry. He ordered us to leave the false gods and called us towards the worship of Allah alone, the One and

Only who has not partners. We submitted in faith and left behind disbelief, idolatry and abstained from all futile deeds. This is our only crime because of which our nation, our own people have become our enemies. They harmed us in every way possible. Compelled by these circumstances we have come to seek shelter in your country, yet these people do not leave us here in peace, either. They try to force us back into disobedience and manifest error.

The whole court was deeply moved by this emotional speech. The Negus said "Let me hear some of what has been sent down on your messenger." Sayyidah Jafar then started to recite Surah Mariam, which moved the Negus to tears. He then wiped his face, tilted his head and said "By god, this speech and the Gospels are both rays from the same light." Then the Negus returned the gifts and said "I am not going to send back these oppressed people." Thus the delegation had to return without success.

THE HOLY PROPHET'S LONGING FOR HIS DAUGHTER

After their migration to Abyssinia the Holy Prophet got for quite some time no news about his daughter's welfare, due to which he was very upset. Often he would go to the outskirts of Makkah. Whenever a caravan came from Abyssinia then the Apostle of Allah would inquire about his daughter and his son-in-law. Once an old woman had come from there. He asked her how the emigrants were and she calmed him, saying that all are well. Then she said: "Oh Muhammad, I have also seen your daughter and your son-in-law." The Holy Prophet asked: "How are they?" She then mentioned that she had seen both of them seated on one camel going somewhere. Allah's Messenger on hearing this prayed: "Oh Allah, be their companion!"

RETURN FROM ABYSSINIA

The emigrants had spent quite some time in Abyssinia, then they started to return to Makkah, in the hope that things might have changed there. So it came that also Sayyidina Uthman and
Sayyidah Ruqayya returned to their hometown. But to their dismay, things there had changed for the worse. The pagans persecuted the Muslims more than ever before.

**THE YEAR OF SORROW**

Soon after wards the Holy Prophet’s uncle Abu Talib passed away and a while later the mother of the Believers Sayyidah Khadeejatul Kubra also left for her eternal abode.

The deaths of two near and dear ones was a heavy blow for the Messenger of Allah, therefore he called this year the "year of sorrow."

Sayyidah Khadeejatul Kubra was a great support for the Holy Prophet, such a shield which would take even the heaviest of blows. If she had been so before the commencement of prophethood then her support for her august husband had definitely increased thereafter. She was his strong fortress and sincere helper. She had sacrificed everything for the sake of Islam. Whatever affection befell the Muslims, she would consider it as her very own, personal affection.

The Holy Prophet was greatly grieved by her demise. He felt like his strongest support had been taken away, who has been an embodiment of the Islamic spirit and the first Mother of the Believers.

**MIGRATION TO MADINAH**

Oppression from side of the pagans was ever on the increase, therefore the Muslims saw no other way to save themselves then to leave Makkah. The Holy Prophet ordered them to go to Madinah. Sayyidah Ruqayya and Sayyidina Uthman were also among the migrants. Both of them had the honour of having migrated twice for the sake of Islam. Especially their second migration was a source of virtue and preeminence for them.

**SAYYIDAH RUQAYYA'S OBEDIENCE AND SERVICES RENDERED TO HER HUSBAND**

The Holy Prophet would often visit his daughter Sayyidah Ruqayya, to inquire about her well-being. Once when he entered her house he saw that Sayyidah Ruqayya was washing her august husband's head. He said to her: "Oh my dear daughter! Always treat your husband well and live with him in an exemplary way. No doubt one of all my companions Uthman resembles me the most with regard to character."

**SAYYIDAH RUQAYYA'S DISEASE**

In the second year after Hijra the Battle of Badr took place, in which the Holy Prophet also participated. He was engaged in war for the sake of Allah, when his daughter Sayyidah Ruqayya fell sick. Some scholars have stated that she was afflicted by small pox. Day and night Sayyidina Uthman was nursing his sick wife, while others prepared for the Battle of Badr. When the other companions departed to wage war for the sake of Allah then the Holy Prophet said to Sayyidina Uthman: "Ruqayya is sick. You should stay back in Madinah and take care of her."

Along with Sayyidina Uthman also Sayyidina Usama Ibn Zaid was ordered to stay in Madinah.

Sayyidina Uthman was overcome by emotion, on one side such a sacred duty as war in the way of Allah was calling. This battle was a matter of survival of Islam. On the other side there was the daughter of Allah’s Messenger who was critically ill. The Holy Prophet noticed very well how eager Sayyidina Uthman to be participate in the battle, so he said: "If you also go, then who will look after Ruqayya?" Sayyidina Uthman was saying: "Oh my leader, should I remain deprived of this unique honour?" Allah’s Messenger then said: "If you stay back to look after Ruqayya then still you shall receive a reward equal to those who fight in Badr."

So Sayyidina Uthman stayed back in Madinah to look after...
SAYYIDAH RUQAYYA’S DEATH

The daughter of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, Sayyidah Ruqayya ﷺ, was lying on her deathbed. At the tender age of 23 she went to meet her Creator.

Sayyidah Ruqayya ﷺ was a devoted wife who always supported her husband. She braved patiently and with endless fortitude all kinds of hardship, yet she never ceased trying to keep her husband Sayyidina Uthman ﷺ happy. It was just natural that the death of such a life companion would prove to be a great blow. Sayyidina Uthman ﷺ was numb with pain and grief when he arranged for the shroud and burial of his beloved wife Sayyidah Ruqayya ﷺ.

THE HOLY PROPHET’S ﷺ GRIEF AT HIS DAUGHTER’S DEMISE

Sayyidina Uthman ﷺ and some other companions had buried Sayyidah Ruqayya when the Mujahideen returned from Badr and entered Madinah as gracious victors.

As soon as the Holy Prophet ﷺ was informed about his beloved daughter’s death his heart was filled with grief and sorrow. Tears flowed from his eyes. He then went to Sayyidah Ruqayya’s grave, while tears continued to roll down his cheeks, wetting his beard and skirt. He kept his hands on the grave and said: "Oh darling of your father, you too have left us; you too went where Uthman Ibn Maz’oon went before." (Sayyidina Uthman Ibn Maz’oon ﷺ was an outstanding Sahabi. He was also among those who had migrated to Abyssinia. He was the first of the emigrants to die and he was the first of the emigrants to be buried in Jamatul Baqi. He was very dear to the Holy Prophet ﷺ, who was greatly grieved by his death. His eyes shaded tears when he kissed Sayyidina Uthman Ibn Maz’oon ﷺ. The Holy Prophet ﷺ has countered him among the generation of the righteous.)

As soon as these words had passed the Holy Prophet’s ﷺ blessed lips, the whole gathering started weeping. The whole city of Madinah was steeped in mourning, grief and pain. When the Messenger of Allah ﷺ heard the women’s lamenting he said: "As long as grief is shown by tears and felt in the heart there is no harm in it, but lamenting, mourning aloud and tearing one's clothes are signs of ignorance and instigorous from the devil."

One more reason why the Apostle of Allah ﷺ was so saddened by his daughters’ demise was that Sayyidah Ruqayya’s ﷺ passed away in his absence, and he therefore could not participate in her last rites.

THE WEEPING OF SAYYIDAH RUQAYYA’S SISTER AT HER DEATH

Sayyidah Fatima Zahra ﷺ, was Sayyidah Ruqayya’s ﷺ youngest sister. For her, her elder sister’s death was such a tremendous blow that when she went to her august father, the Apostle of Allah ﷺ to her sister’s grave, she fell on the ground and wept bitterly, recounting her sister’s memories. Sayyidina Muhammad, the Apostle of Allah ﷺ wiped Sayyidah Fatima’s tears with his hands and with his sheet, urging her to be patient and calm.

SAYYIDAH RUQAYYA’S CHILDREN

Sayyidah Ruqayya ﷺ, had given birth to one son, Abdullah. He was born in Abyssinia. Sayyidina Abdullah was a very healthy and beautiful child. He was may be six years old when once while playing a rooster struck him with its beak in his eye. Due to this wound his face swell up and finally he succumbed to this injury.

THE HOLY PROPHET’S ﷺ SUFFERING ON HIS GRANDSON’S DEATH

Allah’s Messenger ﷺ was deeply struck by his grandson’s Sayyidina Abdullah’s death. He held the child in his lap, while tears flew from his eyes. Then he said: "Allah has mercy on his compassionate and sympathetic servants." He himself led the
funeral prayers and Sayyidina Uthman LOWERED his son into the grave.

Allah's Messenger **s** suffered greatly from his daughter's and his grandson's death, yet he was a picture of patience, contentment and submission to the will of his lord. He knew very well that things like these can only happen in accordance with Allah's wish and command, so he kept patience to seek the pleasure of his Lord the Most High.

The Apostle of Allah **s** remained sad for quite some time after the death of Sayyidah Ruqayya:

\[
\text{ صلى الله عليه وعليه وسلم وابناته وأمهما} \\
\text{والصلاة و السلام على الجميع}
\]

\[
\text{وأرضي الله تعالى عن جميع الصحابة والصالحين}
\]

**SAYYIDAH UM KULTHOOM**

**SAYYIDAH UM KULTHOOM'S BIRTH**

Sayyidah Khadeejatul Kubra **r** gave birth to Sayyidah Um Kulthoom daughter of Muhammad the Messenger of Allah **s** in Makkah, approximately six years before the beginning of the Divine Mission. Um Kulthoom was her real home, she is known only by this name and she did not have any other name. She was one year junior to Sayyidah Ruqayya **r**.

**SAYYIDAH UM KULTHOOM'S UPBRINGING**

She was brought up by her august parents Sayyidina Muhammad **s** and the Mother of the Believers Sayyidah Khadeejatul Kubra **r** about whom Allah's Messenger **s** had said: "She was the best mother and excellent in managing the affairs of the household."

As effect of having been brought up a mother so high in rank, Allah endowed Sayyidah Um Kulthoom **r** with all those qualities which are essential for a perfect woman. Further Sayyidah Um Kulthoom was extremely eloquent and of a very integer disposition.

**SAYYIDAH UM KULTHOOM'S PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE HOLY PROPHET**

When Allah's Messenger **s** announced his prophethood, then Sayyidah Um Kulthoom **r** was about two years old. She pledged allegiance along with her mother and her other sisters. She stayed at Makkah till the migration to Madinah 1 Hijra.
SAYYIDAH UM KULTHOOM'S FIRST MARRIAGE

As was the custom before the advent of Islam Sayyidina Rasulullah ﷺ had married his two daughters to the sons of his paternal uncle Abu Lahab. Sayyidah Ruqayya was married to Uthba and Sayyidah Um Kulthoom was married to Utaiba, Uthba's younger brother.

But the voice of Islam grew louder. The Qur'an was being sent down, idolatry and innovation were disgraced and from everywhere echoed the call of Allah's being the One and Only, who has no partners and who alone deserves to be worshipped.

Abu Lahab and his wife Um Jameel became the Holy Prophet's ﷺ staunchest enemies. Abu Lahab was the real brother of the Holy Prophet's ﷺ father, but hated for the new faith made him forget his close relationship and he opposed Allah's Messenger ﷺ with all his might. Allah the Great then revealed Sura "Lahab" in which Abu Lahab was mentioned by name and in which he and his wife were clearly disagreed. Both of them were enraged when they heard about the revelation and Um Jameel ran with a handful of stones to throw them at the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. She also forced her sons to divorce the daughters of Allah's Prophet ﷺ. It was a mercy from the Lord that the enemies of Allah, Utaiba Ibn Abi Lahab had divorced Sayyidah Um Kulthoom and thereby saving her thus from a life full of bitterness, just like He had saved Sayyidah Ruqayya ﷺ before.

Abu Lahab disliked this all very much so he said to his son Utaiba: "If you want to live with me, then divorce the girl of Muhammad!" Uthba, the elder of the two brothers had divorced Sayyidah Ruqayya ﷺ but the younger of the two brothers, Utaiba went so far to insult the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and his daughter Sayyidah Um Kulthoom ﷺ. The Holy Prophet ﷺ felt this very much, so he invoked Allah's curse on Utaiba. He prayed: "Oh Allah, sent one of your dogs to destroy Utaiba!"

UTAIBA DIVORCES SAYYIDAH UM KULTHOOM

Abu Lahab was the Holy Prophet's ﷺ uncle, but at the same time he was also his bitterest enemy. He left no opportunity to cause pain to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. So he also seized this chance and ordered his son Utaiba to divorce Sayyidah Um Kulthoom, the daughter of Muhammad ﷺ. Utaiba followed the order of his father only too willingly and divorced Sayyidah Um Kulthoom. Allah's Messenger ﷺ was very much upset by this. Allah this happened at Abu Lahab's hint.

Um Jameel kept strewing thereus where the Holy Prophet ﷺ would walk. On one side oppression reached its height and on the other side Sayyidina Rasulullah ﷺ was busy in calling people towards the true faith.

THE WILL AND PLEASURE OF ALLAH THE MOST HIGH

The marriage of Sayyidah Ruqayya and Sayyidah Um Kulthoom to Uthba and Utaiba was merely a betrothal, that means it had not been consummated yet. They were divorced before they were sent to live with their husbands.

As a matter of fact it was Allah's good will and pleasure that those two innocent, chaste and upright girls, the coolness of the Holy Prophet's ﷺ and Sayyidah Khadeejah's eyes, should not enter the dwelling of those impure idolators. The Holy Prophet's ﷺ suffered this blow for the sake of Islam. Allah granted them in return for their patience a tremendous reward and raised them to very exalted stations.

DETAINED IN THE RAVINE OF ABU TALIB

Banu Hashim sided with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, with him and his young community of Muslims were detained in the ravine of Abu Talib: Among the detainees were also Sayyidah Khadeejatul Kubra ﷺ and her daughters. Weakness, old age...
and severe hardships strained her extremely and she was convinced
that her time to depart from this mortal world had come close. She
only wanted to live for the sake of her noble husband and her
minor daughters. One night she was sleeping with Sayyidah Um
Kultoom when she woke up and softly spoke to herself:
"I wish that I would be given time enough to be delivered from this
hardship and that I may cool my eyes before I am to go to my
eternal abode," Sayyidah Um Kultoom whose eyes had
opened, too, had heard what her mother said, so she said to her:
"My dear mother, do not fear nor should you be dejected." To calm
her little daughter Sayyidah Khadeeja quickly went back
on what she had said and spoke: "Oh girl, I have no grief at all.
No woman from among the Quraish has seen days of such happiness
and bliss as I have seen and no woman of all the women of the
world has been honoured like I have been honoured. In this world it
suffices me that Allah's beloved Muhammad is my husband and
in the Hereafter it suffices me that I was the very first to believe in
him and that I am the mother of the Believers." Thereafter tears
started flowing from her eyes and she said: "Oh Allah, I am
pleased with whatever you are pleased with. I am not hesitant to
meet you, but I would like to meet you in a state of utmost gratitude
for all the bounties you have bestowed on me.

Children were also detained in Abu Talib's ravine. Sayyidah
Um Kultoom and her sisters were also there. Those innocent little girls cried out aloud due to hunger and thirst, so much that even the Heavens above would tremble out of pity for
them. Seeing his children's helplessness would make the
crownprince of both worlds very silent. Finally after three long,
torturous years the boycott was lifted and the people could return to
their homes.

ABU TALIB'S CONDUCT

On one side the Holy Prophet's uncle Abu Lahab had made
life unbearable for his nephew and those who followed him. He did
not let go a single chance to cause trouble to the Holy Prophet

be it by hurting him physically or by causing him mental pain. On
the other side there was Abu Talib, who insisted on not giving up his
forefather's faith would always console and encourage his nephew
Muhammad, the Apostle of Allah

He was also detained in the ravine. There he would look after
the Holy Prophet's family and his innocent children. Besides
during this period of boycott, at every stage he would lend his
support to the Messenger of Allah, but his profession of
disbelief grieved the Holy Prophet a lot.

MIGRATION TO MADINAH

Obeying the command of his lord, the Holy Prophet left his
hometown Makkah and migrated to Madinah. Sayyidina Abu Bakr
Siddiq was his companion during the journey. On arriving
in Madinah they first stayed at Sayyidina Abu Ayyub Ansari's
place. The Holy Prophet's family was still in Makkah.
After some time the Messenger of Allah desired that they come
too.

He sent Sayyidina Abu Rafi and Sayyidina Zaid Bin Haritha
to Makkah, along with some extra camels. Sayyidina Abu
Bakr Siddiq had written a letter to his son Abdullah ordering
him to send his family along with this caravan.

Both families came to Madinah together. The Messenger of
Allah was at the time of their arrival busy with the construction
of his mosque. Sayyidina Um Kultoom was also in this
caravan.

SAYYIDAH UM KULTOOM'S
MARRIAGE

The Noblest of all Prophet's is reported to have said at one
case: "I do not marry off my daughters according to my own
will, rather Allah apprises me to whom I should marry them."

This proves that Sayyidah Zainab's marriage to Sayyidina
Abul Aas, Sayyidah Ruqayya's and Sayyidah Um Kultoom's
marriage to Sayyidina Uthman and Sayyidah Fatima Zahraa's
marriage to Sayyidina Ali رضي الله عنه أجمعين was done in accordance to the will of Allah.

Sayyidina Uthman رضي الله عنه was very depressed after Sayyidah Ruqayya’s رضي الله عنها death. Once the Holy Prophet رضي الله عنه saw him in this state and asked : "Uthman, what is wrong with you?" Sayyidina Uthman رضي الله عنه answered: "Who could be sadder than me? Your darling daughter Sayyidah Ruqayya رضي الله عنها has passed away. Because of her death my family ties with the prophetic household have snapped."

Sayyidina Um Ayyash رضي الله عنها narrates that Allah's Messenger  once mentioned his intention to give his daughter Um Kulthoom رضي الله عنها in Sayyidina Uthman رضي الله عنه’s wedlock and that he was directed to do so through revelation.

Once Sayyidina Muhammad, Messenger of Allah  said to Sayyidina Uthman رضي الله عنه: "Oh Uthman! Jibrael  just conveyed to me the order of my lord, that I should give my daughter Um Kulthoom to you in marriage and that her dower should be the same as that of Ruqayya."

Thus Sayyidah Um Kulthoom رضي الله عنها was married to Sayyidina Uthman رضي الله عنها. Once Sayyidina Umar Farooq رضي الله عنها went to meet Sayyidina Uthman Ghani رضي الله عنها, requesting him to marry his daughter Hafsa, the widow of Ibn Huzafa. Ibn Huzafa رضي الله عنها had also migrated to Abyssinia and on returning from there he participated in the Battles of Badr and Uhud. In Uhud he sustained fatal injuries and died after some time.

Sayyidina Umar Farooq رضي الله عنها was greatly shocked when his daughter was widowed. Since Sayyidina Uthman رضي الله عنه seemed to have little interest in getting married to Sayyidah Hafsa رضي الله عنها, Sayyidina Umar Farooq رضي الله عنها went to the Holy Prophet رضي الله عنه and told him about this. Allah's Messenger  said: "There is no need to worry. I know a groom for Hafsa who is better than Uthman and for Uthman I know a bride who is better than Hafsa." So it came that Sayyidah Hafsa رضي الله عنها was married to Allah's Final Messenger  and Sayyidah Um Kulthoom رضي الله عنها was married to Sayyidah Uthman رضي الله عنها. Sayyidah Um Kulthoom رضي الله عنها and Sayyidina Uthman Ghani رضي الله عنها were married in the year 3 A.H. in the month of Rabiul Awwal, and in the same year they began to live together.

In the first night her tears would not cease to flow. She missed her beloved sister Sayyidah Ruqayya رضي الله عنها very much. The house was a glow with happiness and joy, but this glow could not penetrate the dark shadows which memories of her beloved sister had cast on Sayyidah Um Kulthoom's رضي الله عنها heart, leaving her said and gloomy.

One more reason for her to be said was that whenever a young girl gets married she has to leave her parents home and live with her husband. Those moments of bidding farewell are extremely painful. She has to leave the place where she was born, where she had spent her childhood and youth, where she lived under her parents loving care, she goes to a new place, enters a completely new environment where a completely new live begins and she does not know at all what the future has in store for her.

Due to her in born modesty she hides her pain and distress. Her tears flow silently lest someone sees her cry.

Sayyidah Um Kulthoom رضي الله عنها was also a girl like this, she too had to leave her loving father the Apostle of Allah  so her crying was just natural.

Sayyidina Uthman Ghani رضي الله عنها felt not much different. He too missed Sayyidah Ruqayya رضي الله عنها, with whom he migrated twice for the sake of Islam and with whom he endured the hardships of travel.

Sayyidah Um Kulthoom's رضي الله عنها status was no less than that of her elder sister. She resembled her in every manner. She too was brought up by the Holy Prophet  and she too was beautiful as the full moon in its splendour.

**ZUN NURAIN**

Two of the Holy Prophet’s  daughters were married to
Sayyidina Uthman Ghani, one after the other, thus he became also famous by the title Zun-Nurain, owner of two lights. Right from Sayyidina Adam till the day of resurrection there has never been, nor will there ever be such a person who had the honour of having married two daughters of a prophet, except for Sayyidina Uthman.

Sayyidina Uthman was endowed with an extremely noble character, he was mild-tempered and endearing and he was on very intimate terms with the Final Messenger of Allah, therefore the Holy Prophet had married two of his princesses to him, one after the other.

THE HIGH RANK OF SAYYIDINA UTHMAN

Once Sayyidah Um Kulthoom enquired from her august father, what rank her husband Sayyidina Uthman had in the sight of Allah and His messenger. He said: "Oh daughter, your husband Uthman belongs to those people who love Allah and His messenger and who is loved by them."

Sayyidina Uthman always kept Sayyidah Um Kulthoom happy. Sayyidina Anas Ibn Malik narrates that once he saw Sayyidah Um Kulthoom wear a precious silken sheet. Her dress used to be of superior quality. Sayyidina Uthman was a well-to-do man, therefore she could afford to wear valuable clothing. Once she said to her husband: "I have heard my father say that in paradise you shall be among the "Muqarrabeen", i.e. those people who enjoy special nearness to Allah the Great. And that even the angels feel sky of you because of your extreme modesty and piety. And also that Allah, His prophet and all the believers love you because of the immeasurable amounts of wealth you have spend for the sake of Islam." On hearing these words from his wife Sayyidina Uthman fell on the ground, face downwards. The reason for this was hid modesty and humbleness.

Ascetic and virtuous people have adopted the same manner, instead of getting inflamed with pride on hearing their praise they show humbleness and their modesty is increased.

Then Sayyidah Um Kulthoom went on: "I have heard from my father's close companions that it was you who had bought the well of Rooma and endowed it to the Muslims and all the people of Madinah, thus saving the people from dying due to thirst. And that you had bought a piece of land, gifted it to the Muslims and that they then used that land to expand the Holy Prophet's Mosque. And that you had given one of your trading caravans which had come back from Syria to the Muslims without taking anything in return. And that it was you who supplied the whole army when they had set out to fight the forces of the Roman Empire, with all what they needed. Uthman, my honourable husband! Hundreds of thousands of glad tidings to you because of what you have sent ahead and spent in the path of Allah."

AN ENVIVABLE MARRIED LIFE

Sayyidah Um Kulthoom's married life was an extremely pleasant one. She herself was very well-mannered and refined. She lived for about six years with her husband Sayyidina Uthman Ghani. One sign of their love, friendship and mutual concord was that there was never any dispute among them. Sayyidina Abdullah Ibn Abbas narrates that once Sayyidah Um Kulthoom enquired from her august father whether her husband Sayyidina Uthman is better or Sayyidah Fatima's husband Sayyidina Ali. The Holy Prophet said "Your husband, because he loves Allah and his prophet and is loved by them." Then he continued: "I once was made to walk in Paradise where I saw Uthman's mansion. I saw that his mansion was the loftiest out of all my son-in-law's mansions."

Sayyidina Uthman always treated his wives well, because before him was the beautiful example of the holy Prophet. In one Hadith has been stated that once some ladies complained to the Holy Prophet that their husbands abused them and beat them. The Messenger of Allah then forbade such cruel treatment and urged men to be kind to their women. He said: "Remember well, those who are cruel to their wives, such are not good people."
At another place he said: "Such a man from among you is good, who is good to his wife, and I am the best for my wives." These are the teachings of our beloved Prophet ﷺ.

**SAYYIDAH UM KULTHOOM'S DEATH**

Sayyidah Um Kulthoom ﷺ passed away in the year 8 A.H. The Holy Prophet ﷺ third daughter had now also left this mortal world. At the time of her death she was only 22 years old. All the arrangements for her shroud and burial were made under the supervision of Allah's Final Messenger ﷺ. Sayyida Um Atia ﷺ said that at the time of the bath the Messenger of Allah ﷺ ordered her to wash Sayyidah Um Kulthoom ﷺ with water in which berry-leaves were boiled for 5 or 7 times. On being informed that the bath was finished, the Holy Prophet ﷺ gave clothes for the shroud, first a sheet, then a shirt, then a scarf, then a smaller sheet and in the end a larger sheet in which the whole body was wrapped up.

**SAYYIDAH UM KULTHOOM'S FUNERAL PRAYER**

The bathing and shrouding were completed. Sayyidah Um Kulthoom's father, the Prince of both worlds ﷺ led the funeral prayer. He was overwhelmed by grief and sorrow. All the Holy Prophet's ﷺ companions ﷺ followed him in the prayer.

**SAYYIDAH UM KULTHOOM'S BURIAL**

Sayyidah Um Kulthoom's body was taken to Jannatul Baqi for burial, after the funeral prayer was over. When the coffin arrived the grave was still being dug. The Holy Prophet ﷺ sat down near it, tears flowing from his eyes. Sayyidina Talha, Sayyidina Ali, Sayyidina Fadl Ibn Abbas and Sayyidina Usama Ibn Zaid ﷺ all helped to lower Sayyidah Um Kulthoom's body into the grave. Thus her last rites were completed.

**THE HOLY PROPHET'S GRIEF AT HIS DAUGHTER'S DEATH**

The Holy Prophet ﷺ was grieved immensely at his daughter's death. Tears continued falling from his eyes while the shrouding was done. My master's eyes were flooded with tears when she was taken for funeral prayers. While the grave was dug and the Beloved of the worlds ﷺ sat near it his most luminous face was overshadowed by clouds of grief and pain. I saw how tears continued to flow from his eyes because of his excessive sorrow and grief.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ loved his daughters endlessly. It was not mere love, but he also showered all kinds of honour and respect on them. Three of his beloved girls passed away in his lifetime. At the death and during the last rites of each of them, Allah's Beloved, the reason for which the world and all that is in it have been created, shed tears and his heart was leaving with sorrow and pain.

Such was the love the Holy Prophet ﷺ had for his daughters.

**WHY WAS THE HOLY PROPHET GRIEVED?**

The love Allah's Apostle ﷺ had for his daughters, knew no limit. He himself lowered his three daughters into the grave. His heart was broken when he had to entrust his girls to the care of Allah. He was the prophet who would get up at the arrival of his daughters, to honour them, he would kiss his daughters hands and necks and would spread his sheet for them to sit on.

Through his behaviour he wanted to make the people understand one point very well, he wanted to expound one theory of Islam to them, he wanted to bring about a revolution in the thinking of mankind. He once said: "A girl is no such thing that should be buried alive. See, I kiss their hands, make them sit on my seat. My respect and honour for them knows no limits. A woman is a human being, just like men. She is bounty out of Allah's countless bounties. She is a gift from Allah.
SAYYIDINA UTHMAN'S GRIEF AT SAYYIDAH UM KULTHOOM'S DEATH

Sayyidah Um Kulthoom's death was a tremendous shock for Sayyidina Uthman. Again and again he lost consciousness, so heavy was the blow for him.

The Holy Prophet understood very well how Sayyidina Uthman Ghani felt. He said: 'If I had forty daughters I would marry them to Uthman, one by one.' Sayyidina Ibn Abbas narrates that the Apostle of Allah said: "If I had 100 daughters and they would die one after the other, I would give them to Uthman in marriage."

Once he said: "Now I have no more daughter, otherwise I would give them to Uthman in marriage. The two girls I married to him, I did that in compliance with Allah's order."

SAYYIDAH UM KULTHOOM'S CHILDREN

Sayyidah Um Kulthoom had no children. She lived for about six years with her husband Sayyidina Uthman Ghani. Their married life was a pleasant one, but it was the will of Allah the Almighty that Sayyidah Um Kulthoom should not bear Sayyidina Uthman Ghani any children.

SAYYIDAH FATIMA ZAHRA

THE LEADER OF THE WOMEN OF PARADISE HER BIRTH.

When the mother of the Believers Sayyidah Khadeejatul Kubra gave birth to Sayyidah Fatima Zahra, then the Holy Prophet's blessed age was 35 years.

Once the Messenger of Allah said to Sayyidah Khadeejah: "Sayyidina Jibrael just come to me to bring me glad tidings from my lord. He told me that you shall give birth to such a girl through which the name of our family shall live on." Sayyidah Fatima was born after these glad tidings.

SAYYIDAH FATIMA'S TITLES OF HONOUR

Zahra and Batool were her titles of honour. She was called Zahra because of her very fair complexion and the Divine light which was reflected in her countenance. When she prayed then the niche in which she would stand would be filled with light and there was light on her left and on her right, too.

Batool she has been called because she would avoid mixing too much even with women. Day and night she would spend in the worship of her lord, in prayers and in the recitation of the Holy Qur'an. Her Kuniyat (patronymic) was Ummul Hasneen, and her very special honorary appellation was Sayyidah Nisaa Ahl Jannat that means leader of the women of Paradise.

SAYYIDAH FATIMA ZAHRA'S CHILDHOOD

She was the youngest of the Holy Prophet's children. She was brought up by her honourable mother, the Mother of the
Believers Sayyidah Khadeejatul Kubra رضى الله عنها

By nature she was tremendously virtuous and dignified. She was barely 15 years old when Sayyidah Khadeeja died, thus being deprived of her mother's tender love and affection. After Sayyidah Khadeeja رضى الله عنها died the Holy Prophet صلی الله عليه وسلم gave special attention to Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضى الله عنها's education and spiritual grooming. In the books it has been stated that she was a perfect living sample of the Holy Prophet's صلی الله عليه وسلم beautiful manners. In her walk, her talk, her smile, each of her actions she resembled Sayyidah Aisha رضى الله عنها. In the blessed Hadith it is mentioned that when Sayyidah Fatima رضى الله عنها walked, then her walk would resemble that of her august father صلی الله عليه وسلم.

The mother of the Believers Sayyidah Aisha Siddiqua Tayyeba Tahira رضي الله عليها narrates that she has not seen anyone resemble the Holy Prophet صلی الله عليه وسلم so much in sitting and getting up, his resting and rising. His manners and habits, as Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضى الله عنها. Out of all the people she resembled the Holy Prophet صلی الله عليه وسلم the most in her manners and habits. Her speech was like that of the august father صلی الله عليه وسلم.

Since her childhood she was very mild-tempered, sober and fond of solitude. She was not naughty like children usually are. After her honourable mother died she would spend most of her time with her elder sisters Sayyidah Ruqayya and Sayyidah Um Kulthoom رضي الله عليهما who would shower their affection and love on Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عليها.

Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها was very noble-minded, refined, honest and true to her word, and merciful towards the poor. Whatever she had, she would give it to beggars, even if she had to remain hungry herself. She had absolutely no attachment to the world and its allurements. Her heart was brimming full with the love for her Lord.

Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها narrates from her honourable father صلی الله عليه وسلم. "I have heard my respected father say: "My Lord said to me if you wish I shall convert the valley of Makkah into gold for you. I said 'Oh Allah, I wish rather that one day I shall eat to my fill and that one day I shall remain hungry. The day I remain hungry I will remember you very often and humble myself before you and the day I eat to my satisfaction I would spend in praising and glorifying you." Therefore, in accordance with her august father's صلی الله عليه وسلم teachings, she led an ascetic life.

Besides her abstinence from the pleasures of the world, she inherited her father's صلی الله عليه وسلم eloquence, convincing powers, wisdom and sagacity. Whenever she addressed the people on a religious topic they would be moved to tears, weeping bitterly. When she talked hearts were shaken and bodies trembled. Remembrance of her lord, His praise and glorification had softened her heart. She was fully aware of her Lord's favours on her and she would express her gratitude for all the Divine Bounties.

Right from her childhood Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عليها was endowed with keen understanding and a sharp intellect. Once she asked her respected mother Sayyidah Khadeeja رضي الله عنها "My dear mother, everywhere around us we see the signs of our Lord. So shall we be also blessed with the vision of Allah the Most High himself?" Sayyidah Khadeeja رضي الله عنها replied: "If we believe in Allah and His messengers, do good deeds and treat Allah's servants well, if we act according to his orders, then there is no doubt that on the Day of Resurrection we shall behold our Lord."

**SAYYIDAH FATIMA ZAHRA'S UPBRINGING**

Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها's mother passed away when she was about 15 years old. The death of her dear mother was a tremendous shock for Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها. The Holy Prophet صلی الله عليه وسلم then brought up his youngest daughter in such an excellent manner, that she was to be a role model for all women for all times to come.

After Sayyidah Khadeeja's رضي الله عنها demise the Mother of the Believers Sayyidah Sawc. and Sayyidina Um Aiman رضي الله عليها were also of great help in looking after the orphaned children. They did
their utmost to comfort Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها and her sisters Sayyidah Zainab, Sayyidah Ruqayya, and Sayyidah Um Kulthoom رضي الله عنهما.

Sayyidina Zainul Abideen narrates that Sayyidah Um Salama رضي الله عنها once said: "When the Messenger of Allah ﷺ married me, then he entrusted Sayyidah Fatima's upbringing and education to me." She then continued: "I swear by Allah, it was me who learned good manners from her."

Besides Sayyidah Um Salama رضي الله عنها also Sayyidina Fatima Bint Asad رضي الله عنها contributed to Sayyidah Fatima Zahra's رضي الله عنها spiritual grooming.

Sayyidah Fatima Bint Asad رضي الله عنها was Sayyidina Ali's ﷺ mother. When she died Allah's Messenger ﷺ remarked that "This was my mother after my mother."

SAYYIDAH FATIMA'S SERVICES TO THE HOLY PROPHET ﷺ.

Since her childhood Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها was always eager and prepared to serve the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. Sayyidina Abdullah Ibn Masood ﷺ narrates that once the Holy Prophet ﷺ offered prayers in the sacred Mosque of Makkah, when some ruffians placed the intestines of camel on his neck, while he was prostrating himself, clapping with joy at the feat of theirs. Someone told Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها about this and she came running immediately. She took off the camel's intestines and threw them away. When the Holy Prophet ﷺ had finished his prayers he invoked Allah's curse on those ruffians, which befell them soon afterwards.

Once the Apostle of Allah ﷺ passed a through fast when a miserable wretch threw some garbage on the Holy Prophet ﷺ from the roof of a house. Soiled thus the Messenger of Allah ﷺ went home. When Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها saw this condition of her father she broke out in tears. She washed his head and clothes and said: "my dear Father, you call the people towards the true faith, advise them to follow the right path, and in turn for your kindness they keep tormenting and disgracing you." He said: "Daughter, the message with which your father was sent, he is prepared to sacrifice his very life for it, to make it reach every dwelling be it made from bricks as from mud. Allah the Magnificent is your father's protector."

Whenever he would go to the Sacred Mosque of Makkah, then everyone who came across his way would make fun of him and deny him. Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها who was usually following him, would see all this and be deeply affected and grieved. She served her august father to such an extent that she became completely unaware of herself, of her own needs, and exactly that was her mission. The people in Makkah started to say about her that Fatima is like a mother for her father, this way because Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها took care of him like any other person would take care of his children, such a faithful daughter she was.

To the same extent to which she had sacrificed all comfort for the sake of her august father ﷺ to the same extent she was beloved to him. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ once said: "Whoever annoys Fatima, annoys Allah, and whatever pleases Fatima, pleases Allah. Fatima is a part of me. Her happiness is my happiness and her displeasure is my displeasure."

Not only in normal conditions, but even under extraordinary circumstances like wars Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها was extremely courageous and steadfast. She would do her utmost to protect and defend the Apostle of Allah ﷺ. In the Battlefield of Uhad, when the Holy Prophet ﷺ lost two of his teeth and his cheek was injured, then Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها immediately went to the battlefield where her august father was. She washed away the blood from his noble countenance, then she burnt a mat and kept the ashes on the wound to stop the flow of blood.

In the Battle of the Trench she was with the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Allah's Most Noble Messenger ﷺ had not eaten anything for...
several days, so she provided some bread for him.

At the conquest of Makkah she pitched her father's tent, arranged some water for a bath, so that the Holy Prophetﷺ may refresh himself after the long arduous journey and change his clothes before he enters the sanctuary.

**HER MIGRATION TO MADINAH**

Mother of the Believers Sayyidah Aisha Siddiqa رضي الله عنها narrates that when the Holy Prophetﷺ migrated to Madinah, he had left his daughters back in Makkah. After some time he made arrangements for calling his and Sayyidina Abu Bakr’s family to Madinah. He sent Sayyidina Zaid Ibn Haritha to Makkah so that he may bring Sayyidah Um Kulthoom رضي الله عنها, Sayyidina Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها, and other family members to Madinah. Sayyidina Abu Rafi was with Sayyidina Zaid Ibn Haritha, too. These two gentlemen brought then the family of the Holy Prophetﷺ to Madinah, the newly founded Islamic state.

**SAYYIDAH FATIMA ZAHRA’S MARRIAGE**

After the Holy Prophet’s family had arrived at Madinah, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ diverted his attention to Sayyidah Fatima’s marriage. In some narrations it is stated that Sayyidina Ali himself asked the Holy Prophetﷺ for Sayyidah Fatima’s hand. Allah’s Messengerﷺ then asked Sayyidina Ali ﷺ if he had anything to give as dower. He answered: “Sir, I have got a mount and an armor.” He then sold those things for 400 Dirham and bought a few items from the money. Urwah Ibn Zubair ﷺ has stated that the Holy Prophetﷺ once sought Sayyidina Abu Bakr Siddiq’s ﷺ counsel regarding a suitable match for Sayyidah Fatima. Sayyidina Abu Bakr ﷺ the suggested Sayyidina Ali ﷺ.

In another tradition it is mentioned that Sayyidina Muhammad Mustafa ﷺ once asked Sayyidina Abu Bakr Siddiq’s: “To whom should I give Fatima in marriage?” Sayyidina Abu Bakr ﷺ replied: “To Ali Ibn Abi Talib.” Then he some other senior Sahaba and

Sayyidina Ali ﷺ presented themselves to the Holy Prophetﷺ and Sayyidina Ali ﷺ stated his desire to marry Sayyidah Fatima. The Holy Prophetﷺ then went to his daughter who was reciting the Holy Qur’an and told her that Sayyidina Ali ﷺ had asked for her in marriage.

Due to her modesty and bashfulness she remained silent after hearing those words from her father, keeping her head lowered. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ took her silence to mean an approval.

**SAYYIDAH FATIMA ZAHRA’S Dowry**

Allah’s final Messengerﷺ once said to Sayyidina Abu Bakr Siddiq ﷺ: “Abu Bakr, go to the market and buy some cloth and household items.” Sayyidina Abu Bakr Siddiq ﷺ then went to the market, taking a group of Sahaba along with him, and after due consultation he purchased the necessary household items. He said that after he purchased Sayyidah Fatima’s dowry he presented himself to the Holy Prophetﷺ to show him the purchase. When Allah’s Messenger ﷺ inspected the items he stuck down from his eyes and prayed: “Oh Allah, Bless those people who use earthen ware.”

The dowry of Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها consisted of one large sheet, a leathern pillow stuffed with the bark of the date-palm, one bowl, two earthen pots, two grinding stones and one water bag.

**A LESSON FOR MUSLIM LADIES**

Think for a moment, whose marriage this was. This was the marriage of Sayyidah Fatima Zahra, daughter of Allah’s Final Messenger and the crown prince of both worlds. The marriage of the leader of the women of paradise. See, how simple it was kept. There was no trace of lavish expenditures or ornament. Her dowry consisted of the barest necessities to run a house hold. It was not like the pompous dowry common these days. Muslims should keep this dowry in mind and follow the ways of the Holy Prophetﷺ in this aspect, too. And Muslim women should do their
best to follow the steps traced out by Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها people who made materialism their religion who are attached to the embellishments of this fleeting world, who think that all the blessings and honours of the household are based only on those hopeless customs, they especially should learn a lesson from this historical marriage, and they too should adopt the sublime teachings of Islam.

This splendid regal marriage was solemnized with such simplicity, just hearing about it leaves people dumfounded, even today.

**WITNESSES OF SAYYIDAH FATIMA ZAHRA’S ﷺ ﷺ MARRIAGE**

The Holy Prophet ﷺ himself read the sermon of Nikah, then he said to Sayyidina Abu Bakr Siddiq and Sayyidina Umar Farooq ﷺ: "No doubt I make you to bear witness that I have married my daughter Fatima to Ali." Then after the marriage ceremony he invoked his Lord: "O Allah, let these two love each other with all their heart, shower your blessings on them and grant them virtuous children."

**SAAYYIDAH FATIMA’S ﷺ ﷺ SADNESS**

After the marriage ceremony when the Holy Prophet ﷺ returned home, he found Sayyidah Fatima Zahra in a state of dejection. He said to her: "Fatima, Allah is rich and you are poor." Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها was sad because her honourable mother and the mother of all Believers Sayyidah Khadeejat ul Kubeera رضي الله عنها was not there to witness these blessed moments of her daughter's life. Her elder sisters Sayyidah Zainab, Sayyidah Ruqayya and Sayyidah Um Kulthoom رضي الله عنهم whom she loved dearly, had also passed away.

In such moments it is just natural to remember near and dear ones. So it was with Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها. She was sad because of her mother's and her sister's sweet memories.

**LIVING WITH HER HUSBAND**

The Holy Prophet ﷺ sent his daughter Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها along with Sayyidina Uthman ﷺ to the house of Sayyidah Ali ﷺ so that the couple may now start to live together. The bride went, in company of Sayyidah Um Aiman ﷺ on foot to the house of her groom. According to one statement Sayyidah Fatima's ﷺ age was then 18 years and Sayyidah Ali ﷺ was 21 years old. Regarding this there are several statements, but the most preferable and authentic one is the one quoted.

Seven months had passed since Sayyidah Fatima Zahra ﷺ was married to Sayyidah Ali ﷺ but the marriage was not consummated then. Due to his inborn modesty Sayyidah Ali ﷺ did not approach the Messenger of Allah ﷺ in this regard either.

Once Sayyidina Ali’s ﷺ brother Sayyidina Aqeel ﷺ came to visit him. He asked Sayyidina Ali ﷺ: "Do you wish that anyone tells the Holy Prophet ﷺ about your wish to start living with your bride?" Sayyidina Ali ﷺ gave his approval. Then both of them went to Sayyidah Um Aiman ﷺ and told her the purpose of their coming. She said: "In this matter it is necessary to consult the Mother's of the Believers." Then they went to the apartment of Sayyidah Aisha ﷺ. By chance the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was also there. Sayyidah Um Aiman ﷺ then mentioned Sayyidah Khadeejah ﷺ in her talk and tears welled up in the eyes of Allah's Final Messenger ﷺ. Then she said: "I have come here to tell you that Ali wishes Fatima to be sent to him so that they may now live like husband and wife." The Holy Prophet ﷺ then asked Sayyidina Ali ﷺ: "Why did you not say something yourself?"

"Due to embarrassment, my master was his reply."

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ then ordered the Holy Wives to decorate Sayyidah Fatima Zahra ﷺ as bride. Then he said:

"Call Fatima to come to me." Sayyidah Fatima Zahra ﷺ then
came to her august father ﷺ. The Holy Prophet ﷺ then said to Sayyidina Ali ﷺ: "May Allah bless you. You have married the daughter of a prophet." To Sayyidina Fatima Zahra ﷺ, he said: "Fatima, your husband is a good and virtuous young man." Then he gave Sayyidah Fatima's ﷺ, hand into that of Sayyidina Ali ﷺ, accompanied them to the door, bade Farewell to them and prayed for them. Sayyidina Asma Bint Umais ﷺ said: "Oh Messenger of Allah ﷺ, a girl needs at that time an elderly woman. Therefore if you agree, I will go with Fatima." The Holy Prophet ﷺ allowed her to go and prayed for her.

THE HOUSE OF SAYYIDAH FATIMA ﷺ

Sayyidah Fatima's ﷺ dwelling was at quite a distance from the Holy Prophet's ﷺ mosque. So it took the Holy Prophet ﷺ very long to go there. Once he said to Sayyidina Ali ﷺ: "Your house should be nearer to the mine." Sayyidina Haritha ﷺ owned a house near the Holy Prophet's ﷺ mosque which he gave to Sayyidina Ali ﷺ, but this house was in need of repair. When the Messenger of Allah ﷺ gave order the renovation work began.

Fine clay was brought from the valley of Batha, with which the walls of the house were pasted. Some wooden pegs were fixed for hanging clothes and the water bag. Thus the house was renovated. The Mothers of the Believers Sayyidah Aisha Siddiqua ﷺ, Sayyidah Um Salama ﷺ and some other lady companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ also took part in the repair-work.

Then Sayyidina Ali and Sayyidah Fatima Zahra ﷺ shifted into their new home. Sayyidah Fatima ﷺ did all the chores herself. She baked bread, brought water and did the cleaning of her house all on her own.

SAWYIDAH FATIMA'S ﷺ PARTICIPATION IN THE BATTLE OF UHUD

The battle of Uhud was an extraordinary fierce one. Because of some warriors not having complied with the orders given to them the Muslims had to suffer great losses. Sayyidah Fatima ﷺ and some of the ladies, too, participated in that battle. It was during this battle that Allah's Final Messenger ﷺ lost two of his blessed teeth and sustained other injuries as well. When Sayyidah Fatima Zahra ﷺ, saw her father in this condition she ran to him, cleaned his wounds, gave him water to drink, burnt a small mat of canvas and kept the ashes of it on her father's wounds. The blood then stopped flowing.

SAWYIDAH FATIMA ZAHRA'S ﷺ OBSTUENCE, PIETY AND WORSHIP

Sayyidah Salman Farsi ﷺ narrates that once Sayyidah Fatima ﷺ presented herself to the Holy Prophet ﷺ. She was fanning her children Sayyidah Hassan and Sayyidah Hussain ﷺ and at the same time she also engaged herself in glorifying her Lord.

Once a thought occurred to her that neither she has sufficient food to eat nor good dress to wear. While she was thinking thus her august father the Messenger of Allah ﷺ came to her. He asked her: "Fatima, what are you thinking?" She then disclosed her thought to Allah's Messenger ﷺ. He told her: "Lift up your prayer mat."

When she lifted it she saw that beneath it were heaps of silver. Then he said: "My daughter if you want this world, then take as much of it as you desire, but then you will be deprived of the bus in the Hereafter. Girl, aren't you the leader of the women of Paradise?"

She was so strict in the observance of her prayers that not even in the state of severe illness she would leave a single prayer. Once she wore a dress made form camel's hair. The Holy Prophet ﷺ saw her and said to her: "Daughter, bear the troubles and hardships of this world patiently. On the Day of Resurrection all blessings will be your lot."

SAWYIDAH FATIM ZAHRA'S ﷺ TASBEEH

Once some slaves and slave-girls were brought to Madinah. When Sayyidah Fatima ﷺ got to know about it she went to her august father to ask him for a servant. Some people were with
him so Sayyidah Fatima رضي الله عنها went away. Afterwards the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was told that this daughter had come. He then went to her and said: "My daughter, you had come to my house, but did not meet me. Tell your father what was the purpose of your coming."

But Sayyidah Fatima رضي الله عنها was too modest to say something. Sayyidah Ali رضي الله عنها spoke: "Oh Master! Fatima does all the housework herself. She carries water in the leather bag which left marks on her chest. She grinds the grain herself and she was covered with blemishes. Some slaves have been brought to you. It would be an enormous boon if you would give one of them to us." The Holy Prophet ﷺ said: "Girl, I still have to see after the welfare of some of the poorest companions living on the veranda of my mosque. You should do your work yourself, after all you are the leader of the women of Paradise. I shall tell you something, it you read regularly it shall be more helpful for you then a servant. Say: 33 x Subhanallah (Glory be to Allah), 33 x Al-Hamduillah (Praise be to Allah) and 34 x Allah-hu-Akber (Allah is the greatest). After hearing these words from her father she never again expressed her desire for a servant. The formula which her father taught her is since then known as Sayyidah Fatima Zahra's رضي الله عنها Tasbeeh.

THE HOLY PROPHET ﷺ LOVE FOR SAYYIDAH FATIMA ZAHRA'S

The Noblest of all prophets ﷺ loved all of his daughter's dearly. After Sayyidah Khadeeja's رضي الله عنها. His youngest daughter so that the memory of her dear mother would not cause too much pain to her.

Sayyidah Aisha Siddique ﷺ narrates that whenever Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها came to visit her august father ﷺ he would get up for her and kiss her hands out of love for her. Then he would make her sit in his place. Like wise whenever the Holy Prophet ﷺ came to visit his daughter, then she would get up to honour him, kiss his blessed hand and make him sit on her place.

The conversation between the Holy Prophet ﷺ and Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها:

Once Sayyidah Fatima رضي الله عنها went to meet her dear father the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. He made her sit next to him and whispered something into her ears which made her cry. Then he again whispered and she smiled. Later people asked her what it was that the Holy Prophet ﷺ whispered. She said "Allah's Messenger ﷺ told me every year Jibreel ﷺ recites the Qur'an once to me and hears it recited by me once. But this year Jibreel ﷺ heard the Holy Qur'an twice from me and recited it twice to me, I think my end is near oh My dear daughter Fatima, fear Allah. Keep patience and be always grateful to the Lord. I am your best leader". Hearing this made me cry. Then my noble father whispered Oh Fatima, aren't you the leader of the women of paradise? Hearing this make me smile.

SAYYIDAH FATIME ZAHRA'S CHILDREN

Sayyidah Fatima Zahra رضي الله عنها gave birth to five children, three sons and two daughter. Her sons names were Sayyidah Hassan, Sayyidah Hussain, Sayyidah Mohsin رضي الله عنهم who passed away young age. The names of her daughters were Sayyidah Zainab and Sayyidah Um Kulthoom رضي الله عنهم. The fact that she names her daughter after her sister is ample proof for how much she must have loved her siblings.

SAYYIDINA IMAM HASSAN ﷺ

He was born in the year 6 A.H. When the Messenger of Allah ﷺ got to know that his daughter had given birth to a son he immediately went to meet her. He gave Azan into the ears of Sayyidah Imam Hassan ﷺ. On the seventh day after his birth his qeeqa was performed.

Sayyidina Imam Hasan رضي الله عنها was very dear to his grandfather. Once he made him sit on his shoulders and carried him around. Someone said "Oh Hassan, what an excellent mount you have got!" The Holy Prophet ﷺ heard this and said: "The rider is
also excellent”. It was during his childhood that first his
grandfather, the Apostle of Allah ﷺ passed away and some time
later his honourable mother Sayyidah Fatima Zahra ﷺ was
respected by her. So he got all his education and spiritual
grooming from his father Sayyidina Ali ﷺ. Sayyidina Abu Bakr Siddiq ﷺ and Sayyidina
Umar Farooq ﷺ and Sayyidina Uthman Ghani also loved
Sayyidina Imam Hassan ﷺ clearly.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ once said about him: “This son of mine
is a leader. Allah will unite through him two groups of Muslims.”

Sayyidina Imam Hassan ﷺ passed away in the year 50 A.H.
He died in Madeenah and is buried in Jannatul Baqi.

**SAYYIDINA IMAM HUSSAIN ﷺ**

He was junior to Imam Hassan ﷺ. When he was born the
Holy Prophet ﷺ named him Hussain. Allah’s Messenger ﷺ loved him endly. He was just a child when his noble grandfather
the Apostle of Allah ﷺ and his mother passed away. He was brought
up by his father Sayyidina Ali ﷺ. He was endowed with
knowledge, demency, abstinence and piety.

When Iran was conquered during the reign of Sayyidina Umar
Farooq ﷺ the princess of Iran, Shaharbanoo, was brought
into the caliph’s court. After consellation with Sayyidina Ali ﷺ she was married to Sayyidina Imam Hussain ﷺ. During
the reign of Yazid the tragedy of Karbala took place, in which
Sayyidina Imam Hussain ﷺ was martyred. By giving his pure and
sacred blood he proved that tyranny cannot force anyone to
obedience.

When Sayyidina Imam Hussain ﷺ was martyred many men
and women started wailing and lamenting. Sayyidina Zainab
Abdeen and his sister Sayyidina Um Kulthoom witnessed the
scene and forbade this unislamic behaviour.

**SAYYIDAH ZAINAB BINT FATIMA ZAHRA ﷺ**

She was younger than her brother Sayyidina Imam Hussain ﷺ. She was married to Sayyidina Jaffer Tayyar’s son Sayyidina
Abdullah ﷺ. Her two sons Sayyidina Muhammad and Sayyidina
Awn were martyred along with their uncle Sayyidina Imam
Hussain ﷺ in the Battlefield of Karbala, after a fairy display of
courage and valour.

**SAYYIDAH UMM KULTHOOM BINT FATIMA ZAHRA ﷺ**

She was junior to Sayyidina Zainab. According to our
tradition she was married to Sayyidina Umar Farooq ﷺ.

**SAYYIDAH FATIMA ZAHRA’S LOVE FOR HER SISTERS**

Sayyidina Fatima Zahra ﷺ loved her sister dearly. It was because of this love that she named her daughter after her
sister. This can be no greater proof for love than this. Sayyidah
Fatima Zahra was very attached to her mothers, i.e. the
Mothers of the believers. And they, too, loved her without
limits. Sayyidah Um Salama ﷺ once said about Sayyidah
Fatima that during waking and resting she saw no one
resemble the Holy Prophet ﷺ. More than Sayyidah Fatima
she loved Sayyidah Aisha. Once asked the Holy Prophet ﷺ,
whom he loved the most. He answered “Fatima”. When she asked whom he loved after her the most he answered “Ali”. Sayyidah
Aisha further states that she observed Sayyidah Fatima
copying her august father in everything two days before
her demise Sayyidah Fatima ﷺ visited Sayyidah Aisha
with tears and said: “If you happened to say anything that displeased you,
then please, do for give me.” Hearing this made Sayyidah Aisha
cry. She hugged Sayyidah Fatima and said: “No Fatima, you never said anything what could displeaese me rather I
should say to you that if I ever said some way wrong, them do for
give me”.

On Allah, how exalted must be the stations of those pure
souls!

Sayyidina Abu Bakr Siddiq ﷺ. Once said: “By Allah in whose
hands my life is, the Holy Prophets ﷺ relatives are dearer to me
than my own”. He deeply respected "Hasnain Karamein", the two
grandsons of the Holy Prophet ﷺ once after finishing prayers
and leaving the mosque, he met Sayyidina Imam Hassan ﷺ. Who
was still a child then, on the way. He picked him up immediately, made
him sit on his shoulders and exclaimed: "Be my parent sacrificed
for you, you perfectly resemble the prophet". The future second
Caliph of Islam, Sayyidina Umar Farooq ﷺ. Once said to Sayyidah
Fatima Zahra ﷺ "Oh daughter of the prophet. No creature in
the whole universe has been dearer to me than your august father.
And after him I honour and respect no one more than you”.

THE HOLY PROPHET'S ﷺ LOVE FOR HIS
GRANDCHILDREN

Just like his other grandchildren, the Holy Prophet ﷺ loved
Sayyidina Imam Hassan and Hussain ﷺ to the extreme.
Once he came to his daughter's house when she and her husband
Sayyidina Ali ﷺ were as leap. Sayyidina Imam Hassan ﷺ was just
a little child then and he cried for milk. So the messenger of Allah
himself milked the goat and gave milk to his grandson to drink.
Something similar happened when Sayyidina Imam Hussain ﷺ
was little. The Holy Prophet ﷺ passed by Sayyidah Fatima Zahra's
house when he heard his grandsons cry. He entered the
house and said: "Oh Fatima, don't you know that it hurts me to near
Hussain cry?"

Abu Fakhta narrates that once Sayyidina Hassan ﷺ was
thirsty, so the Apostle of Allah ﷺ himself got up to fetches water
for the child. On seeing the water - just the way children are -
Sayyidina Imam Hussain ﷺ. Also expressed his desire to drink.
The Holy Prophet ﷺ said: "Hassan asked first for it, so he will also
drink first. After him you will get water”.

Sayyidah Fatima ﷺ who was nearby said: "Dear Father,
you seem to like Hassan more than Hussain." The Holy Prophet ﷺ
answered: "Both of them are equally dear to me. I gave Hassan first
to drink because he had asked for something to drink first".

Once the messenger of Allah ﷺ delivered a sermon in the
mosque when he saw that his grandsons Sayyidina Imam Hassan
and Sayyidina Imam Hussain ﷺ were running in the
verandah of the mosque, trying to reach their grandfather as fast as
possible. Their steps were shaky and it seemed like they were about
to fall. So lovely those two innocent children looked in their red
dresses, running and stumbling on their little leap, eager to meet
their grandfather. Allah's Messenger ﷺ was watering a while,
but then we could not control himself anymore. He got down from
his pulpit, went to pick up his two likes our and made them sit in
front of him.

Very often he would say: "Hussain belongs to me and I belong
to Hussain. May Allah love him who loves Hussain". Once
Sayyidina Imam Hassan and Sayyidina Imam Hussain ﷺ stepped
on their august grandfather's ﷺ blessed feet. He took their
hands and said: "Come on, climb up higher." So they climbed up
higher till they clung to their grandfather's blessed crest, that crest
which was filled with love and sympathy for the whole mankind.
He visited their faces and prayed: "On my love, I love these
two, do love them, too".

Once a great leader from Makkah, Aara'a bin Jabir presented
himself to the Holy Prophet ﷺ and he saw how lovingly Allah's
Final Messenger ﷺ. founded his grandchildren. Seeing this he
exclaimed: "Such an exalted person as he is loves children live
that!"

THE RELATION BETWEEN SAYYIDAH FATIMAH
ZAHRA AND SAYYIDINA ALI MURTIZA

Sayyidina Ali ﷺ. Greatly respected his wife Sayyidah Fatimah
and she too treated her husband with immense honour and
respect. As a matter of fact, this couple was one of the most
beautiful and most blessed couples in the whole world, which
people should continue to envy till the day of Judgment and
moulding their lives according to the example given by them
should be taken as source of pride.
Someone asked Sayyidina Ali after Sayyidah Fatimah's demise: "What kind of wife was the daughter of Allah's most beloved Messenger ﷺ?" He said: "Fatimah was such a flower which ever after withering keeps my heart for grant with its perfume".

**ONE POINT TO MENTION**

Some historians have mentioned that occasionally there occurred unpleasantness and quarrels between Sayyidina Ali ﷺ and Sayyidah Fatimah. But according to the true scholars all those accusations are baseless assumptions and fabrications. Both, Sayyidina Ali and Sayyidah Fatimah were brought up under the supervision of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Their successful and unmatchable married life are an example for all Muslims to follow. Both of them received religious knowledge and spiritual benefits from the final messenger of Allah ﷺ.

It is a completely different matter that some times, due to human weaknesses, there were differences of opinion, but these would never result in quarrels. The lives of those pure souls is in all respects a perfect example for us to follow. Sayyidah Fatimah Zahra رضي الله عنها has been for all Muslim women for all times to come a touch bearer and a beautiful example. Her piety and asceticism, her way of living, I short all she did is worth to be followed by us. The lives of those pure souls are a perfect example for us to follow. Just mere thinking about them quarrelling is a sign of weak faith.

**SAYYIDAH FATIMA ZAHRA'S ILLNESS**

The death of Allah's Messenger ﷺ took a heavy toll on Sayyidah Fatimah Zahra رضي الله عنها, and her health started to decline rapidly.

After her august father's death she was very often depressed. Most of her time she spent in worship. Sayyidina Abu Bakr Siddiq ﷺ and Sayyidah Asma bint Umaiya's Rضي الله عنها looked after her during her illness. Especially Sayyidah Asma bint Umaiya Rضي الله عنها served Sayyidah Fatimah رضي الله عنها as much as she could.

Sayyidina Abu Bakr Siddiq ﷺ tried his best to console Sayyidah Fatimah Rضي الله عنها. Once when he went to meet her then Sayyidah Fatimah Rضي الله عنها told him about the glad tidings which the Holy Prophet ﷺ gave to her. She said: Allah's most noble messenger ﷺ said to me that after his demise I shall be the first of all his family members to meet him).

When the companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ got to know about Sayyidah Fatimah Zahra's Rضي الله عنها illness they were seized with anxiety.

Sayyidah Fatimah Rضي الله عنها could not bear the pain of being separated from her beloved father. Very often she would go to the sacred tomb and convey her greetings. For hours she would sit there and shed tears. In the house there was one shirt which belonged to the Holy Prophet ﷺ she would hold it in her hands, caress it, and put it on her eyes and cry.

It has been mentioned that once Sayyidina Anas ﷺ came to meet Sayyidah Fatimah Rضي الله عنها urging her to be patient. During her talk she asked: "How could you bear it to bury the Holy Prophet ﷺ under tons of earth?" Sayyidina Ali ﷺ used to offer all his prayers in the Holy Prophets ﷺ mosque. Once Sayyidina Abu Bakr Siddiq ﷺ and Sayyidah Umar Farooq ﷺ asked him how the Holy Prophets ﷺ daughter Sayyidah Fatimah Rضي الله عنها was and encouraged him.

Sayyidah Fatimah Zahra Rضي الله عنها was always grieved after her august father's death. She was never seen smiling again. She once said: "A few days after my beloved father's death I wept very much. Then I prayed and kindly I fell asleep. In my dream I saw some angles lifting me up to the skies. Higher and higher we went till we reached a wonderful and strange place. There were many colourful places. Hooves and hand some youths. When I asked whose places these are we was told that these belong to my father, the other prophets and the Siddiqi, (highest ranking saints). Then I saw my father reclining on a throne of high. He seated me next to him kissed my forehead and said: "(ode at these white places and the large parks surrounding them). I looked at it and asked: "To you,
your husband and your children”. Then I wake up since then my urge to meet my father has grown even further”.

**SAYYIDAH FATIMA ZAHRA’S DEMISE**

Once she told Sayydina Ali ﷺ: “Tonight I saw Allah’s final messenger in my dream. I felt like he was waiting for me. I said: “Oh messenger of Allah! My condition is very bad. Being separated from you is very painful! Allah’s messenger ﷺ then said: “Fatima, I have come to take you along entrust your husband and your children to the care of Allah and walk with me in the Garden of Paradise”.

When Sayydina Ali ﷺ heard this he broke out into tears. Near him were the leaders of the youths of Paradise Sayydina Hussain Karaman ﷺ. He said to his august wife Sayydah Fatima Zahra ﷺ: “Until now the pain which the Holy Prophet’s ﷺ death had caused has not subsided yet. What are you talking dear?” Then he said to Sayydina Imam Hassan and Sayydina Imam Hussain ﷺ: “Go and offer your greetings to your grandfather”.

They went and came back immediately. Sayydina Ali ﷺ asked them why they had come back so soon. They said: “After we had conveyed our greetings to Allah’s messenger a voice came from the sacred tomb. It said: “My dear children, go back because your mother’s time has drawn close. Go back, see once more the face of your dear mother, my beloved daughter Fatima Zahra”. So we came back.” Sayydah Fatima Zahra ﷺ then said to her husband “If I have committed any mistake, then do forgive me.” Sayydina Ali ﷺ said: “Oh Fatima, you are one of the world’s most virtuous women. I am happy with you. If I have committed any mistake, then you please forgive me”. Sayydah Fatima Zahra ﷺ then said: “Take well care of my children. They are still so little overseas their mistakes bury me at night in Jannatul Baqi. My bier should be screamed from the sight of men. And after me, marry my niece Umamah Bint Zainab. Now take the children to my father’s sacred tomb. Sayydina Ali ﷺ did as directed. Sayydah Fatima Zahra ﷺ then donned white clothes, perfumed ablution and offered prayers. Sayydah Asma ﷺ was also there. Sayydah Fatima ﷺ instructed her: “Give me my last bath while I wear this dress.” A short while later, between Maghrib and Isha (evening and night prayers) Sayydah Fatima Zahra ﷺ breathed her last. She was then 29 years old.

**SAYYIDAH FATIMA ZAHRA’S LAST BATH**

Sayydah Fatima Zahra ﷺ had willed already before her death that Sayydah Asma ﷺ should bathe her, so Sayydah Asma ﷺ made all the necessary arrangements. She bathed her and other female companions like Sayydah Um Salama and Sayydah Um Aiman also helped her.

**SAYYIDAH FATIMA ZAHRA’S FUNERAL PRAYER**

After the bathing and shrouding were completed funeral prayers were offered for Sayydah Fatima Zahra ﷺ. All the senior Sahaba ﷺ were present. Sayydidah Abu Bakr Siddiq ﷺ called Sayydina Ali ﷺ to step forward and lead the prayers. He replied: “You are the caliph of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. In your presence it is not proper for me to lead the prayers. The leading of funeral prayers is your exclusive right. Please, you step forward and lead the prayers. Sayydihdah Abu Bakr Siddiq ﷺ them all the ones assembled in the prayer.

**SAYYIDAH FATIMA ZAHRA’S BURIAL**

In accordance with her last will she was buried at night in Jannatul Baqi. Sayydina Ali, Sayydina Abbas and Sayydina Fall bin Abbas lowered her into her blessed grave. Then the Holy Prophet’s ﷺ beloved daughter, the leader of all the women of paradise, Sayydah Fatima Zahra ﷺ was turned towards the Qibla and her last rites were completed thus.
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