

Women Sahaba and their Spirit of Islam

FATIMA (radhiAllahu anha): The Beloved Daughter of Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)

Ali (radhiAllahu anhu) once said to one of students:

"Shall I tell you the story of Fatima (radhiAllahu anha), the dearest and the most loved daughter of the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)?"

When the student said yes, he said:

"Fatima (radhiAllahu anha) used to grind the grain herself, which caused sores on her hands. She carried water for the house in a leather bag, which left a bruise on her body. She cleaned the house herself, which made her clothes dirty. Once some servants for work were brought to Madina, I said to her, 'Go to the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and request him for an assistant to help you in your house-work.' She went to him, but found many people round him. As she was very modest, she could not be bold enough to request the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) in the presence of other people.

Next day the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) came to our house and said, "Fatima, what made you come to me yesterday?" She felt shy and kept quiet. I said, "O Prophet of Allah! Fatima has developed calluses on both her hands and body, on account of grinding and carrying water. She is constantly busy in cleaning the house and in other domestic jobs, causing her clothes to remain dirty. I informed her about the servants and advised her to go to you and make a request for a servant.'

The Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said, "**O Fatima! Be patient. The Prophet Musa (Alaihis Salam) and his wife owned only one**

bedding, which was the cloak of Moses. Fear Allah; acquire Taqwa and keep doing your service to Allah and attend to your domestic jobs. When you go to bed, recite Subhanallah 33 times, Alhamdulillah 33 times and Allahu-Akbar 34 times. You will find this more helpful than an assistant or servant.'

Fatima (radhiAllahu anha) remarked, 'I am happy with what Allah and His Prophet (Sallallaho alaihe wasallam) would be pleased with."

Lesson #1: This is the life of the Prophet's dear daughter. In our times, women think it below their dignity to attend to domestic work. They need assistance in each and every thing, even in the bathroom! From this story we learn that we should do the household chores ourselves and not complain.

Lesson #2: From this story, we learn of a very beneficial zikr that will make all our work and chores easy. This prescribed zikr is to be done before sleep.

Sufferings of Sumayyah (radhiAllahu anha)

Sumayyah (radhiAllahu anha) is the mother of Ammar (radhiAllahu anhu). Just like Ammar (radhiAllahu anhu) her son, and Yasir (radhiAllahu anhu) her husband, she patiently bore the hardships in various forms in the cause of Islam. She would not weaken in her love for and devotion to Islam in spite of all these afflictions. One day, Sumayyah (radhiAllahu anha) was standing when Abu Jahl passed that way. He said all sorts of bad words to her and then struck her with his spear. She died on account of the wound. She is the first to meet martyrdom for the sake of her faith in Islam.

Lesson: Patience, perseverance and sacrifice of these ladies are really enviable. No affliction is too much when a person has love for Islam. This is yet another example of how much the early Muslims suffered for their faith in Islam.

Aishah (radhiAllahu anha's) Spending in the Path of Allah

Once, Aishah (radhiAllahu anha) received a gift of two bags containing 100,000 dirhams. She started distributing these among the poor, till by the evening not a single dirham was left with her. She was fasting that day. Her maid servant brought her a piece of bread and a little olive oil for iftar, and remarked, "I wish we had kept one dirham for ourselves to get some meat for iftar." Aishah said: "Do not be sorry now. If you had told me at that time I would have perhaps spared one dirham."

Gifts of this nature were often received by Aishah (radhiAllahu anha) from Amir Muawiah, Abdullah bin Zubair (Radhiyallaho anhum) and others.

In spite of this abundance, Aishah (radhiAllahu anha) led a life of simplicity and abstinence. Look! She distributes 100,000 dirhams to the poor, but she does not remember to get some food for her own Iftar.

There are many stories of this nature reported about Aishah (radhiAllahu anha). Once she was fasting and had nothing for her Iftar except one piece of bread. A poor man came and begged for some food. She asked her maid to give him that piece of bread. The maid said: "If I give him the piece of bread, there will be nothing left for your Iftar". She said: "Never mind. Let him have the piece".

Urwah (Radhiyallaho anho) says: "I once saw Aishah (radhiAllahu anha) spending 70,000 dirhams in charity, while she herself was wearing a dress with patches."

Lesson: Generosity and compassion on the weak and needy was a quality of the women Sahaba also.