

Umm Sulaym bint Malhan (radhiAllahu anha)

Mother of the Great Companion: Anas ibn Malik (ra)

Mother of A Blessed Son

Ghumaysaa daughter of Malhan, Umm Sulaym (radhiAllahu anha) was the blessed mother of Anas ibn Malik (radhiAllahu anhu). And Anas ibn Malik was that very special companion that served the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) for 10 years of his life! Ten years is a very long time. In that ten year period, Anas says, "I served the Prophet of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) for ten years and by Allah, he never yelled at me and he never scolded me and he never told me why did you this and why didn't you do that."

An Intelligent Mother

Anas ibn Malik (radhiAllahu anha) says, "My mother was the one who took me to the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) and said: "O Messenger of Allah! Here is a little student and servant for you! Please make du`a for him!"

So the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) supplicated Allah, "O Allah! Give him abundant wealth... many children... increase his life span... and forgive his sins."

Anas then says, "Due to this prayer of the Prophet, I outlived over a hundred of my own progeny except for two. My gardens would give fruit twice a year. Allah gave me such a long life that I have become bored of living. And I hope from Allah that the fourth one will also be accepted."

All of these blessings were enjoyed by Anas ibn Malik due to the intelligence of his mother. She knew that the greatest blessing of this life is DEEN. And the best place that he will attain that bounty is from Allah's Messenger. So she brought her son to him and thus he became successful in this life and in the hereafter.

A Woman of Strong Faith

Umm Sulaym's husband Malik ibn Nadhr (who was the father of Anas) passed away. When her husband passed away, a man by the name of Abu Talha wanted to marry Umm Sulaym, but he was not Muslim at that time, so Umm Sulaym refused to accept his proposal.

So when he asked her as to why she refused him, she answered, "O Abu Talha, I am a Muslim and you are a disbeliever. Don't you know that the 'god' you worship is nothing but a piece of wood that grew out of the ground and was then cut by the carpenter and then carved into an idol?"

So he answered, "Of course I know that."

So she then said, "Do you not then feel ashamed of worshipping a piece of wood that grows out of the earth, and then carved into an idol by the carpenter?! Look, if you accept Islam, then I will marry you and I will ask nothing else from you in return."

So he said that he will think about it. After some time he came back and said, "I bear witness that there is no one worthy of worship but Allah, and that Muhammad (Allah bless him and grant him peace) is the Messenger of Allah."

Specialties of Umm Sulaym

Umm Sulaym bint Malhan (may Allah be pleased with her) had many specialties which distinguished her from the other companions. Here we will list a couple of them:

- 1.) The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) would not enter any other house in Madina Munuwwarah to take rest (other than the houses of his wives) except the house of Umm Sulaym. When he was asked as to why he would do this, he said, "I feel pity for her. Her brother became martyred while fighting side by side with me."

- 2.) She would spread a leather mat for him to rest on and when the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) would sweat on the mat, she would collect the droplets of his blessed sweat in a bottle and mix it with her perfumes, saying, "His sweat is more fragrant than the most expensive musk!"

- 3.) The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) once saw a dream regarding which he said, "When I entered paradise, I heard the sound of footsteps in front of me. I noticed that it was Ghumaysaa bint Malhan, the mother of Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with them)."