

## **Sawdah bint Zam`ah (radhiAllahu anha)**

**The WIFE OF THE PROPHET (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)**

### **The Loss of Khadija (radhiAllahu anha)**

Sawdah (radhiAllahu anha) entered the life of the Prophet's household after the death of Khadija (radhiAllahu anha). The death of his beloved wife Khadija had deeply saddened the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) due to the fact that she was a great support and help for him.

Khadija (radhiAllahu anha) had assisted the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa salam) in every way that she could. She spent her wealth and belongings on supporting him and the cause of Islam. She comforted him emotionally by her kind words and compassion. And she was actually the first person to believe in him as a Prophet of Allah. So we can imagine how much the loss of Khadija had caused grief to the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).

### **Someone to Take Care of the Prophet's Household**

Before talking about Sawdah (radhiAllahu anha), attention needs to be paid to Khawlah bint Hakeem (radhiAllahu anha), the woman whose deep faith and strong love for the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) urged her to help the Prophet in his private family affairs, and played an excellent role in this regard.

Khawlah (radhiAllahu anha) was the wife of Uthman ibn Math'oon. And both of them were among the first persons who embraced the call of Islam and whom Islam embraced. They lived for this call and it lived by them. Islam moved in their limbs and veins like blood. Even their hearts pulsed for the love of this heavenly religion.

It was Khawlah (radhiAllahu anha) who saw signs of deep sorrow on the Prophet's noble face, just like other female Companions. But she was the bravest of them all and the most daring to ask the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). She said, "Messenger of Allah, it seems you have been afflicted by want since the death of Khadija." The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) replied, "Yes, she was the mother of the household and the care-taker for the family."

Khawlah (radhiAllahu anha), the experienced lady, out of love and compassion, observed the need of the Prophet's noble household to someone who could fill the gap created by the death of Khadija (radhiAllahu anha).

After deep thought and reflection, Khawlah (radhiAllahu anha) suggested Sawdah who was an older and experienced woman so that she could take care of the Prophet's family and cater for his household.

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) agreed to this suggestion and so Khawlah commenced her efforts and the efforts were successful in the proposal. Thus did Sawdah enter the household of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) as one of the mothers of the faithful.

### **Sawdah (radhiAllahu anha): A Pleasant Woman with a Sense of Humor**

Sawdah (radhiAllahu anha) was a widow. She started taking care of Umm Kulthoom (radhiAllahu Anha) and managing the affairs of the Prophet's household. She was dark in complexion, slow and bulky in size. But she had a clean heart and was one of the truthful believers. In spite of her being slow and bulky, she was a very pleasant woman and humorous, always removing the Prophet's worries with her humors.

It was reported that one day she saw on the face of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) paleness and distress and she told him jokingly, "O Messenger of Allah! I prayed behind you yesterday and you prolonged the prostration so long that I felt like I was going to have a nose-bleed!!" The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) then laughed so much that his teeth became visible and his gloomy look disappeared.

This is how Sawdah (radhiAllahu Anha) spent her days and years, striving to be a mother of the faithful. This is the greatest position that she sought in her worldly life and she sought nothing beside that, especially since the Prophet's days and nights were shared among a number of women who were his noble wives.

### **Remaining the Wife of the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam)**

Sawdah started feeling that she was becoming a burden to the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) because of her old age. She did not want the Prophet to be troubled and burdened because of her, but still wished to remain the wife of the Prophet.

She therefore decided to give up the day and night which the Prophet apportioned her to A`ishah. There are reasons for choosing A`ishah. She was close to her from the beginning and she was the most beloved of the Prophet's wives.

### **A Pious and Righteous Woman**

Sawdah (radhiAllahu Anha) was a pious worshipper and a generous giver of charity, as A'ishah (radhiAllahu Anha) has described her. She was blessed with such a long life that she lived into the caliphate of 'Umar ibn al-Khattab (radhiAllahu anhu).

Sawdah (radhiAllahu Anha) left a good impression on the household of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) that spanned thirteen years. She concluded that with the remaining years of her life in piety and worship. Sawdah (radhiAllahu Anha) passed away in the 54<sup>th</sup> year of Hijrah.