

Aishah (radhiAllahu anha)

The WIFE OF THE PROPHET (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)

The Youngest Wife of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)

Aishah (radhiAllahu anha) was married to the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) when she was very young. She was only 18 at the time of the Prophet's passing away. Even though her age was young, she is responsible for many Ahadith and regulations of Islamic practices. This is due to her eagerness and zeal of learning from the Prophet as much as she could. This helped her later on where she became an authority and master of Islamic knowledge.

The Great Scholar of the Ummah

Imam Hakim (rahimahullah) narrates: "One fourth of the rule of Shari'ah was narrated on the authority of Aishah."

Abu Musa Ash`ari (radhiAllahu anhu) said, "Whenever a hadith was unclear to us we the Companions of Allah's Messenger and we asked Aishah about it, we always gained knowledge about that hadith from her."

Masrooq said, "I saw the elders among the Companions of Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) asking her about the law of inheritance."

Imam Zuhri said, "If Aishah's knowledge is compiled and compared to the knowledge of all women, her knowledge will surely excel theirs."

He also said, "The first person to remove distress from the people and explain to them the Sunnah regarding that was Aishah."

We are not here explaining in detail, the knowledge that the mother of the faithful, Aishah possessed or the high status she had attained, we are only mentioning some examples to confirm the truthfulness of the Prophet's wisdom. It was this that caused the great love he had for her.

Generosity

Generosity and compassion on the weak and needy was a quality of the women Sahaba also. 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 like this were often received by Aishah (radhiAllahu anha) from Amir Mu`awiya, Abdullah bin Zubayr (radhiAllahu anhuma) 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 (Radhiallahu anha) says: "I once saw Aishah (radhiAllahu anha) spending 70,000 dirhams in charity, while she herself was wearing a dress with patches."