

Fatimah (radhiAllahu anha) The Brilliant One

The blessed daughter of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said, "Fatimah is a part of me!" She was the only remaining child of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). The earth had swallowed up the other children during the lifetime of their father. All his fatherly love was then directed towards Fatimah. Her being around her father reminded him of Khadijah - her mother, Zaynab, Ruqayyah, Umm Kulthum, Abdullah, Tahir and Qasim. Whenever she appeared to the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) with her kind and caring face, he felt as if all of them were standing before him.

Her birth: A Great Historical Event

A great event that shook the entire city of Makkah and that almost caused a war among its different tribes occurred at the same time that Fatimah was born. That was when the Ka'bah was being rebuilt.

The Quraysh had resolved to rebuild the House after it had been affected by heavy rainfall weakened its walls. They spent a lot of money, effort and time on this important project and hardly had they arrived at the point of putting *Hajarul-Aswad* (the Black Stone) back to its place they started arguing as to who should have the honor of doing that. The disagreement almost led to an open war and members of the tribes unsheathed their swords in readiness for war.

The elders of Makkah were concerned about this impending war, and they started thinking of a way to avert this crisis that could cause severe destructions.

After a long deliberation, Umayyah ibn al-Mughirah, who was one of the wise elders suggested "O men of Quraysh, appoint a person from among you who will decide on what you are disagreeing about, and let him be the first person to enter the Sacred Masjid."

They are all pleased with this suggestion and they said, "We agree!" So they were all looking at the gate awaiting the first person to enter the Sacred Masjid. While they were waiting, Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) who was known to them as 'the trustworthy one' appeared in his splendor and steady and balanced steps. He was then a thirty-five year old young man. When they saw him, they shouted in joy, "Here is the trustworthy one, Muhammad, son of Abdullah! We agree that he be our judge! "

Muhammad's wisdom

The 'trustworthy one' listened to their argument. They then asked him to be their judge. He remained silent for sometime pondering until he was inspired with a solution. He then spread out his garment, put the Black Stone in the middle of it and then said:

"Let the leaders of every group hold the edge of the garment and let them all lift it together."

So they all lifted it until they brought the Stone to its place. The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) then took it with his noble hand and put it in its place. The news spread all over the city of Makkah and the people were happy about the problem was solved. They were delighted with the trustworthy Muhammad's wisdom.

Glad Tidings of a Baby Daughter

The trustworthy Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) returned to his house, happy to have solved this problem that had occupied their minds and had almost caused bloodshed among them. When he entered, he was met with the news of the birth of his fourth daughter, Fatimah. His face brightened up and he quickly went to his wife with happiness showing all over his face. He congratulated her on her safe delivery, and he showed how happy he was about the beautiful daughter, who was born on a noble day in which life was protected, swords were put away and peace and security prevailed due to Muhammad's wisdom.

The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) named her Fatimah, after his grandmother who had the same name. And he nicknamed her *az-Zahraa* (the brilliant or shining one). The noble parents were happy with the birth of Fatimah, who was their fourth daughter. The Messenger of Allah saw in her, auspicious appearance and signs of blessings and prosperity.

The new baby girl strikingly resembled her father. This made her extremely loved by her father and mother. And Fatimah was always much loved by her parents until the final moments of their life.

Prophet's love for Fatimah

Fatimah was blessed with the pleasure and love of her father. He would shower on her his affection and compassion, for she was the only favored daughter of her father since her other sisters had died. Therefore, she deserved that great love, favor and joy. The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) would express his love for his dear daughter in the most intense and the most suitable situations. In spite of this great love, the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) would explain that good deeds and piety were indispensable. One day, the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) stood up and proclaimed:

"O' people of Quraysh! Buy (i.e. save) yourselves (from the Hellfire) as I cannot save you from Allah's Punishment; O' Bani' Abd Manaf! I cannot save you from Allah's Punishment, O' \$afiyah bint 'AbdulMutfalib! I cannot save you from Allah's Punishment; O' Fatimah bint Muhammad! Ask me anything from my wealth, but I cannot save you from Allah's Punishment.

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) expressed his love for his dear daughter one day when he told her, "Indeed, Allah is pleased with your pleasure and He is angered if you are angry."

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) also said once: "The best women of the mankind are four: Maryam bint Imran, Asiyah (wife of Fir`awn), Khadijah and Fatimah."

Abu Tha`labah al-Khushani said: "Whenever the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) came back from a journey or war he would first visit the mosque where he would pray two *rakahs*. He would then visit his daughter, Fatimah. And finally, he would visit his wives."

Greatest Example for Earlier and Later generations

Fatimah laid down for us a beautiful example in her marital life, in her excellent relationship with her neighbors and relatives and in her role as a mother by giving her children the proper Islamic education. This is in addition to the never-ending household chores.

At the same time she was keen at doing deeds that could make her attain Allah's pleasure by obeying Him and His Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). She performed her prayers at their prescribed times. She spent a great part of her efforts and wealth in the way of Allah. She was always truthful in her words and followed the exemplary qualities of her father.

By this, she became a righteous model for any Muslim woman who is knowledgeable, struggler in the way of Allah and educator at all generations and in all places. A`ishah (radhiallahu anha) said, "I have never seen anyone who was like the Messenger of Allah in speech and walk than Fatimah."

She also said, "I have never seen anyone more virtuous than Fatimah."

Whenever Fatimah visited her father, he would hold her hand, sit her beside himself and welcome her in the most beautiful manner.

The Hardest and Most Difficult Separation

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) performed the farewell Hajj and firmly established the pillars of Islam. And Allah perfected the religion of Islam and completed the divine revelation.

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) then fell ill. Fatimah rushed to assure herself of his well-being. When she visited him, he smiled at her cheerfully. He then took her hand, kept it on her side, drew her near to himself and told her a secret that made her cry. He again told her another secret that made her smile.

A`ishah said: "I have never seen a day in which joy and sorrow were so close to each other as I have seen today. I wanted to know the reason so asked Fatimah to tell me what made her cry and smile. But she said: "I could not reveal the secret of the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)."

But after the Prophet's death, A`ishah asked Fatimah to tell her that secret and she said, "Now I can tell you. He told me, The Angel Jibreel used to revise the Qur'an with me once every year, but this year, he reviewed it with me twice. And the interpretation I could give to this is that the end of my life in this world is near.'

That was the reason for my crying.'

He then told me, 'You will be the first of the members of my household to join me; and I am an excellent predecessor for you.' That was the reason for my smiling."

The Prophet's pain increased and Fatimah's sorrow increased over the imminent departure of the greatest father and the most honorable Prophet.

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) then departed for the Highest Companionship; and all that Fatimah could repeat were these sorrowful and painful words:

"My father! My father! He answered the call of his Lord; Paradise is his abode; how close he is to his Lord!"

She was extremely grief-stricken, shedding bitter tears. Ali (radhiallahu anhu) was also greatly distressed, seeing his noble Prophet, his beloved cousin and father-in-law dying. He wept bitterly. All the Muslims cried for the death of their beloved Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad (May Allah's blessings and peace be upon him).

Her death

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) had given his daughter, Fatimah glad tidings that she would be the first among surviving members of his household to join him. She found some comfort in this glad tiding. Days passed by while Fatimah took care of her home, managed the affairs of her husband and continued fulfilling her obligations towards her children.

About six months after the Prophet's death, she became ill and joined her father. Her pure soul departed to its Lord where it met the souls of her father, mother and sisters in the *'Illiyeen*, in the company of the souls of the Prophets, the sincere servants of Allah, the martyrs and the righteous. And excellent are those as companions.

Her husband, Ali and her uncle Abbas (radhiallahu anhuma) performed funeral prayers on her. She was buried at Baqee' on Tuesday night, 3rd of Ramadhan, 11 A.H. She was aged of twenty-nine. May Allah be pleased with Fatimah, *az-Zahraa*, the Prophet's favorite daughter.

