

Fatimah (the blessed daughter of Rasulullah) (radhiAllahu anha)

The Prophet's Special Love for Fatimah

The Prophet had a special love for Fatimah. He once said: **"Fatimah is a part of me. Whoever pleased Fatimah has indeed pleased me and whoever has caused her to be angry has indeed angered me.** (Bukhari and Muslim)

He also said: **"The best women in the entire world are four: the Virgin Mary, Aasiyaa the wife of Fir`awn, Khadijah Mother of the Believers, and Fatimah, daughter of Muhammad."** Fatimah thus acquired a place of love and esteem in the Prophet's heart that was only occupied by his wife Khadijah.

He also gave Fatimah the glad tidings: **"Are you not pleased to be the leader of the women of Jannah?"** (Bukhari and Muslim)

Fatimah (radhiAllahu anhu) was given the title of **"al-Zahraa"** which means "the Brilliant One". That was because of her beaming face which seemed to radiate light. It is said that when she stood for Prayer, the mihrab would reflect the light of her countenance.

She was also called **"al-Batool"** because of her simplicity and piety. Instead of spending her time in the company of women, much of her time would be spent in Salah, in reading the Qur'an and in other acts of ibadah.

Fatimah had a strong resemblance to her father Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). It is narrated in Sahih al-Bukhari from Aishah (radhiAllahu anha) that she said of her: **"I have not seen any one of Allah's creation resemble the Messenger of Allah more in speech, conversation and manner of walking than Fatimah, may God be pleased with her.**

When the Prophet saw her approaching, he would welcome her, stand up and kiss her, take her by the hand and sit her down in the place where he was sitting." She

would do the same when the Prophet came to her. She would stand up and welcome him with joy and kiss him.

Fatimah's fine manners and gentle speech were part of her beautiful personality. She was especially kind to poor and needy and would often give all the food she had to them even if she herself remained hungry. She had no desire for the ornaments of this world or for the luxuries and comforts of life. She lived simply, although on occasion as we shall see circumstances seemed to be too much and too difficult for her.

Fatimah was only five years old when she first heard that Allah Ta`ala had chosen her father to become the Messenger of Allah. His first task was to convey the good news of Islam to his family and close relations. They were to worship Allah Almighty alone. Her mother, who was a tower of strength and support, explained to Fatimah what her father had to do.

From this time on, she became more closely attached to him and felt a deep love for him. Often she would be at his side walking through the narrow streets and alleys of Makkah, visiting the Ka`bah or attending secret gatherings, the early Muslims who had accepted Islam and pledged allegiance to the Prophet.

Days of Persecution and Hardship

One day, when she was not yet ten, she accompanied her father to the Masjid al-Haram. He stood in the place known as al-Hijr facing the Ka`bah and began to pray. Fatimah stood at his side. A group of Quraysh, with evil intentions, gathered around him.

They included Abu Jahl, the Prophet's uncle, Uqbah ibn Abi Mu`ayt, Umayyah ibn Khalaf, and Shaybah and Utbah, sons of Rabi`ah. Menacingly, the group went up to the Prophet and Abu Jahl, the ringleader, asked:

"Which of you can bring the intestines of a slaughtered animal and throw it on Muhammad?"

Uqbah ibn Abi Mu`ayt, the worst of these evil people, volunteered for the dirty job and hurried off. He returned with the filth and threw it on the shoulders of the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him peace, while he was still prostrating. Abdullah ibn Mas`ud, a companion of the Prophet, was present but he was powerless to do or say anything.

Imagine the feelings of Fatimah as she saw her father being treated in this fashion. What could she, a girl not even ten years old, do? She went up to her

father and removed the offensive matter and then stood firmly and angrily before the group of Quraysh thugs and lashed out against them. Not a single word did they say to her. The noble Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) raised his head on completion of the prostration and went on to complete the Salah. He then said: "O Lord, may you punish the Quraysh!" and repeated this three times. Then he continued:

"May Allah punish Utbah, Uqbah, Abu Jahl and Shaybah." (These whom he named were all killed many years later at the Battle of Badr)

On another occasion, Fatimah was with the Prophet as he made; tawaf around the Kabah. A Quraysh mob gathered around him. They grabbed him and tried to strangle him with his own clothes. Fatimah screamed and shouted for help. Abu Bakr rushed to the scene and managed to free the Prophet. While he was doing so, he pleaded:

"Will you kill a man just because he says, 'My Lord is Allah?'" Far from giving up, the mob turned on Abu Bakr and began beating him until blood flowed from his head and face.

She was still a young girl and instead of the playing around and wasting her time like the children of her age are used to, Fatimah had to witness and participate in such hardships.

Often the trials were too much for her. Once, about this time, an insolent mob heaped dust and earth upon his gracious head. As he entered his home, Fatimah cried very much for her father as she wiped the dust from her father's head.

"Do not cry, my daughter," he said, "for Allah shall protect your father."

Simple Life of Hard Work and Service

Fatimah (radhiAllahu anha) was only 15 years old when she migrated to Madina Munuwwarah and was married to Ali (radhiAllah anha) some time later.

Fatimah's life with Ali was as simple as it was in her father's household. In fact, so far as material comforts were concerned, it was a life of hardship and deprivation. Throughout their life together, Ali remained poor because he did not care for material wealth. Fatimah was the only one of her sisters who was not married to a wealthy man.

In fact, it could be said that Fatimah's life with Ali was even harder than life in her father's home. At least before marriage, there were always a number of ready

helping hands in the Prophet's household. But now she had to cope virtually on her own. To relieve the extreme poverty, Ali used to take water out of the well and carry it home and she would grind the grain. One day she said to Ali: "I have ground until my hands have become blistered."

"I have drawn water until I have pains in my chest," said Ali and went on to suggest to Fatimah: "Allah has given your father some servants, so go and ask him to give you a servant."

Reluctantly, she went to the Prophet who said: "What has brought you here, O my daughter?" "I came to give you greetings of peace," she said, for in awe of the people around she could not bring herself to ask what she had intended.

"What did you do?" asked Ali when she returned alone.

"I was ashamed to ask him," she said. So the two of them went together but the Prophet felt they were less in need than others.

"I will not give to you," he said, "and let the Ahl as-Suffah (poor Muslims who stayed in the mosque) be tormented with hunger. I do not have enough to look after them..."

A Gift from the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)

Ali and Fatimah returned home feeling somewhat down but that night, after they had gone to bed, they heard the voice of the Prophet asking permission to enter. Welcoming him, they both rose to their feet, but he told them:

"Stay where you are," and sat down beside them. "Shall I not tell you of something better than that which you asked of me?" he asked and when they said yes he said: "Words which Jibreel taught me, that you should say "Subhan Allah- Glory be to Allah" ten times after every Prayer, and ten times "Alhamdu lillah - Praise be to Allah," and ten times "Allahu Akbar - Allah is Great." And that when you go to bed you should say them thirty-three times each."

Ali used to say in later years: "I have never once failed to say them since the Messenger of God taught them to us."

This gift is also known as, tasbeeh-Fatimi, and it is actually a gift for the entire Ummah. We were honored with this blessed gift through the blessed daughter of Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam).

The Demise of Fatimah (radhiAllahu anha)

In Ramadan of the tenth year just before he went on his Farewell Pilgrimage, the Prophet told Fatimah, as a secret not yet to be told to others:

"Jibreel recited the Quran to me and I to him once every year, but this year he has recited it with me twice. I cannot but think that my time has come."

On his return from the Farewell Pilgrimage, the Prophet did become seriously ill. His final days were spent in the apartment of his wife Aishah. When Fatimah came to visit him, A`ishah would leave father and daughter together.

One day he summoned Fatimah. When she came, he kissed her and whispered some words in her ear. She wept. Then again he whispered in her ear and she smiled. A`ishah saw and asked:

"You cry and you laugh at the same time, Fatimah? What did Rasulullah say to you?" Fatimah replied:

"He first told me that he would meet his Lord after a short while and so I cried. Then he said to me: 'Don't cry for you will be the first of my household to join me.' So I laughed." (Bukhari and Muslim)

Not long afterwards the noble Prophet passed away. Fatimah was very sad and she would often be seen crying very much. One of the companions noted that he did not see Fatimah, may God be pleased with her, laugh after the death of her father.

She knew that her end was approaching because the Prophet had told her so and Ali felt grieved and she tried to console him. She told him to look after their sons Hasan and Husayn (radhiAllahu anhuma) and advised that she should be buried without ceremony. Shortly after, the honorable and brilliant daughter of Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) passed away from this world. She was just twenty-eight and a half years old. She died 6 months after her father. May Allah Ta`ala be well pleased with her. Ameen.