

Hazrat Zainab^{ra} – Daughter of Holy Prophet^{sa}

Monthly Taleem Focus Slides
August 2016

Eldes Daughter

- She was the eldest daughter of Holy Prophet ﷺ and Hazrat Khadija^{ra}
- She was born 10 years before prophethood when Holy Prophet ﷺ was 30 years old (5 years after marriage)
- As a first-born child she was brought up with care and love and wealth of noble traits by her parents
- According to the customs in those days she was married at an early age to her cousin, Hazrat Abul-'Aas bin Rabi'^{ra}. He was son of Hazrat Khadija's sister Hallah.
- At the occasion of her wedding Hazrat Khadija^{ra} gifted her the most expensive piece of jewelry she owned, a garnet necklace made in Yemen.

Acceptance of Islam

- When Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ claimed prophethood, Hazrat Zainab^{ra} immediately accepted while Hazrat Abul-'Aas^{ra} was away from Makkah on a trading trip
- When he returned, he was bewildered and said “O Zainab, did you not even think about what would happen if I did not accept the claim of the Holy Prophet^{sa}?”
- She replied, “How can I reject my father who is Sadiq (Truthful) and Amin (Trustworthy)? I swear by God, he is telling the truth. My mother and sisters, Hazrat 'Ali^r, Abu Bakr^{ra}, Hadrat 'Uthman^{ra} bin 'Affan from your tribe, and your cousin Hadrat Zubair^{ra} bin Al-'Awwam have all accepted Islam. I do not think that you will reject my father's claim of prophethood.”
- He replied, “I have no doubt about your father nor do I reject him. Indeed, nothing is more important to me than to be with you in your religion, but I am afraid that my people will accuse me of abandoning the religion of my ancestors for my wife's sake.”
- He therefore did not accept Islam at that time

Migration & Battle of Badr

- Kuffar of Makkah kept trying to inflict pain on the Prophet ﷺ and his family. They offered Hazrat Abul-'Aas^{ra} that if he divorced Hazrat Zainab^{ra} they would marry him to a fine and honorable girl from the tribe of Quraish but he rejected that offer
- In the 13th year of Nabuwat, Holy Prophet ﷺ migrated to Madinah while Hazrat Zainab^{ra} stayed back in Makkah where she was living with her husband
- In the second year of Hijrah the battle of Badr took place and Hazrat Abul-'Aas^{ra} fought on the Makkan side. Makkans lost the war and he was taken as a prisoner of war
- Through her brother-in-law Hazrat Zainab^{ra} sent the garnet necklace as ransom for his freedom
- Upon seeing the necklace among the articles of ransom, Holy Prophet's eyes welled up. It reminded him of his beloved wife, Hadrat Khadijah^{ra}
- Holy Prophet ﷺ asked sahaba^{ra} if they would set him free and return the necklace as well. They happily complied in perfect obedience and love of their master

Hazrat Zainab's Painful Migration

- It was against the dignity of prophethood that the son-in-law of the Holy Prophet ﷺ should be released without paying any ransom. Therefore, it was decided that after returning to Makkah Hadrat Abul-'Aas^{ra} would send Hadrat Zainab^{ra} to Madinah as payment for his ransom
- Holy Prophet ﷺ sent Hazrat Zaid bin Harithah^{ra}, his adopted son, to bring back Hazrat Zainab^{ra}. He stayed outside Makkah to while the Makkans entered the city
- Hadrat Abul-'Aas^{ra} sent her with his younger brother. Upon learning of her departure, the Makkans sent a party in pursuit. A person named Habbar bin Aswad attacked her with a spear in her stomach and she fell from her camel
- Her brother-in-law protected her from any further attacks and she returned to Makkah and upon insistence of Abu Sufyan returned to Makkah so Makkans could save face after a humiliating defeat
- After a few days she was discretely handed to Hazrat Zaid^{ra} and came to Madinah

The Trading Party & Zainab's^{ra} Protection

- Hadrat Abul-'Aas^{ra}, who was a successful trader, was returning from a trip to Syria. As the hostilities continued with Makkans, Holy Prophet ﷺ sent a party of 170 riders to intercept them
- Muslims recognized Hadrat Abul-'Aas^{ra} and did not stop him but the rest of the entourage was captured. Hadrat Abul-'Aas^{ra} immediately went to Madinah and ask for Hazrat Zainab's^{ra} protection
- Hadrat Zainab^{ra} granted the protection and according to the Arab custom if one person was extended the protection the whole tribe was bound by it
- When Holy Prophet ﷺ learned of it, he addressed the people saying "You know Abul-'Aas^{ra} is my relative. If you choose to favour him by returning his possessions it will make me happy. However, you have the authority to do as you wish."
- All the people agreed to return everything

Reunion of Husband & Wife

- He cleared all his debts and one day gathered the Quraish together and asked them if anyone had any claim on him. They replied, “Indeed, now we have no claim concerning you. May God reward you in an excellent manner. You are indeed an honourable and generous person.”
- At this moment Hadrat Abul-‘Aas^{ra} declared that he had become a Muslim, and openly recited the Kalimah
- He swore by God that the only thing that had kept him from the companionship of the Holy Prophet ﷺ was that the people might think he had accepted Islam in order to be freed from any monetary obligations
- He migrated to Madinah and Hadrat Zainab^{ra} started living with him again
- She had two children with Hadrat Abul-‘Aas^{ra}, a daughter named Umamah^{ra} and a son named Ali^{ra}

Holy Prophet's Love

- Holy Prophet ﷺ loved his grand children.
- Hazrat Umamah^{ra} was always with her. Even while praying, he would seat her on his shoulder and when he moved to bowing position or prostration he would put her down. Then, when he would raise his head from prostration, he would seat her on his shoulders again. The Holy Prophet ﷺ would follow this routine through the completion of his prayer
- Once the Holy Prophet ﷺ received a precious necklace as a gift. The Holy Prophet ﷺ came home and said that he would give it to the person who was most dear to him in the family. It was presumed that the Mother of the Believers, Hadrat 'A'ishah^{ra}, would receive it, but the Holy Prophet ﷺ put the necklace around the neck of Hadrat Umamah^{ra}
- She married Hadrat Ali^{ra} after the death of Hazrat Fatima^{ra} according to her wishes
- Ali^{ra}, her son, was alive during the Battle of Yarmuk in Hazrat Umar's khilafat. According to some traditions he died before reaching maturity

Martyrdom

- Hazrat Zainab^{ra} never fully recovered from the greivous wound she suffered during migration
- She died in the eighth year of Hijrah
- Holy Prophet ﷺ pronounced a death sentence for Habbar bin Aswad who had wounded her. However, he was forgiven after the conquest of Makkah
- Holy Prophet ﷺ led the funeral and she was buried in Jannatul-Baqi'
- Hadrat Abul-'Aas^{ra} also died soon afterwards