

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem

FADAK, THE PROPERTY OF FATIMA (S.A.)
The daughter of Prophet Muhammad
(Peace be upon him & his progeny)

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Introduction: Fadak was a piece of property situated in the valley of Madinah hills. It had seven villages that included fertile areas and oases.

After the downfall of the fort of Khaibar, the nobles of the area made a peace treaty with the Prophet (peace be upon him & his progeny) and gave the land of Fadak as a gift. Half of it was for the Ummah and half for the Prophet (peace be upon him & his progeny). On divine instructions, Prophet (peace be upon him & his progeny) gave it as a gift to his daughter Fatima (S.A.)

At the time that Prophet (peace be upon him & his progeny) died, the property was in the possession of Fatima (S.A.) The property was taken away from Fatima by the Caliph of the time, citing a (disputed) hadith that “prophets do not leave inheritance.” She and her family were deprived of the property. Fadak was designated as public property.

Fatima contested the ruling with the argument that it was not inheritance but a gift. The testimony of Ali (A.S.) and Umm Ayman was considered “not sufficient.” Hasan and Husain were considered minors and their testimony was not admissible. Furthermore, even if it were considered an inheritance, Fatima (S.A.) proved that the” inheritance hadith” was false from evidence in the Qur’an, where Prophet Solomon inherited Prophet David’s estate. Also, Prophet Zakariya had prayed for an heir and was granted a son. Refer to Qur’an Chapter 27:16. & Qur’an Chapter 19:5-6. These arguments were not accepted by the authority.

Afterwards, the Caliph, in light of Fatima’s anger and extreme displeasure, issued a document to return Fadak to her. However, for economic and political reasons, the order was never implemented during his Caliphate. Fadak was not returned to Fatima (S.A.) in her lifetime, subjecting her to extreme emotional pain and financial hardship.

Fatima was so hurt that she resolved, not to speak to the officials involved in this injustice until she died. She also executed a Will stating that those responsible for denying her Fadak should not be allowed to attend her funeral services. This instruction was carried out by Ali (A.S.)

A short history of Fadak after Fatima (S.A.)

1. The second Caliph returned Fadak to the children of Fatima (A.S.)
2. The third Caliph took away the property from the children Fatima (S.A.) and gave it to his cousin, Marwan ibn Al-Hakam.
3. Mu’awiyah ibn Abi Sufyan took away the property from Marwan and split it into three parts. One part remained with Marwan ibn Al-Hakam; other two parts he split between Amr ibn Uthman bin Affan and to his own son Yezid.

4. Umar ibn Abdul-Aziz, when he became Caliph (99 AH), declared that the original owners of Fadak were the family of Fatima, and ordered his governor in Madinah to give back Fadak to the children of Fatima (S.A.)
5. Yezid ibn Al-Malik succeeded his father, and seized Fadak from the children of Ali (A.S.) It then came into the possession of BanuUmayyah, and remained with the Umayyads until Bani Abbas came to power.
6. Abul-Abbas Abdullah As-Saffah, when he became the first Caliph of the Abbasid dynasty (AH 132), gave back Fadak to the children of Fatima (S.A.)
7. Muhammad Abu Jafar Abdullah al-Mansur Dawaniqi, when he became Caliph (136 AH), seized Fadak from the descendants of Fatima (S.A.)
8. Muhammad Al-Mahdi ibn Al-Mansur, when he became Caliph, returned Fadak to the descendants of Fatima (S.A.)
9. Musa Al-Hadi ibn Al-Mahdi, when he succeeded to the Caliphate (169AH), seized Fadak from the descendants of Fatima (S.A.) His brother Harun Al-Rashid acquired it thereafter.
10. Al-Mamun Al- Abbasi, when he became Caliph (210 AH), gave back Fadak to the descendants of Fatima (S.A.) He publicly acknowledged that Fadak legitimately belonged to Fatima (S.A.)
11. Fadak remained with the descendants of Fatima (S.A.) during the reigns of Al- Mutasim and Al-Wathiq, until 232 AH.
12. Jafar Al-Mutawakkil, when he came to power (232 AH), gave orders to seize Fadak from the descendants of Fatima (S.A.)
13. Al-Muntasir succeeded Al-Mutawakkil (247 AH). He gave orders to restore Fadak to the descendants of Fatima (S.A.) Subsequently, they lost it after the death of Al-Muntasir.
14. Al-Mutadid (279 AH), restored Fadak to the descendants of Fatima (S.A.) It was seized by Al-Muqtafi (289 AH). Al-Muqtadir in 295 AH restored Fadak to the children of Fatima (S.A.)
15. Subsequently, Fadak fell again into the hands of usurpers. No further history of Fadak is available since then.

Epilogue: Thus, we learn that, the Fadak property changed ownership more than 16 times over a period of about 300 years. It was returned to the legitimate owners, the descendants of Fatima (S.A.) eight times. The usurpers were in control of Fadak most of the time. Presently, Fadak is under the control of the Saudi government and unfortunately, in an extremely run down condition.

(The End)

Note: The books listed below have extensive references from Ahle Sunnah sources.

References: - 1. Peshawar Nights translated by Hamid Quinlan and Charles Campbell, Pak Books, New York 1996; pp 254-307 2. Nahjul Balagha, Peak of Eloquence, sermons, letters and sayings of Imam Ali ibn Abu Talib; translated by Sayed Ali Reza, published by Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an, inc., Elmhurst, NY. 1996 edition. Letter #45, footnote pp516-529. More at www.al-islam.org. under 'Fadak.'