

Fatima (S.A.), the Generous

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We can learn much from the life of Fatima Zahra S.A. 1. Her exemplary generosity 2. She gave away in charity even when she did not have enough for herself. 3. The needs of others were more important to her than her own needs. 4. She fed the hungry (not having food for herself) for the love of Allah and did not even expect "thank you" in return. (Ref. Qur'an Surah 76, verse 8)

Fatima S. A. is well known for her modesty and humility. She was also extremely generous.

She did not like this world for its worldly belongings, rather preferred to gain good deeds and the worship Allah, the Exalted. She spent money in the way of Allah, to feed the hungry, clothe and support the need of the deprived. She fully understood the transience of the worldly life and was aware of the difficulties of the Hereafter. Fatima S.A. was satisfied with the minimum requirements of life and chose for herself the noble trait of preferring others over herself and aiding the needy. Like her father, the messenger of God, she was both modest and generous to a fault. She had learnt generosity from the teaching of her father.*

Below is just one of many incidents from the life of Fatima S.A. to illustrate her exemplary generosity, modesty and love of Allah, the Exalted.

The author of the book "*Bisharat A-Moustafa*" was quoted in Al-Bihar v.10 to have written:

Imam Sadiq (A.S.) quoted Jabir Ibn Abdullah Al-Ansari as saying:

"One day when we had finished the Asr prayer with the Messenger of Allah an old Arab immigrant man, who was wearing worn-out clothes and was barely able to walk because of his old age and weakness came by. The Prophet asked the old man about his affair; the old man answered:

Prophet of Allah I am starving, so feed me, I am naked, so clothe me, and poor, so help me. The Prophet then said: `Surely I find nothing to give you. Yet, he who guides to goodness is equal to him who performs it. So go to the house of she who loves Allah and His Messenger, and Allah and His Messenger love her. The one who prefers Allah to herself, I mean Fatima.

Fatima's house was near the Prophet's house. He asked Bilal to lead the man to her house. When the old man reached the house, he cried out:

`Peace be upon you, O household of prophethood, the (dwellers of the place where) angels

*A destitute man asked the prophet (pbuh&p) to pray for him for increase in sustenance. Prophet told him to give something in charity. The man said he had nothing except just one date. Prophet told him to give one-half of it in charity.

frequently visit, where Gabriel, the holy spirit, descends to bring what the Lord of the Worlds reveals.

Fatima said, 'Peace be upon you; who are you?'

The old Bedouin answered, I am an old Arab man; I have come to your father, The Master of humanity, from a distant place. Daughter of Muhammad, I am hungry and in need of clothing, so console me-may Allah bless you.

When this occurred, the Prophet, Ali, and Fatima had not eaten for three days. Yet, Fatima gave him a tanned ram skin, which was used as Al-Hassan and Al-Hussain's bed.

Then Fatima told the poor man: 'Take this, may Allah substitute it for you by a better gift by selling it.'

The old man replied, daughter of Muhammad, I complain to you of hunger and you give me a ram's skin! How can I eat with this?

When Fatima heard what the old man had to say, she gave him the necklace, which was given to her by Fatima Bint Hamza Ibn Abd al-Muttalib.

The old man took the necklace and went to the Mosque to meet the Prophet who was sitting in the presence of his companions. He went to the Prophet and said, 'Messenger of Allah, Fatima Bint Muhammad gave me this necklace and said, 'Sell it, for Allah will grant you a solution to your problem.'

When the Prophet heard what the man had to say, he wept and said, 'Indeed, Allah will grant you a solution, for Fatima Bint Muhammad, the Mistress of all the women gave you this necklace.'

Meanwhile, Ammar Ibn Yasir (may Allah bless his soul) said: 'Messenger of Allah, do I have your permission to buy this necklace?'

The Prophet answered, buy it Ammar; surely if all of mankind and Jinn participate in buying it Allah will not torture them in Hellfire.'

Ammar said, 'How much do you want for it?'

The old Bedouin said, a meal of bread and meat, a Yemeni shirt to cover my private parts and to perform my prayers in front of my Lord, and a dinar so I can return to my family.'

Ammar, who had just sold his share of booty from the battle of Khaibar, told the man, I will give you twenty (20) dinars, two hundred (200) Dirhams, a Yemeni shirt, my horse to take you home, and your need of wheat bread and meat.

The old then said, 'What a generous man you are!'

When Ammar had fulfilled his promise to the old man, the later came back to the Prophet (S) who asked, 'are you satisfied and clothed?'

The old man said, 'Yes, and I have become rich; may my father and mother be your sacrifice.'

The Prophet (S) then said, so reward Fatima for her kindness.

The old man supplicated, O' Allah, surely You are our God whenever we ask You; We have no other God to worship besides you; 'You are the one who grants us beneficence in all conditions;' `O Allah, grant Fatima that which no eye has ever seen, and ear has ever heard ...

During that time, Ammar had perfumed the necklace with mush wrapped it in a Yemeni shirt, and gave it to one of his slaves by the name of Sahm, who he had bought with the money that he had received for selling his share of the Khaibar booty. He told Sahm:

Take this necklace, give it to the Messenger of Allah (S), and tell him that I give you to him also.

When Sahm had delivered the message, the Prophet (S) said, take the necklace to Fatima and I give you to her. When the slave had told Fatima the message, she (A) took the necklace and told the slave that he was free.

Upon hearing Fatima, Sahm laughed, so Fatima asked him about the reason that made him laugh. He answered, I did so when I thought of the abundance of goodness put in this necklace; it fed a hungry man, clothed him, satisfied his poverty, freed a slave and it came back to its original owner!"

Source: *Fatima (a) the Gracious*, Chapter 39 (*spending in the way of Allah*) by Abu Muhammad Ordoni.

(It is Available on www.Al-Islam.org)

Ponder on the Qur'an:

"O you who believe let not your wealth or your children divert you from remembrance of Allah; and whoever does that, these are the losers.

And spend out of what We have given you before death comes to one of you, so that he should say; 'My Lord, why did You not respite me for a near term, so that I should have given alms, and been doers of good deeds?'

And Allah does not respite a soul when its appointed term has come, and Allah is aware of what you do."

S. 63, V. 9, 10, 11

Translation by M.H. Shakir