

Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem

Fatima Zahra (A.S.), Daughter of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.A.W.)

Her merits according to the Qur'an and Hadith

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Muslims of all schools recognize the exalted status of Hadhrat Fatima Zahra, the daughter of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.A.W.). She held a central place in the family of the Prophet and played a pivotal role in the establishment of Islam. This is evident from the famous Hadith-e-Kisa, when Angel Gabriel asked Allah as to who were the souls under the blanket that earned such high praises of the Lord. The answer was, "They are the people of the house of prophecy and treasurers of My Messengership, and they are Fatima, her father, her husband, and her sons." It is to be noted that the only name mentioned was that of Fatima (S.A.).

Presented here are some traditions regarding Hadhrat Fatima (S.A.), reported in the books of Ahl-e-Sunnah-wal-Jamaat and by Shia sources.

Miswar ibn Makhramah reported Allah's messenger (S.A.A.W.) as saying:

- *"Fatima is part of me. He in fact tortures me who tortures her."* (Sahih Muslim Vol. IV, Chapter MVII, Merits of Fatima)
- *"Fatima is the chief of the women of Paradise."* (Sahih-Al-Bukhari Vol. V, chapter 29, The Merits of Fatima)
- *"Fatima is a human Hourii, whenever I long for paradise I kiss her."* (Tareekh Baghdad by Khateeb Baghdadi: v.5, p.86)

Anas ibn Malik's mother is reported to have said:

- *"Fatima was like a moon on its full night or the sun covered with no clouds. She was white with a touch of rose color on her face, her hair was black, and she had the beautiful features of the Messenger of Allah."* (Mustadrak al-Hakim: v.3, p.161.)

It is reported that 'Aisha said:

- *"I have not seen a person more similar to the Prophet's appearance, conduct, guidance, and speech, whether sitting or standing, than Fatima. When she enters, the Messenger of Allah stands up, kisses and welcomes her, then takes her hand and asks her to sit in his place."* (Tirmadhi and Ibn Abdurabbeh in Eqd al-Farid: v.2, p.3.)

'Ali is reported to have heard the Prophet say this to Fatima:

- *"Surely Allah is angered when you are angered, and is pleased at your pleasure."* (Mustadrak al-Hakim: v.3, p.154., Tadhkirat al-Bast: p.175., Maqal al-Khawarazmi: v.1, p.54., Kefayat At-Talib: p.219., Kanz al-Umal: v.7, p.111., Sawiq: p.105)

The Prophet was also reported to have said to Fatima while holding her hand:

- *"He, who knows this, knows her, and he who does not know her; she is part of me, she is my heart and my spirit which is in my side, thus he who harms her harms me."* (Al-Fusul al-Muhammad: p.150., Nuzhat Al-Majalis: v.2, p.228., Nur al-Absar: p.45)

He was also reported to have said:

- *"Fatima is part of me; whoever annoys her annoys me and whoever harms her harms me."* (Sahih al-Bukhari, Muslim, Tirmadhi, Musnad Ahmad: v.4, p. 328., Khasaes An-Nisaae: p.35)

He also said:

- *"Fatima is part of me; he who angers her angers me."* (Sahih al-Bukhari, Khasaes An-Nisaae: p.35)

Also said:

- *"The best of your men is Ali Ibn Abu Talib, and the best of your women is Fatima Bint Muhammad."* (Tareekh Baghdad: v.4, p.392)

'Aisha is reported to have said:

- *"(I declare) by Allah that I have not seen anyone more beloved to Allah's Messenger than Ali, or a woman on earth more beloved to him than his wife (Ali's wife, Fatima)."* (Mustadrak al-Hakim: v.3, p.154, Khasaes An-Nisaae: p.29)

Burayda and Ubay were reported to have said:

- *"The most beloved to the Messenger of Allah from among women is Fatima, and from among men is Ali."* (Khasaes An-Nisaae: p.29, Mustadrak al-Hakim: v.3, p.115)

Juma ibn Umayr said:

- *"I entered 'Ali's house with my aunt, when I inquired as to who was the most beloved of all people to Allah's Messenger. She said: Fatima. Then she was asked: And from among men? She said: her husband; ever since I met him he has been fasting and praying."* (Jame' At-Tirmadhi: v.2, p.227, other collective books)

Love of the Prophet (S.A.A.W.) for Fatima (S.A.):

The Prophet loved Fatima not only because she was his daughter, but also because of her high spiritual status and her nearness to Allah (S.W.T.).

'Aisha bint Talha quoted 'Aisha bint Abu Bakr as saying:

- *"I have not seen anyone more similar to the Messenger in speech and dialogue than Fatima. Whenever she entered the house, he would greet her, kiss her hands and ask her to sit near him. Likewise, when he entered the house, she would greet him, kiss his hands ..."*

Khawarizmi wrote in his book Maqatal al-Hussain that Hudhayfa said:

- *"The Messenger of Allah used to kiss Fatima all over her face before he went to sleep."*

Ibn Umar said:

- *"Once the Prophet kissed Fatima's head and said: 'May your father be your sacrifice; stay as you are.'"*

According to Dhakhear al-Uqbi, 'Aisha said:

- *"Once the Messenger of Allah kissed Fatima's throat, so I said, 'Messenger of Allah! You have done something which you have not done before!' The Prophet answered, 'Aisha, whenever I long for Paradise, I kiss Fatima's throat.'"*

The Messenger of Allah (S.A.A.W.) said:

- *"The best of the women of Paradise are: Khadija Bint Khowailid, Fatima Bint Muhammad, Asiyah Bint Muzahim (Pharaoh's wife), and Mariam bint Imran mother of Jesus"*

He also said:

- *"The best of the women of the world are four: Maryam Bint Imran, Asia Bint Muzahim, Khadija Bint Khowailid, and Fatima Bint Muhammad."*

(These two narrations have been reported in Musnad Ahmad v.2, p.293)

Hakim Nishapouri reported in his book Mustadrak that the Prophet said to Fatima:

- *"Is it not satisfying to you to be the mistress of the women of the world, this Ummah, and the believing women?"*

The above presentation is but a small sample of traditions regarding the merits of Hadhrat Fatima Zahra (S.A.).

Allah (S.W.T.) has revealed verses of the Qur'an in praise of the family of the Prophet. Four historical quotes from the Qur'an are listed below:

- *“But whoever disputes with you in this matter after what has come to you of knowledge, then say: Come, let us call our sons and your sons, and our women and your women, and our near people (ourselves) and your near people (yourselves), then let us be earnest in prayer, and pray for the curse of Allah on the liars.”* (Chapter 3, v. 61)

In the ninth year of Hijra, a Christian delegation came to Prophet Muhammad seeking clarification about the status of Prophet Jesus. They refused to accept the Prophet’s position that Jesus was not the “Son of God.” Allah revealed the above verse. The Prophet took Fatima to represent all the believing women. He also took Ali, Hasan, and Husayn.

- *“Allah only desires to keep away the uncleanness from you, O people of the house, and to purify you a (thorough) purification.”* (Chapter 33, v. 33)

The circumstances of the revelation of this verse are documented in the famous Hadith-e-Kisa referenced above. Briefly, the Prophet, Ali, Fatima, Hasan, and Husayn (peace be upon them) were assembled under the prophet’s blanket in the house of Fatima. Allah sent Angel Gabriel with this verse, testifying to the purity of these exalted personalities.

- *“Say: I do not ask of you any reward for it (my toils), but love for (my) near relatives ...”* (Chapter 42, v. 23)

It has been agreed by all schools of Islam that the individuals referred to here as “relatives” or kin (*Qurbaa* in Arabic), were none other than Fatima, Ali, Hasan, and Husayn (peace be upon them). Showing love and affection to these individuals is commanded by Allah.

- *“And they give food out of love for Him, to the poor and the orphan and the captive.”* (Chapter 76, v. 8)

Chapter 76 of the Qur’an was revealed in praise of Fatima, Ali, Hasan, and Husayn. They had made a vow to fast for three days in a row. At iftaar time, each evening a needy person knocked at their door asking for food. They gave away what little food they had for themselves to the needy and broke the fast with water only. They endured three days of hunger for the sake of Allah. Allah was so pleased with them that the entire Chapter 76 was revealed to honor them.

(The End)

References:

1. Fatima the Gracious, by Abu Muhammad Ordoni (Ansaryan Publications). This may be viewed on www.al-islam.org
2. The Qur’an. Translation by M.H. Shakir
3. Know your Islam, by Yousuf N. Laljee
4. Sahih Al-Bukhari
5. Sahih Muslim