

THE **F1RST**S

A Lecture Series

YAQREEN™
INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC RESEARCH

Zaynab Al-Kubra

Zaynab Bint Muhammad (ﷺ): The First Daughter (ra)

- The Prophet had her when he was 30 and loved her intensely.
- She was 10 when the Prophet ﷺ received revelation and just married.
- The oldest in the house, helper of her mother, and mentor to her sisters
- When she got married, Khadijah gave her a beautiful necklace.
- She married Abu al-Aas Ibn Al Rabee'a

Abu al-Aas was the son of Al Rabee'a Ibn Abdil 'uzza and Hala bint Khuwaylid (the famous sister of Khadijah who would be called by "Allahuma Hala")

He refused to become Muslim, and also refused to divorce Zaynab. The Prophet ﷺ commended him for his nobility in resisting pressure. Abu Lahab made his 2 sons divorce Ruqayya and Umm Kulthum.

Abu al-Aas was not a political type; he was a merchant who used to go to Al Sham frequently and averse to the conflicts. He didn't want his tribe to say he left the religion of his forefathers for his wife, but knew that the Prophet ﷺ was special.

She had children from him (Ali and Umama). Ali died early and that brought the Prophet grief. Umama lived longer than her mother.

Hijra to Madina

Zaynab (ra) stayed back in Makkah and was separated from her father ﷺ.

Abu al-Aas fought on the day of Badr. He was captured by Abdullah Ibn Jubay. *A7sinu ilal asraa*. Zaynab was there at Badr and this was the first time she saw her husband since separation.

The in-laws blamed Zaynab and people in Makkah said this is because of your father. So she took the most precious thing in the world to her and sent it to the Prophet ﷺ.

When the Prophet ﷺ saw it, he cried for a while and the sahaba didn't know why. He then said "if you will, free her prisoner and return her necklace."

GEM:

The Prophet ﷺ gave her the necklace even though she only wanted her husband.

The Prophet ﷺ this time though asked for his daughter as Allah had ordered them separated since Abu al-Aas refused to join the Muslims.

There was a skirmish of sorts at the departure of Zaynab that caused a miscarriage according to some narrations.

She waited in Madinah for 6 years and refused to remarry. Umamah grew up in the shade of the Prophet ﷺ. So Zainab took her son and daughter and traveled to Madinah, and for 6 years she refused to remarry, hoping that one day Abu al-Aas would come. After 6 years, he was traveling in a caravan from Makkah to Syria. During the journey, he was intercepted by some of the Prophet's companions. He escaped and asked for Zainab's home under the leadership of Zaid Ibn Al Haritha and brought back to Madinah. He went to the home of Zaynab shortly before the dawn prayer. She opened the door and asked him "Did you become a Muslim?" He whispered "No, I come as a fugitive".

After the Prophet ﷺ prayed the Fajr prayer in congregation with the people, they heard a voice from the back of the Masjid, "I have freed Abu al-Aas". Zainab had granted his freedom. The Prophet ﷺ asked, "Have you heard what I heard?" They all said, "Yes, Messenger of Allah". The Prophet ﷺ stood up and said, "By the One in whose hand is the soul of Muhammad, I had no idea about this before hearing just like you just heard." The Prophet ﷺ then sought shura on freeing him and returning his money.

So the Prophet ﷺ said to Zainab, "We have freed the one you have freed, O Zainab." Then he went to her and told her, "...but do not let him touch you for he is prohibited for you as long as he is a mushrik." She agreed.

Abu al-Aas then took the money and returned to Makkah, returning all that he owed. Once he returned he stood up and announced, "O people, here is your money. Is there anything left?" They replied, "No, Abu al-Aas, there is nothing left." So Abu al-Aas said, "I testify that there is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is His Messenger."

Then he went back to Madinah and ran to the Prophet ﷺ as he said, "Dear Prophet, you freed me before, and today I say that I testify there is no God but Allah and you are His Messenger."

He asked the Prophet ﷺ, "Will you give me the permission to go back to Zaynab?" The Prophet agreed and took him to Zaynab and she readily agreed. There is a difference of opinion on whether it was a new nikah or not. The stronger opinion being that the first nikah was valid with his Islam. This was muharram 7th year after Hijra.

Her Death

The sad thing was, a year after this incident, Zainab died. Abu al-Aas shed tears because of her death and drove those who were around him to tears. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ came with eyes full of tears and a heart full of sorrow.

Zaynab's death reminded him of the death of his wife, Khadijah. He told the women, Umm Ayman, Sawda, And Umm Salama, who gathered around Zainab's corpse:

'Wash her with water and lotus leaves, and wash her an odd number of times, three, or five, or seven if you think (that is needed), and put some camphor in it the last time. And when you have finished, inform me.' When we finished, we finished, we informed him, and he threw his waist-wrap to us and said: 'Shroud her in it.' And we combed her hair and put it in three braids, and put it behind her.'

أَخْبَرَنَا عَمْرُو بْنُ عَلِيٍّ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا هِشَامٌ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا حَفْصَةُ، عَنْ أُمِّ عَطِيَّةَ، قَالَتْ مَاتَتْ إِحْدَى بَنَاتِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَأَرْسَلَ إِلَيْنَا فَقَالَ " اغْسِلْنَهَا بِمَاءٍ وَبُسْدُرٍ وَاغْسِلْنَهَا وَثَرًا ثَلَاثًا أَوْ خَمْسًا أَوْ سَبْعًا إِنْ رَأَيْتُنَّ ذَلِكَ وَاجْعَلْنَ فِي الْأَخِرَةِ شَيْئًا مِنْ كَافُورٍ فَإِذَا فَرَعْتُنَّ فَأَذِنِّي " . فَلَمَّا فَرَعْنَا أَذْنَاهُ فَأَلْفَى إِلَيْنَا حَقْوَهُ وَقَالَ " أَشْعِرْنَهَا إِيَّاهُ " . وَمَشَطْنَاهَا ثَلَاثَةَ قُرُونٍ وَأَلْقَيْنَاهَا مِنْ خَلْفِهَا .

Grade: Sahih (Darussalam)
Reference: Sunan an-Nasa'i 1885

He performed funeral prayers on her and followed her final resting place. Abu al-Aas returned to his children, Ali and Umama. Kissing them and wetting them with his tears, he remembered the face of his departed darling.

Abu al-Aas would cry so profusely that the people saw the Prophet (ﷺ) himself weeping and calming him down. Abu al-Aas would author poetic lines about his sadness, and he then died one year after Zainab's death..

Disclaimer: Notes for The Firsts are brought to you by dedicated students for your personal reference. Please refer to the original lecture for source material.