

ذَلِكَ الَّذِي يُبَشِّرُ اللَّهَ عِبَادَهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ قُلْ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا إِلَّا الْمَوَدَّةَ فِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَمَن يَقْتَرِفْ حَسَنَةً نَّزِدْ لَهُ فِيهَا حُسْنًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ . (42:23) "No reward do I ask of you for this except the love of those near of kin."

Fatima^{asws}, daughter of His Prophet^{saww}, his^{saww} heart and soul, his^{saww} peace of mind, his^{saww} heart's beat, and a Radiant Curtain which Lord^{azwj} created from His^{azwj} Light, a rare precious particularised masterpiece for His successor companionship, pride of Mustafa^{saww}, soul and esteem of Murtaza^{asws}, chief of the women of Paradise, paraclete of the "most excellent, supporter of the chaste, and the devotees of Allah^{azwj}, vision of the kingdom to come."

SYEDA HAZRAT FATIMA AZ-ZAHRA^{ASWS}

Allah^{azwj} Says in Hadees-e-Qudsi:

"(I) would not have created the Heavens if I had not created you (Muhammed^{saww}) and if I had not created Ali^{asws} (I) would not have created you^{saww} and if I had not created Fatima^{asws} (I) would not have created both of you (Muhammed^{saww} and Ali^{asws})."¹

It is narrated from Imam Hasan Askari^{asws}:

"When Allah^{azwj} created Adam and Eve, they strutted through paradise and said: 'Who are better than us?' At that moment they noticed an image of an innocent girl, who they had never seen before; from this little girl came an illuminating light so bright that it almost blinded their eyes. They said: 'O Lord, who is she?' Allah^{azwj} answered: This is an Image of Syeda Fatima^{asws}, the chief of righteous women among your descendants."²

Thus, the auspicious day was the 20th of Jamadi al-Sani in Mecca, when the only daughter of holy Prophet Muhammed^{saww} and Hazrat Khadija^{asws} was sent down to this world. Allah^{azwj} asked His Prophet^{saww} to name his daughter 'Fatima' and awarded 'heavenly gift' with many titles, i.e., "Leader of the pious ladies of the Worlds." And showed the elevated status of His Prophet's daughter to masses through revelation of many Verses of the Holy Quran.³

Imam Jaffer-e-Sadiq^{asws} said:

"Hazrat Fatima^{asws} was given nine names by Allah^{azwj}, they are: **Fatima**, **Siddiqah** (the honest), **Al Mubarakah** (the blessed one), **AlTahirah** (virtuous), **Al Zakiyah** (the chaste), **Al Radhiatul Mardhiyah** (she who is gratified and who shall be content), **Al Muhaddathah** (a person, other than a Prophet^{as}, that the angels speak to), and **Al Zahra** (the splendid)."

The Holy Prophet, her Father^{saww}, remained thankful to Allah^{azwj} for the Divine gift and showed enormous affection and love to Syeda^{asws} throughout his^{saww} life. Whenever she^{asws} would visit Her Father's house, Holy Prophet^{saww} would stand up, out of respect and move forward to greet her and would honour Syeda^{asws} by making her^{asws} sit where Prophet^{saww} himself was sitting. Very often Her Father^{saww} would softly kiss her hands and say:

"O Allah^{azwj}, The Most High; Fatima is an integral part of me, be pleased with the ones who are adored by Fatima^{asws} and admonish those who infuriate Fatima^{asws}!"

Among the reports asserting her excellence and high distinction over all other women is the tradition reported on the authority of one of Prophet^{asws}'s wives⁴ who said: "I never saw a man more beloved of the Apostle of Allah^{azwj} other than 'Ali^{asws}, or a woman dearer to him other than Fatima^{asws}."

No one except, Amir-ul-Momaneen^{asws}, among the past and the future generations, was created by Allah^{asws} for the 'Kuff'⁵ of Syeda^{asws}. This was revealed to the Muslims of Medina by sending a heavenly star to the door-steps of Ali^{asws}, it fell down to kiss the foot-stone of the house of the 'Prince of Faithfuls', after attracting the attention of many others, by encircling the houses of all Inhabitants of Medina.

Aqd (marriage) of Hazrat Ali^{asws} with Bibi Fatima^{asws} took place on Arsh (heavens) forty days prior to the marriage ceremony which took place on the earth. Hazrat Gabriel^{as} narrated the story of the Aqd of Syeda^{asws}, which was recited on Arsh. Allah^{azwj} arranged for their^{asws} Nikah in such a manner that He^{azwj} addressed the dwellers of Jannah to dress themselves with ornaments of 'Jannah'⁶ and then ordered all the angels to assemble together on the 4th sky. Allah^{azwj} then filled the 4th sky with Noor (Divine Light) and then appointed Hazrat Adam^{as} to recite sermon to begin the Nikah ceremony. After the sermon of Hazrat Adam^{as}, Allah^{azwj} ordered an angel named Raheel to recite the Hamd (Verses in praise). Raheel is the most beautiful of angels and possesses the most beautiful voice. After recitation of Hamd, Allah^{azwj} informed me (Gabriel^{as}) that He^{azwj} has performed the Nikah of Hazrat Fatima^{asws} with His^{azwj}

¹ Hadees-e-Qudsi

² Lisan Al Mizan Volume 3 page 346

³ Ait fil Qurba,

⁴ A'ishah^{LA} (Who always showed animosity and grudge against Ahlul Bait^{asws}, particularly Amir-ul-Momaneen^{asws}).

⁵ Compatible

⁶ Paradise

"Bless, the Batool^{asws}, the pure, the infallible truthful, God fearing, holy, submissive, content, wise, upright, unjustly treated, oppressed, prevented from getting her rights, her house was set on fire, her ribs were broken, her husband was ill-treated and martyred, her children were slain and poisoned."

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chosen 'One' Imam Ali^{asws}. And I^{as} was asked to spread this news among the angels. I acted accordingly and made all the angels testify the event.

Such was the importance of this marriage that Allah^{azwj} arranged the ceremony in the heavens and then Himself^{azwj} decided and recited the Nikah of Imam al-Muttaqeen, Amir-ul-momineen Ali ibn-e-Abi Talib^{asws} with the leader of the women of this world and in heavens, Hazrat Fatima^{asws}. Imam Jafir-e-Sadiq^{asws} narrated;

"Allah^{azwj} has announced one fourth of this world as mehr⁷ for Syeda Fatima^{asws}. In addition, Heaven and Hell is also included in Syeda^{asws} mehr. Thus, the heaven is for her^{asws} faithfuls and hell is the abode of her^{asws} foes."

Hazrat Fatima^{asws} is also called Umm ul Aimmah, as 11 Divine Imams are from Syeda^{asws}'s progeny. Her first son Imam Hassan^{asws} came to this world in 3rd year of Hijrah⁸. On zahoor of Imam Hassan^{asws}, Prophet Muhammed^{saww} happily and joyfully visited Bibi Fatima's^{asws} house and took Imam Hassan^{asws} into his lap and recited Azan and Aqamat in Imam Hassan^{asws}'s ears. One year later, Allah^{azwj} blessed the holy family with Imam Hussain^{asws}. Prophet^{saww} after having the two grandsons, who would be the leaders of the youth in Paradise, got over the loss of his own sons, Qasim^{as} and Ibrahim^{as}, who had died in their childhood, and thus God had decided that the Progeny of the Prophet^{saww}, would persist and survive through his only daughter's lineage.

One year after the zahoor of Imam Hussain^{asws}, zahoor of Bibi Zainab^{asws} and after another year zahoor of Bibi Umme Kulsum^{asws} occurred. Prophet Muhammed^{saww} loved his grandchildren to such an extent that he^{saww} would never like to get separated from them. Whenever he^{saww} went out of the house, Prophet^{saww} would always carry one of them on his^{saww} shoulders. It was in Hazrat Fatima^{asws}'s house that the famous Verse of Purification (33:33) was revealed, afterwards Prophet^{asws} would regularly stand at the front door of Syeda Fatima^{asws} and recite this Verse, a tradition which has become so famous that it is read in every faithful's house, as Hadith-e-Kisa. It was the same house where every morning Holy Prophet^{saww} stood outside and said loudly "Assalamo Alaikum Ya Ahlebaitin Nubuwwah" (Peace and blessings on the people of the Household of the Nabi). These acts of the Prophet^{saww} were to show his^{saww} companions that this house and its occupants have been bestowed by Allah^{azwj} a special position and prominence and that this status should be remembered and honoured by the masses during and after the lifetime of the Prophet^{saww}.

During 6th year of Hijrah Holy Prophet^{saww} won the battle of Khyber and after the victory stayed in Khyber for three days on the insistence of people of Khyber. On the way back to Medina, a locality approximately 140 kilometres from Medina, which today is called as 'Haaet or Huwait', its inhabitants, mostly Jews came out to greet the Apostle of Allah^{saww} and offered a historical and sacred garden 'Fadak' to Prophet, as a gift. Fadak was specifically grown by the descendants of Prophet Moses^{as}, to be offered to the last Prophet^{saww}, when their grandchildren would greet him^{saww}. As per some other historian, 'Fadak' was offered by the Jews as compensation to avoid war against them and to be given protection and refuge. Islamic law decreed that the Muslims had no share in it and was an exclusive possession of the Holy Prophet^{saww}. Later on Angel Gabriel^{as} came to Holy Prophet^{saww} and passed on the following message from Allah^{azwj}.

"Give the kinsman his due" (17 : 26)

In traditions of Masomeen^{asws} it is mentioned that when this Verse was revealed the Holy Prophet^{saww} asked the Angel Gabriel:

"Who are the kinsmen and what is their due? The Angel replied: Give Fadak⁹ to Fatima^{asws} for it is her due, and whatever is due to Allah^{azwj} and the Prophet^{saww} out of Fadak; that also belongs to her, so entrust it to her also."¹⁰

Thereupon the Holy Prophet^{saww} called Syeda Fatima^{asws} and wrote the deed of gift, giving Fadak to her^{asws}. However, sadly after demise of Holy Prophet Muslims oppressed Hazrat Fatima^{asws}'s rights and usurped Fadak. It was carried out under the leadership of Abu Baker^{la} who became the first caliph of Muslims by conspiracy and issued orders to take away Fadak as well as other seven gardens from Ahlubait^{asws} by ascribing a false tradition to Prophet Mohammed^{saww}. Hazrat Ali^{asws} and Syeda Fatima^{asws}, however, exercised their religious responsibility and protested against their unjust decision. This was, basically to unmask the oppressors so that the argument is completed for the Muslims of that time as well as to come until the Doom's day. Lest anybody claims on the day of

⁷ Dowry

⁸ Islamic Year, which starts from Hijrah (migration from Mecca to Madina)

⁹ **Fadak** was a city, which was situated thirty miles from Medina There were wells of water and trees of dates in it. This city was named Fadak, while Ham, the son of Noah, first came to this place and put the foundation of the city.

¹⁰ **Tafseer Durr e Mansoor** (Volume 4 page 177)

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judgement, we were unaware of the governmental oppression and injustices. Therefore, we accepted them as our rulers; otherwise we would have never done so.

Thus, Hazrat Fatima^{asws} accompanied by her husband and sons (Imam Ali^{asws} and Imam Hassan^{asws} and Hussain^{asws}) would go to the inhabitants of Madina and remind them of Holy Prophet's^{saww} sayings regarding the right of Ahlul Bait^{asws}, in particular to their oath of allegiance to Hazrat Ali^{asws} at the place of 'Khum' to be their Master and successor after Prophet^{saww}. However, people used to reassure Hazrat Ali^{asws} and Syeda^{asws} for their help but would never come out of their houses in pursuit of resurrecting the religion of Allah^{azwj} which was tarnished by the ignorant and incapable caliph and his allies^{la}.

Syeda^{asws} Fatima Az-Zahra^{asws} exhausted all possible avenues in her pursuit to reclaim her usurped inheritance 'the Fadak', given to her by her Father the Holy Prophet Mohammad Al-Mustafa^{asws}. But sadly her pleas fell on deaf ears. For this reason and on the grounds of proving that she has been oppressed by those, who professed righteousness under false pretences of faith and piety. As a very last resort the holy Lady Fatimah Al-Zahra^{asws} went to her Father's Mosque, to face her adversaries and delivered to them the most eloquent of words in her defence, which left the assembly speechless. She chose to proceed to the Mosque at a time when it was crammed with people, in order that her words reached the ears of all the people, who were somewhat accessories of the fact due to their silent approval of the events that occurred after the Holy Prophet's demise. She addressed the assembly in a speech that;

"O People! Be informed that I am Fatima^{asws}, and my father is Muhammad^{asws} I say that repeatedly and initiate it continually; I say not what I say mistakenly, nor do aimlessly. I seek My Allah's willingness and gratification in everything I do-----.

O Muslims! Will my inheritance be usurped? **O son of Abu Quhafa^{la}! Where is it in the Book of Allah^{azwj} that you inherit your father and I do not inherit mine?** Surely you have come up with an unprecedented thing. Do you intentionally abandon the Book of Allah^{azwj} and cast it behind your back? Do you not read where it says: And Suleman inherited Dawood"? And when it narrates the story of Zakariya and says: 'So give me an heir as from thyself One that will inherit me, and inherit the posterity of Al-Yaqoob"

The following lines of poetry show her ordeal after the death of her holy father very clearly.

"After the death of my father my sufferings were so dreadful that if such hardships fell upon days, the days would turn into dark nights."

However, atrocities on Bibi Fatima^{asws} did not end until her *shahadat*. One day Omar bin khatab^{la} arrived at door of Syeda Fatima^{asws}'s house and challenged Hazrat Ali^{asws} to pledge an oath of allegiance to Abu Baker^{la} or otherwise he^{la} will burn down the house. On refusal, he^{la} collected pieces of dry wood at Syeda^{asws}'s door-steps and ignited fire which burnt down the door latches then he knocked down the burning door and crushed Syeda^{asws} between the wall and the burning door of her own house, this resulted in severely injuring Syeda^{asws} and martyring her^{asws} son, Hazrat Mohsin^{asws}. They then, without any sense of guilt, rushed ahead to arrest Amir-ul-Momaneen^{asws} in order to make another unsuccessful effort of forcing him^{asws} to pledge support of allegiance to their illegitimate and un-Islamic caliph.

Imam Ali^{asws} then said to Umar^{la} & his followers^{la};

"Your evil-commanding selves abstained from the everlasting Hereafter, and our selves craved after what you abstained from. And the appointment is near, and the Lord^{azwj} is the best judge; so prepare your answers for the questioning, and prepare your accounts for your injustice towards us Ahl al-Bayt^{asws}. Has not Zahraa^{asws} been hurt in suppression?! Our rights are not forcefully usurped?! And there is no supporter and no defender, and no helper and no rescuer? I wish the son of Abu Talib^{asws} had left for heavens (like Prophet Mohammed^{asws}) before today, so he would not see the evil-doer infidels rallied for doing injustice to the Pure, the Pious (Fatima^{asws}).

So there will be destruction! Destruction! And ruination! Ruination!

This is something that returns to Allah^{azwj}, and is taken to the Prophet^{saww}. It has surely been excruciating for the son of Abu Talib^{asws} [to see] the blackening of Fatima's^{asws} hand by the lashing. His^{asws} [brave] position has been known and his^{asws} [victorious] days have been seen, but he^{asws} did not leapt out to protect his^{asws} honour and did not firmly stand in front of his spouse; as patience was more suitable and appropriate, and instead accepted what Allah^{azwj} has destined and adopted the best, so that the truth does not lose its gravity, and the falsehood does not emerge from its den; until I^{asws} meet with my Lord^{azwj}, when I shall complain to Him^{azwj} what you have deliberately committed!"

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After this incident the people of medina tuned against Omar^{la}. Therefore, after their failed attempt, they tried to ask for forgiveness from Hazrat Fatima^{asws} and one day both Abu Baker^{la} and Omar^{la} came to Bibi Fatima^{asws}'s house to offer apologies, at this instance Bibi^{asws} addressed both of them and made Allah^{azwj} and his angels witness;

"You people have oppressed me and carried out atrocities and I am displeased with you. I will complain to Allah's^{azwj} messenger when I meet him and will imprecate you after each and every salaah."

Syeda Fatima^{asws} lived for only 70 or 90 days after the Shahadat of Her Father^{saww} and according to traditions from our Imams^{asws} no one saw her smile during that period. Thus, sadly Bibi Fatima^{asws} left this mortal World on 3rd Jamadi-ul-Thani in Medina at the age of 18 years (due to unsustainable injuries inflicted by being crushed behind the burning door). Syeda^{asws} left Her will with Imam Ali^{asws} and requested Amir-ul-Momaneen^{asws} to bury her after dark using the coffin, which was specifically designed by the Syeda^{asws} and only close relations were to be allowed in her^{asws} funeral. People who oppressed Syeda^{asws} should not be invited to attend the funeral. Also it was in the will: 'Ya Ali^{asws} get married to my namesake after my Shahadat and give her first son the name 'Al-Abbass^{asws}' and offer my salam to her."

Imam Ali^{asws} constituted forty graves in Janat-ul-Baqi¹¹ in order to obscure the grave of Syeda^{asws} from Muslims (who deserted Islam), and when Amir-ul-Momaneen^{asws} was lowering Bibi^{asws}'s coffin into grave, two arms (of her father^{saww}) appeared from underneath to greet the martyred Syeda^{asws}, to console her, wipe her tears, treat her untreatable wounds.....

The following morning the Abu Bakr^{la}, Umar^{la} and their followers^{la} approached Janatul Baqi to search for the Holy grave of Syeda Fatima^{asws}. Hazrat Ali^{asws} Said;

" O Son of the Sawada! I have abandoned my right to prevent people from forsaking their faith, but as regards Fatima's^{asws} grave, by Him^{azwj} who possesses my soul, if you or your followers ever attempt to touch a grain of sand with the intention of redoing the coffin proceedings¹², I will fill the ground and the streets of Medina with your blood!!"

And thus the accursed ones^{la} retreated.

¹¹ **Janat-ul-Baqi** is a graveyard in Madina near the shrine of Holy Prophet Hazrat Mohammad^{saww}. There were many shrines of holy personalities but Wednesday, in the year 1345 AH (April 21, 1925), mausoleums in Jannatul al-Baqi (Madina) were demolished by King Ibn Saud. In the same year (1925), he also demolished the tombs of holy personages at Jannat al-Mualla (Makkah) where the Holy Prophet (s)'s mother^{asws}, wife^{asws}, grandfather^{asws} and other ancestors are buried.

¹² A political motive, to hold a state funeral so that people would get to see that they were finally forgiven by martyred Syed^{asws}.
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