

# MIFTAAH SEMINAR

## FAMILIES AROUND THE PROPHET SAW



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### The Family of Abu Sufyan

- **Abu Sufyan ibn Harb**

- Despite not being related to the Prophet SAW, Abu Sufyan's family plays a big role in the history of Islam.
- He is known as Abu Sufyan, but his real name is Sakhr ibn Harb ibn Umayya.
- He is from the Banu Umayya tribe, which is one of the biggest tribes of Quraysh.
- As a staunch enemy of the Prophet SAW, Abu Sufyan accepted the religion late. It was not an easy move for Abu Sufyan to convert after the conquest of Makkah.
- When Abu Sufyan found the Muslim armies kilometers away from Makkah he was terrified. He sought the help of his friend who embraced Islam, al-Abbas ibn Abdul Muttalib, the prophet's uncle, for a way out.
- Abdullah ibn al-Abbas relays this incident on the authority of his father over what happened between the Prophet SAW and Abu Sufyan.
- Al-Abbas addressed Abu Sufyan: By Allah! If the Prophet caught you, he will behead you.

- Abu Sufyan rode behind al-Abbas who said: Whenever we passed by a fire lighted by Muslims, they ask: Who are you? When they see the mule of the Prophet and his uncle, namely al-Abbas riding it, they say: this is the mule of the Prophet and the Prophet's uncle mounting it.
- When it happened to pass by Umar ibn Al-Khattab, he stood and proceeded to us saying: Who are you? When Umar saw Abu Sufyan on the back of the mule, he addressed Abu Sufyan: O! Is it you the enemy of Allah! Praise be to Allah who gave us the authority to you.
- al-Abbas said: Umar hastened to the Prophet Muhammad and entered to him and I ran by the mule until I was a head of him inasmuch as the slow animal preceded the slow man.
- I dismounted the mule and entered to the Prophet and Umar did the same who said: This is the enemy of Allah, referring to Abu Sufyan that Allah gave us power to him while he is not in peace covenant so that let me behead him.
- Upon that, al-Abbas said: O Allah's Apostle! I have granted asylum to him and approached near to the Prophet intending to address the Prophet on the part of Abu Sufyan more than Umar.
- But Umar made a lot of speech to the prophet Muhammad concerning Abu Sufyan, by then, I addressed Umar: Take it easy Umar. By Allah! If Abu Sufyan were to belong to Bani Adi, you would never have acted in this manner.
- At that time, Umar said: O al-Abbas! Do not say this. By Allah! Your conversion to Islam is dearer to my heart than my father's, because I knew that your conversion to Islam is dearer to the Prophet's heart than that of my father.

- Thereupon, the Prophet addressed al-Abbas: Take him to the tent and bring him to me in the morning.
- Al-Abbas said: I took Abu Sufyan to my tent wherein he spent the night. In the morning, I took him to the Prophet. Upon that, the Prophet addressed him: O Abu Sufyan! Woe to you! Has not it become duly to you to know that no God but Allah, Almighty?
- Abu Sufyan replied: O Allah's Apostle! Let my father and mother be scarified to you! How patient, noble, forgiving and dutiful and merciful toward his kinship! No, I am sure that if there is no other God other than Him, he would have benefited me.
- At that moment, al-Abbas said: Woe be to you! Embrace Islam and testify that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah before beheaded.
- al-Abbas said: Upon that, Abu Sufyan testified that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.
- al-Abbas said to the prophet: O Messenger of Allah! Abu Sufyan is a man fond of pride, so you may make a special mention of him.
- Therefore, upon entering Makkah, the Prophet said: Whoever enters the house of Abu Sufyan is safe. Who locks his door behind him is safe.
- **Hind bint Utbah**
  - She was the wife of Abu Sufyan and her stepdaughter is Ramlah bint Abu Sufyan, or known as Umm Habiba.
  - Hind was known for her enmity towards Islam, and she was always fueled with passion to bring the Prophet SAW down.

- Her most infamous act was commanding her slave Wahshi to hunt down Hamza ibn Abdul Muttalib in the Battle of Uhud in retaliation for the death of her father and brothers, and chewing Hamza's liver before spitting it out on the battlefield.
- After the conquest of Makkah and Abu Sufyan's acceptance of Islam, Hind came to the Prophet SAW to accept Islam, with full of remorse for what she had done to the Prophet's uncle.
- To hide her shame, she veiled her face so that the Prophet SAW would not recognize her. After testifying and taking her oath of allegiance, she removed her veil.
- The Prophet SAW did not insult her, turn her away, denigrate her, or reject her. He made no mention of what happened at the Battle of Uhud, and welcomed her into Islam.
- Hind said, "By Allah, there was no house on earth that I wanted to destroy more than your house. Now, there is no house on earth that I so dearly wish to honor and raise in glory than yours."
- In an authentic hadith, Hind bint Utbah complained to the Prophet SAW that her husband, Abu Sufyan, was stingy and did not give her enough money to look after the family. She asked the Prophet SAW whether she could take some money from him without permission. The Prophet SAW told her: "Take what is sufficient for you and your child, in line with what is reasonable."
- **Ramlah bint Abu Sufyan**
  - She is known by her kunya Umm Habiba.
  - Her father is Abu Sufyan, and her mother is Safiyyah bint Abi al-'Aas.
  - Her husband is Ubaydullah ibn Jahsh. They had two children, Habibah and Abdullah.

- She accepts Islam in the early days in Makkah with her husband. Around the fifth year, they emigrated to Abyssinia (Ethiopia). Their daughter Habibah was born in Abyssinia.
- She endured a lot of pain of being away from Makkah, and faced the difficulty of life in a foreign land with poverty. Her husband renounces his faith and after his demise she was left alone.
  - Ramlah had an upsetting dream while in Ethiopia. She said: “I saw my husband in the worst figure in my dream and I was frightened. When I woke up in the morning I found out that he had become a Christian.”
  - Ubaydullah tried to persuade Ramlah to convert, but she held on to Islam. His conversion led to their separation.
- Her father, Abu Sufyan, tried with all the power and force at his disposal to bring back his daughter. He sent a delegation to Al-Najashi (the king of Ethiopia), asking him to expel the Muslims there.
  - Amr ibn al-As was the head of the delegation that brought many precious gifts and presented their claims before the king, but was unfruitful in convincing him.
  - Najashi instead invited the Muslims at the court and asked their leader Ja’far ibn Abi Talib about Islam, which left the king impress.
  - He asked Ja’far: “Do you have with you something of what your Prophet brought from God? Please read to me”. Ja’far recited for him a portion of Surah Maryam from Verses 19 to 32. Najashi wept until his beard was drenched just listening to the Quran.
- The tables turned for Ramlah when the Prophet SAW heard about the news of the migrants to Ethiopia, he was told of the apostasy of Ubaydullah and the hardships faced by her.

- The Prophet SAW sent Amr ibn Umayyah to Najashi with the message that if Ramlah liked she could marry him.
- Najashi sent the proposal through a servant girl and Ramlah ecstatically accepted. The king hosted a dinner in celebration of the marriage, read the khutba and performed the nikah with a dower of four hundred dinars, which he paid to Khalid ibn Sa'id, the appointed guardian of Ramlah.
- In his khutbah, Najashi read:
  - "God be praised – the King, the Holy, the Source of Peace, the Guardian of faith, the Protector, the Mighty, the Compeller.
  - "I bear witness that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His servant and messenger. He is the one whose coming was prophesied by Jesus, son of Mary.
  - "The Messenger of Allah wrote to me asking that I give Umm Habiba, daughter of Abu Sufyan, in marriage to him; I hereby comply with the Prophet's wish and give 400 dirhams for her dowry."
- Ramlah arrives at the prophet's house in Medina with her children. Her children were raised in his household.
- An interesting incident which shows her act of faith and the respect she had for the Prophet SAW:
  - Once, when her father, Abu Sufyan visited her and went on to sit on the same mattress the Prophet SAW used to sit on, she folded it up immediately and stated that the enemy of the Prophet SAW could not sit on the same place as her husband.
  - It was only due to the fact that she could not bear to see the sight of a great enemy of Islam who had hurt the Prophet SAW for so long share the same place reserved for him.



- Also, she was aware that the level of pureness and cleanliness Islam prescribed for a believer and maintained by the Prophet SAW would not be retained by her father.
- A verse was revealed in the Quran:

لَا تَجِدُ قَوْمًا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ يُوَادُّونَ مَنْ حَادَّ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَوْ كَانُوا آبَاءَهُمْ أَوْ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ أَوْ إِخْوَانَهُمْ أَوْ عَشِيرَتَهُمْ أُولَئِكَ كَتَبَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الْإِيمَانَ وَأَيَّدَهُمْ بِرُوحٍ مِّنْهُ وَيُدْخِلُهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ أُولَئِكَ حِزْبُ اللَّهِ أَلَا إِنَّ حِزْبَ اللَّهِ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

You will not find a people who believe in Allah and the Last Day having affection for those who oppose Allah and His Messenger, even if they were their fathers or their sons or their brothers or their kindred. Those - He has decreed within their hearts faith and supported them with spirit from Him. And We will admit them to gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they abide eternally. Allah is pleased with them, and they are pleased with Him - those are the party of Allah. Unquestionably, the party of Allah - they are the successful. (58:22)

- She was also known for her piety as she remained steadfast and never missed the twelve rak'ah prayer. It was narrated that Umm Habibah said the Prophet SAW said:

أَخْبَرَنَا زَكَرِيَّا بْنُ يَحْيَى، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا إِسْحَاقُ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا النَّضْرُ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا حَمَّادُ بْنُ سَلَمَةَ، عَنْ عَاصِمِ بْنِ أَبِي صَالِحٍ، عَنْ أُمِّ حَبِيبَةَ، قَالَتْ مَنْ صَلَّى فِي يَوْمٍ اثْنَتَيْ عَشْرَةَ رَكْعَةً بَنِي لَهُ بَيْتٌ فِي الْجَنَّةِ .

"Whoever prays twelve rak'ahs in a day, a house will be built for him in Paradise." (Sunan an-Nasa'i 1804)

- She lived a long life till 44 years after Hijrah and lived on to see the reign of her brother, Mua'wiya.
- She died in Medina and was buried in the Jannat al-Baqi cemetery next to other wives of the Prophet SAW.'

- **Mu'awiya ibn Abu Sufyan**
  - Mu'awiya was a relatively late follower of Islam after the conquest of Makkah.
  - He was the first Caliph of the Umayyad Dynasty and served until his death.
  - He was appointed governor of Damascus by the caliph Umar and gradually gained mastery over other areas of Syria.

## **The Story of Umm Salama and Abu Salma**

- Umm Salama and her husband Abu Salama were among the first who converted to Islam.
- Despite persecution from the Quraysh, Umm Salama and Abu Salama continued their devotion to Islam.
- She was abandoned when her in-laws took her only child and her husband could not migrate to Medina with her.
- Umm Salama narrated her story saying:
  - "When Abu Salama decided to set out for Medina, he prepared his camel to carry me and his son on it. He was leading the camel to Medina when we were seen by men of my tribe, Banu Makhzum, they obstructed us.
  - They said, "We could not control you, Abu Salama? What about your wife? Why did we let you wander with her in the land? Then, they pulled the camel's rein from his hand and took me back.
  - Accordingly, enraged by anger, Banu Abdel Asad took my son and said to my husband's family, "By Allah we would not leave our son in her custody after you had taken him from our kin."



- From the day that my husband and my son were parted from me, I went out at noon every day and sat at the spot where this tragedy had occurred. I would remember those terrifying moments and weep until nightfall.
- "I continued like this for a year or so until one day a man from the Banu Umayya passed by and saw my condition. He went to my tribe and said, 'Why don't you free this woman? You have caused both her husband and her son to be taken away from her.' He went on like this, trying to soften their hearts and appeal to their emotions, until at last they said to me, 'Go and join your husband if you wish.'
- But how could I join my husband in Medina, and leave my son, part of my own flesh and blood, in Makkah among the Banu Abdul Asad? How could I remain free from anguish, and my eyes free from tears, if I were to reach the place of hijrah not knowing anything of my little son left behind in Makkah?
- "Some people realized what I was going through and their hearts went out to me. They approached Banu Abdul Asad on my behalf and persuaded them to return my son. I had no desire to remain in Mecca until I could find someone to travel with me, for I was afraid that something might happen that would delay me or stop me from reaching my husband."
- So I immediately prepared my camel, placed my son on my lap, and set out in the direction of Medina. I just had just reached Tan'im (3 miles from Makkah) when I met Uthman ibn Talha (He as in charge of looking after the Ka'ba, but did not embrace Islam until the Conquest of Makkah). "Where are you going, Bint Zad ar Rakib?" he asked. 'I am going to my husband in Medina.' 'And isn't there anyone going with you?' 'No, by Allah, except Allah and my little boy here.' 'By Allah,' he vowed, 'I will not leave you until you reach Medina.'

- He then took the reins of my camel and led us on our way. By Allah, I have never met an Arab more generous and noble than he. Whenever we reached a resting-place, he would make my camel kneel down, wait until I had dismounted and then lead the camel to a tree and tether it. Then he would go and rest in the shade of a different tree to me. When we had rested, he would get the camel ready again and then lead us on our way. This he did every day until we reached Medina.
- When we reached a village near Qiba' (about two miles from Medina), belonging to the Banu Amr ibn Awf, he said, 'Your husband is in this village. Enter it with the blessings of Allah.' Then he turned around and headed back to Makkah."
- She devoted her life to her family in Medina until Abu Salama died after being severely wounded from the Battle of Uhud.
- After her mourning period, the Prophet SAW proposed to her and so they were married. From that day on, Umm Salama was not known as the mother of Salama, but also became the Mother of the Believers or Umm al Muminin.