

MIFTAAH SEMINAR

FAMILIES AROUND THE PROPHET SAW



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The Prophet's Immediate Family

- The Prophet SAW belonged to the Quraysh tribe and the Banu Hashim clan.
- The clan derives its name from Hashim ibn Abdul Manaf, the great grandfather of the Prophet SAW.
- His father was Abdullah ibn Abdul Muttalib, while Abdul Muttalib ibn Hashim was his grandfather.
- The House of Abdul Muttalib of Banu Hashim comprised nobility in pre-Islamic Mecca.

The Prophet's Children

- He had three sons and four daughters from Khadija bint Khuwaylid, his first wife, between the age of 30 to 40 years old.
- His first born was known as Abu Al-Qasim because he was the Prophet's first child. He was born before the Prophet's prophethood and died when he was two years old.
- His second child and eldest daughter is Zainab. She was followed by Ruqayya, Umm Kulthum and Fatimah.
- Fatimah was two years old, when the Prophet SAW received his revelation.
- His sixth child was a son named Abdullah, after his father. Like Qasim, Abdullah also died in infancy.

- He had another son named Ibrahim, who was born to a woman called Maria al-Qibtiyya.
- He had an adopted family. His adopted son was Zayd ibn Harithah and Ali ibn Abu Talib.
- There is no male descendant directly from the Prophet SAW. The closest that comes to the Prophet's son was Ali.
- The wisdom behind this is that normally a son inherits the religious status of his father. But Allah SWT wanted to keep the Prophet SAW, his legacy and his family so pure, that none of his sons lived beyond his life. All of his children died.
- The Shia believe Ali is his direct and rightful successor. This shows that even with him just being a cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet SAW, it creates rifts in communities. Hence, what more if the Prophet SAW had a direct descendant.

The Story of Zayd ibn Harithah

- Zayd ibn Harithah was a black servant that was brought into Makkah. He was purchased from the market for 400 dirhams by a man named Hakim ibn Huzam who happened to be the nephew of Khadija.
- When Khadija got married to the Prophet SAW, she gifted the Prophet SAW this boy as a slave. From that day onwards, Zayd was pretty much family to the Prophet SAW and was treated likewise.
- Zayd was married five times in his lifetime. One of the most important figures amongst them was Umm Ayman.
- His father was Harithah ibn Sharahil, and mother, Su`da bint Tha`laba
- In great grief at the loss of his son, his father would always remember Zayd and recited a famous poem all the time. He roamed about in search of Zayd, mourning his separation in the following verses:

- "I weep in memory of Zayd, while I know not whether he is alive (to be hoped for) or finished by death."
- "O! Zayd, By Allah, I have no knowledge, whether you are killed on soft soil or on a rock."
- "Ah, I wish I knew whether you would ever come back to me, for that is the only desire I am living for."
- "I remember Zayd when the sun rises in the East. I remember him when the rain comes from the clouds."
- "The blowing wind makes stronger the fire of his memory. Alas, my grief and suffering are very long."
- "I shall run my swift camels in search of him. I shall search for him around the universe."
- "The camels may get tired, but I shall not rest, till I die, for death is the end of every hope."
- "I shall still command my sons and such and such people, to keep searching for Zayd even after my death."
- When Zayd's father became aware of his son's whereabouts in Makkah, he set out with Zayd's uncle to take back his son. They landed at the doorsteps of the Prophet SAW.
- When they came to the Prophet SAW they said: "O, son of Hashim and the chief of Quraysh. You are living in the Haram and the neighbour of Allah. You are known for freeing the prisoners and feeding the hungry. We have come to you requesting for our son. Accept the ransom money for Zayd and set him free. We are willing to pay even more than the ransom money. Please, show mercy and be kind to us."

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- The Prophet SAW asked: "What do you wish to do with Zayd?" Zayd's father replied: "We want to take him back home with us." "Is that all?" asked the Prophet SAW, "Alright, then call Zayd and ask him. If he wishes to go with you, I shall let him go without taking any money, but I shall not send him if he doesn't want to go." Zayd's father replied: "You have shown us more favor than we deserve. We most gladly agree to what you say." Zayd was sent for.
- When he came, the Prophet SAW said to Zayd: "Do you know these men? Prophet SAW says: If he chooses to go with you, I won't force him to stay. Zayd replied: "Yes, I know them. This is my father and that is my uncle." The Prophet SAW then said: "And you know me too. They have come to take you back to your home. You have my full permission to go with them. If, on the other hand, you chose to stay on with me, you may do so."
- The Prophet SAW left the matter to the jurisdiction of Zayd and gave him free will to choose his path. But Zayd decided to stay alongside the Prophet SAW saying that he wouldn't leave his side for anything this world has to offer.
- Zayd replied: "How can I prefer anybody else to you? You are everybody for me, including my father and my uncle." Zayd's father and uncle were surprised and said: "O, Zayd! Do you prefer to be a slave? How can you leave your own father, uncle and other members of your family, and remain a slave?"
- Zayd replied: "Verily, I have seen something in my master that makes me prefer him to everybody else in the world."
- This prompted the Prophet SAW to take Zayd as his adopted son and named him – Zayd ibn Muhammad.
- Zayd's preferring to remain a slave and refusing to go with his own father giving up his home and family shows his great love for the Prophet SAW.

- The Prophet SAW also really loved Zaid. He cried a lot when Zayd passed away.
- Zayd is the only companion who is mentioned in the Quran. Reason being was because when the Prophet SAW adopted him before prophethood, he was known as Zayd ibn Muhammad.
- The legal status of adoption was not recognised under Islam. Zayd reverted to being known by his original name of Zayd ibn Harithah instead of Zayd ibn Muhammad.
- Allah SWT wanted to put an end to this naming and attribution of adopted children, hence, declared in Surah Al-Ahzab concerning Zayd:

ادْعُوهُمْ لِآبَائِهِمْ هُوَ أَقْسَطُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ فَإِنْ لَمْ تَعْلَمُوا آبَاءَهُمْ فَاِخْوَانُكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ وَمَوَالِيكُمْ وَلَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ جُنَاحٌ فِيمَا أَخْطَأْتُمْ بِهِ وَلَكِنْ مَا تَعَمَّدَتْ قُلُوبُكُمْ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا

Call them (the children you have adopted) after their (real) fathers: doing so is more equitable in the sight of God. If you do not know who their fathers are, then (they are) your brothers in religion and your protégés (so observe the duties of brotherhood between you and them). However, there is no blame on you because of the mistakes you may make unintentionally (in naming them), but what your hearts have premeditated (matters greatly).

God is All-Forgiving, All-Compassionate. (33.5)

The Family of Abu Talib

- **Ja'far ibn Abi Talib**
 - He was the cousin of the Prophet SAW who led the immigrants to Abyssinia (Ethiopia).
 - He had older brothers named Talib and Aqil, and a younger brother named Ali.
 - When there was a drought in Makkah, Abu Talib could not afford to support his family. Therefore his brother Abbas took care of the young Ja'far.

- Ja'far married Asma bint Umays and they both migrated to Abyssinia. They had three sons born to them there, Abdullah, Muhammad and Awn.
- As a commander, Zayd was among the first Muslims to be killed in the Battle of Mu'tah, followed by Ja'far as the second commander who fought against the Romans and Ghassanids. Both of them were very close and beloved to the Prophet SAW.
- **Ali ibn Abi Talib**
 - Ali is the son of Abu Talib ibn Abd al-Muttalib and the cousin of the Prophet SAW.
 - While his uncle Abbas took in Ali's older brother Ja'far, the Prophet SAW took Ali under his care when Abu Talib became impoverished.

The Family of Jahsh

- **Abdullah ibn Jahsh**
 - He was the brother-in-law, first cousin and companion of the Prophet SAW
 - He migrated to Abyssinia (Ethiopia)
 - He was martyred in the Battle of Uhud
- **Ubaydullah ibn Jahsh**
 - He married the daughter of Abu Sufyan, Ramla bint Abu Sufyan (who was also known as Umm Habiba)
 - Both he and his wife migrated to Abyssinia as Muslims, but there, Ubaydullah gets influenced by the Christians and later converts to Christianity
 - Due to his conversion, he separated from his wife and later on died in Abyssinia.
 - The Prophet SAW married Umm Habiba.

- **Zaynab bint Jahsh**

- She was previously married to the Prophet's adopted son Zayd ibn Harithah but got divorced.
- She had a reputation for being prayerful. She prayed so much by night that she hung a rope between two pillars in the mosque and held onto it when she became too tired to stand. When the Prophet SAW discovered the rope, he removed it and told her that when she became tired, she should stop praying and sit down.

- **Hamnah bint Jahsh**

- Known as Hammanah bint Jahsh or Hamnah
- She was married to Mus`ab ibn Umair when she converted to Islam
- She participated in the Battle of Uhud, providing water and treating the injured.
- Her husband Mus`ab was killed in the battle, as well as her uncle Hamza ibn Abd al-Muttalib and her brother Abdullah.
- She remarried Talhah ibn Ubaydullah, who were amongst the Asharah Mubasharah (the Ten Promised Paradise by the Prophet SAW).
- Hamnah was involved in the slander against Aisha, while her sister Zaynab depicted an admirable quality in adhering to the truth about Aisha refuting the false charge by declaring that she'd seen nothing except good in Aisha.

The Family of Abbas

- **Abbas ibn Abd al-Muttalib**
 - He was the paternal uncle of the Prophet SAW
 - He was married to Lubaba bint al-Harith also known as Umm Fadl
 - They had seven children: Al-Fadl, Abdullah, Ubaydullah, Quthum, Mabad, Abdur-Rahman and Umm Habib.
 - Abbas also had five children by other women
 - He was a wealthy man and protected the Prophet SAW during the early days of Islam
 - Having fought on the side of the polytheists, Abbas was captured during the Battle of Badr. He was a large man while his captor, Abu'l-Yasar, was small. The Prophet SAW asked Abu'l-Yasar how he had managed the capture, and he said he was assisted by a person whom he described and Muhammad identified as a noble angel. Muhammad allowed al-Abbas to ransom himself and his nephew.
 - Ibn Hisham says that Abbas had become a secret Muslim before the Battle of Badr; but the clear statement is missing from Tabari's citation of the same source. It is sometimes said that he converted to Islam shortly after Badr.
- **Lubaba bint al-Harith or Umm Fadl**
 - Lubaba claimed to be the second woman to convert to Islam, the same day as her close friend Khadija
 - Her two sisters Maymuna bint al-Harith and Zaynab bint Khuzayma, became wives of the Prophet SAW
 - She played an instrumental role in the killing of the Prophet's staunch enemy, Abu Lahab

- When the news of the Meccan defeat at the Battle of Badr arrived in Makkah in 624, there was general consternation; but Abbas's Muslim freedman, Abu Rafi, could not contain his joy. Abbas's brother Abu Lahab was so furious that he assaulted Abu Rafi, knocking him to the ground and then kneeling on top of him to continue beating him. Several able-bodied men witnessed or were in calling distance of this attack, but it was Lubaba who grabbed a tent-pole and cracked it across Abu Lahab's head, asking, "Do you think it's all right to attack him because Abbas is absent?" Abu Lahab's head was split open, exposing his skull; When he died a week later, it was said to be of an infection, ulcer, or the plague.

The Family of Umayy

- **Asma bint Umayy**

- She was the daughter of Umayy ibn Ma'ad and Hind bint Awf
- She was Ja'far ibn Abi Talib's wife. They migrated to Abyssinia, where she gave birth to three sons, Abdullah, Muhammad and Awn.
- Asma narrated how she heard the news of her husband's passing from the Prophet SAW after the Battle of Mu'tah:
 - "The Prophet came to me. I had prepared forty mann of 'dip' [tanned forty skins] and kneaded the dough. I took my two sons and I washed their faces and put oil on them. The Messenger of God came to me and said, 'O Asma, where are the sons of Ja'far?' I brought them to him and he embraced them and smelt them, then his eyes welled up and he cried. I said, 'Why, Messenger of God, perhaps [you have news] about Ja'far.' He replied, 'Yes, he was killed today.' I stood up and screamed, and the women came to me.

- The Prophet began to say, 'O Asma, do not speak obscene words or beat your chest!'" Her son Abdullah remembered: "He said, 'O Asma, will you not rejoice? Indeed, God most high has made two wings for Ja'far, that he may fly with them in Paradise!'" Then Muhammad told his daughter Fatimah, "Prepare food for the family of Ja'far, for they are preoccupied today."
 - After Ja'far's death, Asma married Abu Bakr. They had a son whose name was Muhammad.
 - After Abu Bakr died, she married Ali ibn Abi Talib, the brother of her first husband Ja'far. They had sons named Yahya and Awn.
- **Salma bint Umayy**
 - Salma and her sister Asma were among the early converts to Islam.
 - She married Hamza ibn Abd al-Muttalib, who was martyred in the Battle of Uhud.
 - They had one daughter, Umama.

Other Important Figures in The Prophet's Life

- **Umm Ayman**
 - Umm Ayman or Barakah bint Tha'alaba, from Ethiopia, was the servant of the Prophet's mother Ameenah.
 - She was with the Prophet SAW when his mother passed away in the town of Abwa. She was the only one that saw the Prophet SAW from his birth to his death.
 - There was no racial prejudice despite her being black and this is evident as she became one of the closest people to the Prophet SAW.

- She married Zayd ibn Harithah after his divorce to the Prophet's cousin Zaynab ibn Jahsh.
- She wept after the Prophet SAW died acknowledging the fact that revelation has ended.
- In a hadith, Anas reported that after the death of the Prophet SAW, Abu Bakr said to 'Umar:

قَالَ قَالَ أَبُو بَكْرٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ بَعْدَ وَفَاةِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ لِعُمَرَ أَنْظِلْنِي بِنَا إِلَى أُمِّ أَيْمَنَ نَزُورُهَا كَمَا كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَزُورُهَا . فَلَمَّا انْتَهَيْنَا إِلَيْهَا بَكَتْ فَقَالَا لَهَا مَا يُبْكِيكِ مَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ لِرَسُولِهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ . فَقَالَتْ مَا أَبْكِي أَنْ لَا أَكُونَ أَعْلَمُ أَنَّ مَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ لِرَسُولِهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَلَكِنْ أَبْكِي أَنَّ الْوَحْيَ قَدْ انْقَطَعَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ . فَهَيَّجَتْهُمَا عَلَى الْبُكَاءِ فَجَعَلَا يَبْكِيَانِ مَعَهَا .

Let us visit Umm Ayman as Allah's Messenger SAW used to visit her. As we came to her, she wept. They (Abu Bakr and Umar) said to her: What makes you weep? What is in store (in the next world) for Allah's-Messenger SAW is better than (this worldly life). She said: I weep not because I am ignorant of the fact that what is in store for Allah's Messenger SAW (in the next world) is better than (this world), but I weep because the revelation which came from the Heaven has ceased to come. This moved both of them to tears and they began to weep along with her. (Sahih Muslim 2454)

- **Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas**

- His father was Abu Waqqas Malik ibn Uhayb ibn Abd Manaf. Uhayb ibn Abd Manaf was the paternal uncle of Aminah bint Wahb, the Prophet's mother
- He was one of the companions of the Prophet SAW as well as his maternal cousin.
- He was one of the first to accept Islam at 17, and he was a famous Muslim general.
- His younger brother, Umayr ibn Abi Waqqas, was 15 years old and too young to participate in the Battle of Badr, but was eager to fight.

- He was permitted by the Prophet SAW eventually. He fought and was amongst the 14 Muslims killed in the battle. Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas narrates about this incident:

وأخرجه ابن سعد عن سعد رضي الله عنه قال: رأيت أخي عُمَيْر بن أبي وقاص قبل أن يعرضنا رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم يوم بدر يتواري، فقلت: ما لك يا أخي؟ قال: إني أخاف أن يراني رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم فيستصغرنني فيردني، وأنا أحب الخروج لعل الله أن يرزقني الشهادة. قال: فعرض على رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم فردّه، فبكى فأجازه. فكان سعد رضي الله عنه يقول: فكنت أعقد حَمائل سيفه من صغره فقتل وهو ابن ست عشرة سنة. كذا في الإصابة ، وأخرجه البزار، ورجاله ثقات؛ كما في المجمع

"I saw my brother, 'Umayr Ibn Abi Waqqas (رضي الله عنه) hide himself before he was presented before Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم on the occasion of battle of badr. I asked him, "O my brother! What has happened to you?" He replied, "I fear that if the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم saw me, he would think of me to be too young and would disallow me (to go). But I love to go out (in the battle). May it be that Allah would grant me Shahadah." But soon after that he was presented before the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم who disallowed him. He started to weep due to which he permitted him [to go out]. S'ad said, " I tied the sword's age. He was martyred at the age of sixteen years (only)."