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The Love of the Female Companions (*Sahabiat*) for the Messenger ﷺ **By Shaykh Zulfiqar Ahmad (db)**

Men were not the only ones with intense love for the Prophet ﷺ. The hearts of the *Sahabiat* were also filled with intense love and respect for him, and they took great pleasure at being chosen to serve the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. Following are a few examples:

1. Distress overshadowed Madinah when the cry spread that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ had been martyred at Uhud, and all of Madinah was weeping. A *Sahabiah* from the Ansar said that she would never believe this until she saw it with her own eyes, and so she mounted her camel and set off for the battlefield of Uhud.

Nearing Uhud, she asked an approaching *Sahabi*, “ما يال محمد ﷺ [How is Muhammad (ﷺ)].” He said that he did not know, but told her that he had seen her brother fall in battle. The *Sahabiah* was not distressed by this and pressed onward. She asked another *Sahabi* the same question, and instead learned that her father had also been martyred at Uhud. In this same fashion she also discovered that her husband had fallen. However, this grave news did not distract her from her resolve of finding out the truth about the fate of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ.

A *Sahabi* finally told her that he had seen the Prophet ﷺ in good health atop a certain hill, and so she pressed onward with determination. Seeing the Prophet ﷺ, she dismounted her camel, and clutching the Prophet’s ﷺ shawl, said:

Every distress is easy after (seeing) Muhammad ﷺ.

This shows that the love the *Sahabiat* had for the Messenger of Allah ﷺ surpassed their love for their fathers, brothers and husbands. This is the indication of complete faith.

2. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ instructed the *Sahabah* to prepare for battle, and every household in Madinah busied itself in preparation. Some women were preparing their fathers; others were preparing their brothers, and still others were preparing their husbands and sons.

In one house, a nursing mother was holding her baby in her arms and crying. Her husband had been martyred earlier and now there was no mature male to send to battle. After crying for a long time, she hugged her baby to her breast and came to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. She placed the baby in front of the Prophet ﷺ and said, “Please accept my baby in your service.” The Messenger of Allah ﷺ was surprised and asked how a baby could

participate in battle. The lady broke down and said that there was no mature male in her house to prepare for war and pleaded with the Prophet ﷺ to accept her baby. However, the Prophet ﷺ again asked the same question.

The woman sighed and said, “Give this child to a warrior who does not have a shield. He can put this child forward when the enemy let loose their arrows. This baby may not be able to carry a sword, but at least he will be able to stop the arrows of the enemy.” History cannot produce such glorious examples of love and service where, finding no other man to send in defense of Islam, a loving mother would be willing to sacrifice her nursing child to fulfill the instructions of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ.

3. A woman came to *Hadrat Aishah* ﷺ and asked to see the grave of the Prophet ﷺ. This woman cried so much when shown the grave that she passed away.

4. *Hadrat Ummi Habiba's* ﷺ father, Abu Sufyan, came to visit her in Madinah at the time of the Treaty of Hudaibiya. He was about to sit down on a mattress when she quickly pulled it from under him and rolled it up.

Abu Sufyan said in amazement, “Mattresses are laid out for guests, not taken away. Tell me, was the mattress unfit for me or I unfit for the mattress?” His daughter replied, “You are my father, but this belongs to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. You are an unbeliever and therefore unclean to sit here.” Abu Sufyan was saddened by this and said that his daughter had developed bad habits since she left home.

Worldly relations held no value in front of *Hadrat Ummi Habiba's* ﷺ intense love for the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. She would rather lose her father's relationship than jeopardize her love and respect for the Prophet ﷺ.

5. *Hadrat Rabiah Aslama* ﷺ was a very poor young man and no one was prepared to give their daughter to him in marriage. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ told him to go to a certain house and make an offer for marriage. This young man went and told the household that he had been sent by the Prophet ﷺ to make an offer for marriage.

The father seemed very hesitant but asked his daughter, who said, “My father, do not look at the man but look at the auspiciousness of the one who sent him.” The father agreed and arranged the marriage

A similar situation was presented to *Hadrat Sa'ad* ﷺ, which was captured and further explained in the following poem.

*A man named Sa'ad was your Sahabi. Dark colored and poverty stricken
The Prophet's ﷺ Mercy enveloped Sa'ad. “Have you married yet?”
“No one will give his daughter to a black man. There is a girl in my uncle's
House, but every time I make an offer, I am repelled and thrown out of the house.
What do I have to offer when I am dark and poor?”
Hearing these words, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,*

“Sa’ad, today I have set your marriage, go and tell your uncle.”
Sa’ad set off hurriedly. The uncle came out worried,
“How can this be your fortune? That I give my daughter to such a one as you?
Go away otherwise I will beat you!”
Sa’ad said, “I have not come at my own will, Mustafa ﷺ sent me and to him
I return.”
Sa’ad came back distressed and scared. His uncle went back angry.
The daughter heard everything and asked her father,
“What is the matter? Why are you so angry?”
“Sa’ad came to my door with a proposal of marriage. He is black and poor,
Dishonoring my wealth and status. It is impossible that I give my daughter
To such a man. He cannot be my son-in-law.”
The daughter asked, “Did he come himself or was he sent?”
“He said he did not come himself, but that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ sent him.”
The daughter cried out, “What have you done? Do not look at his color but
Look at who sent him. I accept that Sa’ad is wanting in wealth and looks,
But the one who sent him is alike the moon. Your daughter is content with
His looks and with the Prophet’s ﷺ wishes.”

6. *Hadrat* Fatima bint Khais ﷺ was a very beautiful lady and she received a proposal of marriage from *Hadrat* Abdur Rahman bin Auf ﷺ, a very wealthy *Sahabi*. *Hadrat* Fatima ﷺ asked the Prophet’s ﷺ advice on the matter, who suggested that she should marry *Hadrat* Usama ﷺ instead. *Hadrat* Fatima ﷺ said, “I have put my life in your hands; marry me to whom ever you wish.”

7. The Prophet’s ﷺ eldest daughter, *Hadrat* Zainab ﷺ, was born ten years before the call to Prophethood. Upon reaching adolescence, she had been married to her cousin Abul Aas bin Rabia, and had been unable to migrate to Madinah with her father since Abul Aas was an unbeliever.

Abul Aas was captured during the Campaign of Badr and presented before the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. When the unbelievers of Makkah sent ransom for their people, *Hadrat* Zainab ﷺ included the necklace that her mother, *Hadrat* Khadijah ﷺ had given her as a gift. Upon seeing the necklace, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ remembered his dear wife and his eyes filled with tears. He instructed the *Sahabah* to release Abul Aas without ransom, on the condition that he would send *Hadrat* Zainab ﷺ to Madinah. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ sent two *Sahabah* with Abul Aas to bring back *Hadrat* Zainab ﷺ. Upon reaching Makkah, they stayed outside to wait for her.

Kinana, Abul Aas’s brother, accompanied *Hadrat* Zainab ﷺ to the outskirts of Makkah where the *Sahabah* were camped. The Quraish felt disgraced at the thought of allowing the Prophet’s ﷺ daughter to leave Makkah in broad daylight. Therefore, upon their departure, the unbelievers pursued to them and struck *Hadrat* Zainab ﷺ with a spear. She had been pregnant at the time and suffered a miscarriage.

Kinana fought back, but Abu Sufyan was determined not to let the Prophet's ﷺ daughter leave Makkah. He proposed that Kinana return with *Hadrat Zainab* ؓ and that she should leave secretly at a later date. Kinana agreed.

Hadrat Zainab ؓ was sent to Madinah after a few days, but her wound continued to trouble her for years. She eventually succumbed to it and passed away. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said that *Hadrat Zainab* ؓ was his best daughter who suffered affliction in his love.

8. *Hadrat Umme Ammara* ؓ fought alongside her husband *Hadrat Zaid bin Aasim* ؓ, and her two sons, *Hadrat Ammar* and *Hadrat Abdullah* ؓ, at Uhud. When the *Sahabah* became distressed by the cry that the Prophet ﷺ had been martyred, she stood alongside those protecting the Messenger of Allah ﷺ against the Quraish onslaught.

Ibn Tamiyya Mal'oon (the Cursed) of the Quraish attacked the Prophet ﷺ with his sword, which *Hadrat Umme Ammara* ؓ blocked with her shoulder, receiving a deep wound. She attacked him fiercely and he would have been cut in two had he not been wearing two coats of chain mail.

Hadrat Umme Ammara ؓ suffered a total of thirteen wounds on her head and body. Even though her son received a wound that would not stop bleeding, she wrapped it with a piece of her clothing and told him to stand up and defend his Prophet ﷺ. Pointing to a certain individual, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "Umme Ammara, that is the man who wounded your son." *Hadrat Umme Ammara* ؓ turned fiercely and swung at the man's leg. The wounded man escaped, but only by crawling away on his hands. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ smiled and said, "Umme Ammara, thank Allah ﷻ who allowed you to fight in His cause."

Hadrat Umme Ammara ؓ revealed her heart's desire, saying, "O Messenger of Allah ﷺ, please pray that Allah ﷻ allows us to service you in the Hereafter." The Messenger of Allah ﷺ made the following prayer for her, her husband and their two sons;

O Allah ﷻ, make these people my companions in Paradise.

Hadrat Umme Ammara ؓ used to proudly say that after this *dua*, she found no trouble or difficulty too hard to bear.

9. *Hadrat Anas'* mother, *Hadrat Umme Saleem* ؓ, used to send her children to collect droplets of the Prophet's ﷺ perspiration while he slept. She would mix this in her perfume, which she would apply to her body and clothes.

10. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ presented a necklace to a *Sahabiah* during the *Khaibar* campaign. The *Sahabiah* took so much pride in it that she wore it around her neck her entire life. Before her death she asked that it be buried with her.

11. *Hadrat Salma* ؓ was a *Sahabiah* who served the Messenger of Allah ﷺ with so much love and devotion that she became known as "the servant of the Messenger ﷺ." Her mother

owned a slave, *Hadrat Safina* ﷺ, whom she wanted to free on the condition that *Hadrat Safina* ﷺ serve the Prophet ﷺ for the rest of his life. *Hadrat Safina* ﷺ replied that he would not have left the Prophet's ﷺ door even without this stipulation (Abu Da'ud).

12. *Hadrat Ummi Atiya* ﷺ used to say, "May my mother and father be sacrificed for you," whenever the Prophet's ﷺ name used to come upon her lips. This shows the intensity of love that she felt in her heart for the Messenger of Allah ﷺ.

13. One day, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ visited *Hadrat Jabir* ﷺ at his home. *Hadrat Jabir* ﷺ told his wife to take great care in preparing and serving the food so as not to inconvenience the Messenger of Allah ﷺ in any way.

Upon waking from his nap, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ found a dish of lamb meat by his side. While he ate, the people of the tribe of Banu Salim who had come to meet him sat at a distance, allowing him to eat undisturbed. Upon leaving, *Hadrat Jabir's* wife ﷺ asked for a special prayer for herself and her husband, which the Prophet ﷺ granted.

14. All of his wives accompanied the Messenger of Allah ﷺ on his last Pilgrimage (*Hajj*). On the way, *Hadrat Hafsa's* ﷺ camel could go no further due to fatigue and she started to cry. Hearing of this, the Prophet ﷺ turned back and wiped her tears with his noble hand. However, the more he would try to comfort her, the more she would cry, for fear of being left behind. When *Hadrat Hafsa* ﷺ would not stop crying, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ instructed the *Sahabah* to set up camp there.

At one point in her life, *Hadrat Safiya* ﷺ thought that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was upset with her and started thinking of ways to appease him. She approached *Hadrat Aishah* ﷺ, saying, "If you appease the Messenger of Allah ﷺ for my sake, I shall give my turn to you." Hence, wearing a perfumed red shawl, *Hadrat Aishah* ﷺ approached the Prophet's ﷺ tent and lifted the front curtain. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "Aishah, it is not your turn," to which she replied, "Allah ﷻ gives to whomever when He will."

This shows that *Hadrat Safiya* ﷺ loved the Messenger of Allah ﷺ so much that she placed his pleasure before her rightfully deserved turn because she knew that *Hadrat Aishah* ﷺ was his favorite.

15. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ came out of the masjid and saw men and women returning home. He said in the direction of the women that they should walk behind the men and to one side, and not in the middle. The women followed this so literally that their clothes would get caught in the walls of the houses on the sides of the street.

16. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ had specified that mourning for any person except the husband could not exceed three days, and the women adhered to this. *Hadrat Zainab bint Jahsh's* ﷺ brother passed away, and so on the fourth day she sent for perfume. She said, "I

have no use for this except that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said that mourning for anyone except the husband is not to exceed three days. This is in obedience to this command.”

17. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ presented some milk to *Hadrat* Umme Hani ؓ. She said later that she had been fasting at the time but could not refuse anything given to her by the Messenger of Allah ﷺ.

18. One day, *Hadrat* Hudhaifa's ؓ mother said to him, “You seem very busy in your work, how long has it been since you last saw the Messenger of Allah ﷺ?” Her son specified a number of days, at which his mother grew angry and called him lazy. *Hadrat* Hudhaifa ؓ then said that he would pray the sunset prayer (*maghrib*) at the masjid and request the Messenger of Allah ﷺ for a prayer of forgiveness for himself and his mother.

19. *Hadrat* Aishah ؓ worded her distress in the following manner at the passing away of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, “Alas! The Messenger of Allah ﷺ gave the beggar good news of riches, and gave the orphan and the weak good news of status in the Hereafter. Alas! He would not sleep peacefully at night for worry of his unruly nation. He, who always fought his inner self (*nafs*) with patience and steadfastness, has left us. He never glanced toward wrong and never shut the door of goodness on those in need. His face never darkened at the worries and troubles the unbelievers would present.”

20. *Hadrat* Fatima ؓ said the following upon the Prophet's ﷺ death, “My father accepted Allah's ﷻ call and ascended to Paradise. O Allah ﷻ! Please join Fatima and her father soon, and make me pleased with seeing Your Messenger ﷺ. Make me bear this difficulty with patience and allow me to be worthy of his intercession on the Day of Judgment.”

21. From among the wives of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, *Hadrat* Umme Aiman ؓ was once crying in his remembrance. *Hadrat* Abu Bakr ؓ asked her why she was crying; “Does the Messenger of Allah ﷺ not have a better abode and better blessings with Allah ﷻ?” *Hadrat* Umme Aiman ؓ said, “Of course, but I am crying because the blessing of revelation has now been taken away from us.” At this both *Hadrat* Abu Bakr and *Hadrat* Umar ؓ started crying.