



Mothers of the Believers  
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Wives of the Prophet saws:

1. Khadijah
2. Sawda bint Zam'a
3. Aisha bint Abu Bakr
4. Hafsa bint Umar (3AH)
5. Umm Salamah
6. Zaynab bint Jahsh

Recap

- Sister of Zaynab (ra), Hamnah bint Jahsh (ra)
- Zaynab (ra) 1<sup>st</sup> husband Zayd bin Hartha (ra)
- Marriage of Zaynab (ra) & Zayd (ra)

Every wife of Nabi saws has so many lessons for us about their nature, and how Nabi saws dealt with their different personalities. This provides us with all the solutions in life. With the Messenger's and Prophet's we need to:

- Follow their way
- To take them as an example
- Take them as role models

### Chapter (33) sūrat l-aḥzāb (The Combined Forces)

وَإِذْ تَقُولُ لِلَّذِي أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَأَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِ أَمْسِكْ عَلَيْكَ زَوْجَكَ وَاتَّقِ اللَّهَ  
وَتُخْفِي فِي نَفْسِكَ مَا اللَّهُ مُبْدِيهِ وَتَخْشَى النَّاسَ وَاللَّهُ أَحَقُّ أَنْ تَخْشَاهُ فَلَمَّا قَضَى  
زَيْدٌ مِنْهَا وَطَرًا زَوَّجْنَاكَهَا لِكَيْ لَا يَكُونَ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ حَرَجٌ فِي أَزْوَاجِ أَدْعِيَائِهِمْ إِذَا  
قَضَوْا مِنْهُنَّ وَطَرًا وَكَانَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ مَفْعُولًا ﴿٣٧﴾

33:37 And [remember, O Muhammad], when you said to the one on whom Allah bestowed favour and you bestowed favour, "Keep your wife and fear Allah," while you concealed within yourself that which Allah is to disclose. And you feared the people, while Allah has more right that you fear Him. So when Zayd had no longer any need for her, We married her to you in order that there not be upon the believers any discomfort concerning the wives of their adopted sons when they no longer have need of them. And ever is the command of Allah accomplished.

#### Zayd (ra) and Zaynab (ra) Separate

Everything the Prophet saws does is from Allah swt. Even the decision to marry Zaynab (ra) was not from him as he was afraid. Zayd (ra) & Zaynab (ra) could either live together following the

commands of Allah swt or separate. The Prophet saws introduced Zayd (ra) to Zaynab (ra) but this marriage did not work. This shows us the Prophet saws did not know the gayb. Even though the marriage did not work out it does not mean that the choice was wrong. However, people will blame people but there is a hikmah behind everything.

The Prophet saws marrying Zaynab (ra) worried him as what would people say. This is fearing the words of the people. Allah swt is showing you that you should not have this fear. This is a big announcement from Allah swt that the Prophet saws should marry Zaynab (ra). Aisha (ra) said the Prophet saws did not cry about anything except this ayah. Everything is from Allah swt and we are reciting this ayah until the Day of Judgement.

زَوَّجْنَاكَهَا

**We married her to you** - The Prophet saws did not propose to Zaynab (ra) but the command came from the 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven as if they were already married – the contract has been made. Allah swt is the best witness and He made this marriage. Zaynab used to say very proudly to the other Mother of the Believers that her marriage had been performed not by her family but by Allah swt above the Heavens with His beloved Prophet saws.

After this Heavenly order, the Prophet saws immediately went to Zaynab (ra) without observing any of the formalities that were observed with acquaintances and friends. He did not inform her in advance nor did ask for permission.

#### The Valima

The Valima the Prophet saws had for Zaynab (ra) was not like any of the other valima's for his wives. This is hikmah from Allah swt. There was bread and meat; the meat was not easy to obtain in those days. People left the valima with their stomach's full.

#### Name Change

After the marriage the Prophet saws changed her name from 'Barah' to 'Zaynab'.

#### The Other Wives

The Prophet saws loved Aisha the most, then Umm Salamah, then Zaynab. Obviously there was some competition and jealousy but they only spoke good about each other.

Zaynab (ra) was more courageous in speaking up. The Prophet saws would distribute his days among his wives equally. People would send gifts to the houses – they would send the gifts on the day Aisha (ra) would be with the Prophet saws. This created jealousy so Zaynab (ra) set up a meeting to renegotiate this arrangement so that gifts should be sent to whichever house the Prophet saws was staying in.

They sent Fatimah (ra) to the Prophet saws to tell him of their decision. Aisha (ra) was also there. Fatimah (ra) said to the Prophet saws; 'Your wives sent me to you and they want justice with Aisha'. The Prophet saws asked Fatimah (ra); 'Oh my daughter, don't you love what I love?' Fatimah replied; 'I love what you love and you love Aisha (ra)'.

The wives were among the best of the people. They were not perfect and they are a lesson for us. Once Zaynab (ra) went to the Prophet saws and spoke in a raised voice. Aisha (ra) did not like this

and when she tried to speak the Prophet saws told Aisha (ra) to be quiet. As Zaynab (ra) was getting more and more angry then eventually he told Aisha (ra) that she can respond.

Once a goat was sent to the Prophet saws and Aisha (ra) distributed the meat among the wives. Zaynab (ra) returned the gift so the prophet saws said to Aisha (ra) to increase the amount of meat. Again Zaynab (ra) returned the meat. Then the Prophet saws said he would not go to any of the wives for one month as the jealousy and bickering was getting worse and worse. After the ayat was revealed the Prophet saws returned to his wives.

Whenever 'Aa'ishah (ra) remembered her, she would invoke Allah's mercy on her and especially mention her for the stance she took when 'Aa'ishah (ra) was being slandered,

"Allah protected her by (her) abstention (i.e. she abstained from indulging in the slander)."

After the death of Nabi saws all the wives were with Zaynab (ra) when she passed away. Zaynab (ra) was the first wife to die after Nabi saws in the time of Umar (ra). When Zaynab (ra) passed away 'A'ishah (ra) recalled an occasion when the Prophet saws, said that among the Mother of the Believers, she would meet him first who had the longest arms. Zaynab (ra) was short compared to the others and naturally her arms were also shorter. All the ladies took this statement literally and started measuring their arms. It was only upon the death of Zaynab (ra) that they realized what this meant. It really meant that the person with the longest arms was the most generous or liberal person, who only thought of how she could benefit others.

There was an implicit prophesy in this statement, which became clear when Zaynab (ra) passed away. It meant she would meet him in Paradise before the others. And she passed away before any of the other wives of the Prophet saws.

'A'ishah says Zaynab worked with her own hands, and what she thus earned she spent on works of charity. She said she was a God-fearing, straight-forward lady who practiced abstinence. All her actions were aimed at pleasing Allah swt. Sometimes she could lose her temper, but then she was quick to repent and ask for forgiveness. She was very pure at heart and never carried resentments and grudges.

This righteous lady died during the caliphate of 'Umar Faruq (ra) at the age of fifty-three. When she realized she was about to meet her Maker, she told the people around her that she already prepared a shroud for herself. If 'Umar Faruq (ra) sent one for her, one should be used and the other given away in charity. She was such a modest lady that a curtain was drawn in front of her dead body, even though it was wrapped in a shroud.