

THE **F1RST**S

A Lecture Series

YAQWEEN™
INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC RESEARCH

The Marriage of Ali & Fatima

The First Family

This will give us a very special look at the household and life of the Prophet Mohammad Prophet ﷺ.

Ali ibn Abu Talib

Mother -

- Fatima bint Assad, first Hashimi (family of the Prophet ﷺ) woman to accept Islam, 10th or 11th person.
- Motherly figure to the Prophet ﷺ from age 6-25, migrated to Abyssinia, later to Medina

Father - Abu Talib

Born 10 years before the Prophethood. He was brought into the house of the Prophet ﷺ since his family was in extreme poverty.

Khadija did not nurse him, so later he would be eligible to marry Fatima

Accepted Islam right away, after witnessing the Prophet ﷺ and Khadija performing prayer for the first time.

Fatima

Al Habbibatu bint al Habbib, (the beloved one, daughter of the beloved one ﷺ)

Born during the first year of prophethood.

Last of the Prophet's children ﷺ. She was named, as were all the daughters, by Khadija, after Khadija's mother.

The name Khadija means ‘one who is premature’ and the name Fatima means ‘one who is full term and weened’

Children of the Prophet ﷺ and Khadija :

- Qasim - born 12 yrs before prophethood and lived for 3 years (598)
- Zaynab - born 1 yr after Qasim (599)
- Ruqayya -born 2 yrs after Zaynab (601)
- Um Kulsoom - less than 1 yr after Ruqayya
- Fatima - born the same year of revelation (610)
- Abd Allah - died soon after birth

Child of the Prophet ﷺ and Mariya :

- Ibrahim

Fatima is the only child born and raised in Islam in the household of the Prophet ﷺ. At the time of prophethood, her sisters, Ruqayya and Um Kulsoom were both engaged to their cousins, sons of the Prophet’s ﷺ uncle Abu Lahab. Zaynab was already married to El As Ibn Rabia. When she was born, the Prophet ﷺ immediately fell in love with her and looked at her in a different way than everyone else.

When Allah revealed “call your closest relatives, and warn them, he only called out to Safiyya bint Abd el Mutallib (aunt of the Prophet ﷺ) and Fatima bint Rasul Allah (daughter of the Messenger of Allah), “ask me anything you want of my wealth in this world, but I cannot testify on your behalf with God on the Day of Judgement”. He chose them to address because they were the two relatives he was closest to and if he won’t testify on their behalf as the most beloved to him, then he will not for anyone else either.

Life After the Death of Her Mother Khadija :

Khadija died 3 days apart from Abu Talib, this was the Prophet’s weakest time. He didn’t have any physical protection. He was publicly beaten on 8 separate occasions. After the death of her mother, whenever he ﷺ came home wounded, Fatima cared for him,. She cleaned his wounds and comforted him, at only 10

years of age. Because of the love and compassion she showed her father ﷺ, one of her nicknames was “the mother of her father”. She was actually another mother figure for him ﷺ. She didn’t live during the years of comfort and ease, instead she witnessed all the hardship, oppression, the boycott and people’s rejection of her father ﷺ.

Witness to Oppression

Abu Jahl plotted with Uqba Ibn Abu Mueet to humiliate the Prophet by dumping the insides of a camel on his back while he’s praying at the Kaaba. It caused the Prophet ﷺ to collapse because of its’ weight. Ibn Massood witnessed this and went to the Prophet’s ﷺ house to inform them, only 10 year old Fatima was there. She went running to him and pulled the guts off his back while crying profusely. This was the only time the Prophet prayed against someone, because he saw the pain in her face and was saddened by it. He said to her, “don’t cry, God will give victory to your father”.

After the death of her mother, when the Prophet ﷺ asked Fatima “how are you my daughter ?” She replied, “I am in pain and we don’t even have food” He ﷺ said, "O my daughter, aren’t you pleased that you are the leader of the entire world?” She politely asked, “isn’t Maryam the leader?”, He ﷺ explained to her “she was the best of women of her time, as your mother was the best of her time”. He ﷺ told her the 4 women who perfected their faith are Maryam, Assiya, Khadija and Fatima, each during the time in which they lived. The other daughters were beloved by their father as well but Fatima exerted herself in worship and her special status was a gift from Allah, as resembling the Prophet ﷺ more than any other human being. She was also a great support for him and made the migration with him at the age of 13. She was attached to him during his most difficult times. She was with the Prophet ﷺ during the building of their house in Medina. Her other nicknames were : ‘Fatima Al Zahra’ - the radiant one (like her father) and ‘Al Batool’ - one who turns back to Allah (referring to her nobility and asceticism).

The Special Father-Daughter Bond

His love for her was well known and it even made some in the household jealous, including Ali. One time Abbas and Ali came to ask the Prophet ﷺ who is the most beloved to you of your family. He ﷺ replied that Fatima was. When asked

which male member of the family he ﷺ said Osama Ibn Zayd, Ali Ibn Abu Talib, (because Ali made hijra before Abbas did).

The last person he would visit before departing anywhere was Fatima and the first person he sat with when he returned was Fatima as well, even before his wives. He sat with her for extended periods of time.

Aisha said that no one resembled the Prophet ﷺ in everything as much as Fatima did, even in her actions. When she would enter into a room, the Prophet ﷺ would stand up for her, kiss her on the forehead, then hold her hand and sit her down where he was previously sitting. When the Prophet ﷺ entered a room, Fatima would rush towards him, kiss him on the forehead, take his hand, and sit him where she was sitting previously. She used to kiss both of his hands. This was in a society which buried their girls and was not accustomed to honoring their daughters. He honored her because she did things for him that no one else did.

The Proposal

By the time they migrated, Ali had become too old to continue to live in the Prophet's household. He had grown up with Fatima and was close in age to her. He was paired with Sahl Ibn Hunaif. He lived with all the other young single guys.

On the same day of victory of the Battle of Badr, Ruqayya died after being ill. Everyone was sad for Uthman (her husband) and the Prophet ﷺ. After a time, Uthman would marry her sister, Um Kulsoom, and would be nicknamed, the Possessor of Two Lights (2 daughters of the Prophet ﷺ).

Now, Zaynab is still in Mecca and Um Kulsoom is married to Uthman. So, in the household only Fatima lives with her father ﷺ. Everyone who loved the Prophet ﷺ wanted to marry her since she was so similar to him and was so beloved by him. Abu Bakr and Omar both proposed. The Prophet ﷺ said wait to both of them, saying she was still young. That indicated to them that he already had someone else in mind for her.

Hassan (son of Ali and Fatima) relays the story of their proposal : Ali didn't think he had a chance of being accepted if he proposed to Fatima, especially that Abu Bakr and Omar were previously rejected. Ali was visiting the household and an old female servant asked Ali to propose to Fatima, but he said he didn't even

have anything to offer if he proposed. Abu Bakr, Omar and Saad Ibn Muath (one of Medina chiefs) all encouraged him to try.

Finally, he went to the Prophet ﷺ to ask him for her hand. He couldn't utter a word, even though he was known for his eloquence. The Prophet ﷺ, noticing how shy Ali was behaving, asked him, "what has brought you to me, son of my uncle?" Ali stuttered and made no sense. The Prophet smiled and said "maybe you came to ask me for Fatima's hand in marriage?" He said yes. He didn't have a dowry to give her but the Prophet told him to go and sell his shield (only worth about 4 dirhams) and come back with the money for the dowry, even though it was not much at that time. He went to the market to sell the shield, the only thing he owned. Uthman (future brother in law), offered to buy it for 400 dirhams, trying to help him out because he was very wealthy. After the sale, he returned the shield to Ali and said that is his wedding gift to Ali. When Ali returned to the Prophet ﷺ with the dowry and relayed the story to him, he made dua to Uthman, as he often did, "May Allah be pleased with Abu Amru, the most generous of sons in law".

When the Prophet ﷺ asked Fatima for her approval, she turned red in modesty and could not speak. He took her silence as her approval to marry him. Later she would joke with her father, "you married me to the man with the big stomach"? The Prophet ﷺ took the opportunity to praise him, "He was the first of my companions to embrace Islam, the most knowledgeable, and the one with the most patience".

Ali sold some other things to come up with 480 total dirhams, so the dowry of the queen of janna, leader of women in Paradise was 480 dirhams. Some people have abused the concept of dowry. It's supposed to be a gift to symbolize a union, to set the tone for excellence in gift giving to a wife. The Prophet said the best of dowry and the best of weddings are the least expensive. There is something blessed about simplicity, with no showing off. The Prophet told Ali to buy perfume for her with 2/3 of it and use the other 1/3 of it to buy furniture. Ali didn't know how to buy perfume, so Bilal helped him. Um Salama helped him buy furniture with the rest. The Prophet ﷺ gave Abu Bakr some money and asked him to buy some clothes for Ali and Fatima and Amar ibn Yasser helped Abu Bakr make the preparations for the wedding.

Aisha and Um Salama prepared the home for the new couple. They took some mud and made it into cushions covered in fabric. They took dates and water, put

up some clothes hooks, and other furnishings. The Prophet himself made the bed with his own hands, using palm leaves, wood and animal skin. He left them a pot, a water skin and a couple of stones to grind grain with.

Ali said they had 1 bed, used to sleep at night ,as a couch during the day, to feed their animals off of , and they never had a servant. It was an extremely simple home. Asma said it was the best wedding she had ever attended, with only barley, dates and date paste. She said it was the happiest day they all had in Medina.

The Wedding Night

The Prophet ﷺ told Ali to go home and before getting intimate, to wait and he will come to them. Um Ayman was with Fatima. Ali and Fatima were both nervous, and the Prophet ﷺ told them to stay seated. He ﷺ took the water jug and made wudu, then he poured the water he made wudu with over Ali. He ﷺ then called over to Fatima, who was shivering in shyness. He ﷺ comforted her by telling her not to worry, “I have married you to the most beloved person in my family”. He made wudu, poured water over her and made a dua for them, “O Allah bless them in what is between them and what is upon them and bless them in their offspring.” Then he left the new couple alone, to start their life together.

Disclaimer: Notes for The Firsts are brought to you by dedicated students for your personal reference. Please refer to the original lecture for source material.