



يا فاطمة الزهراء يا بنت محمد يا فرقة بين الرسول يا سيدتنا و مولانا
انا نوجدها و نستشفقها و نوسئنا بك الى الله و نعدناك بين يدي حاجتنا



SAYYIDAH FĀṬIMAH (AS)

سيّدة فاطمة (ع)

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Be introduced to Sayyidah Fāṭimah and her family
- Be introduced to her title Al Zahrā' and its meaning in brief
- Discuss stories from the life of Sayyidah Fāṭimah showing her virtues

Lesson 1: Sayyidah Fāṭimah's (as) Family

Sayyidah Fāṭimah is the daughter of Prophet Muḥammad (saw). The Prophet (saw) has told us that she is the greatest woman to have ever lived. She made great sacrifices for the sake of God, and she was generous, kind and chaste.

AL ZHRĀ'

Sayyidah Fāṭimah has many titles. One of the famous ones is her title of Al Zahrā', which means glowing or shining. Our sixth Imam, Ja'far al- Ṣādiq (as) explained:

"When Sayyidah Fāṭima prayed, she glowed for the heaven just the way the stars shine for the people on the earth."

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 1



AHLUL KISA

Once the Prophet (saw) came to Sayyidah Fāṭima's house, feeling unwell. He asked her to cover him with a robe. She gave him a blanket which was from Yemen.

After a while, Imam Ḥasan and Ḥusayn, who were young children at the time, entered the house, and asked their mother why they could smell the beautiful smell of their grandfather, the Prophet. Sayyidah Fāṭima replied that the Prophet was at their house, sitting under the robe, known in Arabic as *kisā'*.

The boys went to their grandfather and asked if they could join him under the *kisā'*, and the Prophet allowed them to join him. Next, Imam 'Ali came home, and he too asked the Prophet (saw) if he could join him under the *kisā'*. Finally Sayyidah Fāṭima too asked her father if she could join them under the *kisā'*.

Once they were all under the *kisā'*, Prophet Muḥammad (saw) raised his right hand towards the heavens and prayed to Allah.

“O Allah! These are the people of my household, my *Ahlul Bayt*. They are from me and I am from them. Remove any impurities from them, and keep them always pure.”

Then Allah called upon the angels in the heavens and told them: “O my angels! I have not created the sky, the earth, the moon and the sun, the planets, the seas and the ships, but for the love of these five people under the blanket.”

Gabriel, the grand angel asked, "O my Lord! Who are those under the blanket?"

The Almighty Allah answered, "They are the household of Prophet, they are Fāṭima, her father, her husband, and her sons."

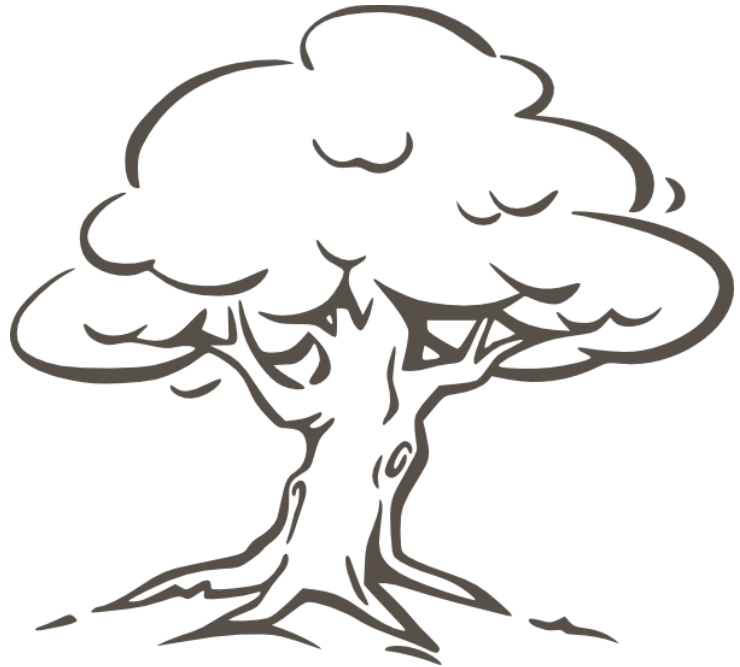
This story of the *kisā'* shows us how important the Prophet's Ahlul Bayt are to the Prophet, and to Allah! The prophet loved them so much that he prayed to Allah to bless them and purify them. Allah in return told the angels that He had created everything in the world only because He loved the Prophet and his Ahlul Bayt.

Class Activity

Now look at the fingers on your hand and say the name of each person who was under the *kisā'* on a different finger.



Do you know how they are related to Sayyidah Fāṭima? Can you make a family tree of the Ahlul Bayt, with the teacher's help? Put every member of Sayyidah Fāṭima family mentioned in the story in this tree and show how they are related.



Lesson 2: Sayyidah Fāṭimah's Chastity

Imam 'Ali says that once they were sitting with Prophet Muḥammad (saw) when he asked: "What is the best thing for a woman?" No one could answer his question.

Imam 'Ali approached Sayyidah Fāṭimah and asked her the question. According to her, the answer was, "The best thing for a woman is that she is protected from the sight of strangers such that neither does she have to see them nor do they get to see her." So Imam 'Ali returned to the Prophet (saw) and gave him the answer.

The Prophet (saw) asked at once, "Who taught you this answer?" Imam 'Ali told him that the answer had come from Sayyidah Fāṭimah. Prophet Muḥammad

(saw) was delighted and said: "Fāṭimah al-Zahrā' is my flesh and blood."

This *ḥadith*, or story, from the life of the Ahlul Bayt shows how Sayyidah Fāṭimah was thinking about modesty all the time, and how important it is for Muslim girls and women to think about modesty too. Modesty is important for all Muslims, boys and girls, men and women.

UMME ABIHA

When Sayyidah Fāṭimah was only six years old, her mother Sayyidah Khadijah died. It was a very difficult time for Sayyidah Fāṭimah. She also had to face a lot of unpleasant things like people hurting her father the Prophet (saw) physically, or by their rude behaviour and words.

Some disbelievers would throw rubbish on him, and the Prophet would act as if nothing had happened and forgive those people because of his excellent manners. Sayyidah Fāṭimah would get very upset and cry, but she also helped to console her father when it happened. She would clean his wounds and wash his face when people would hurt him or throw things at him. She quickly realised that even though she was young, supporting her father was one of her responsibilities, now that her mother had passed away.

Due to this loving and caring nature of hers towards the Prophet, he called her *Umme Abiha*, meaning the mother of her father.

KINDNESS AND CARING

Sayyidah Fāṭimah was always kind and caring towards those who were poor and did not have enough to eat. This was a quality that she showed all her life, and she also encouraged her children to do the same. Sometimes, if a beggar or guest came to their house, he would be fed first before the family of Sayyidah Fāṭimah.

Even on her marriage day, Sayyidah Fāṭimah did not forget about those in need. Girls love their new

clothes, don't they? Well, Sayyidah Fāṭimah thought of others before herself, even on her wedding day. The Prophet (saw) had bought Sayyidah Fāṭimah a new dress for her marriage ceremony. A poor woman came to her house and asked for something to wear, even if it was old. Sayyidah Fāṭimah decided to give her an old patchy dress as the woman had asked, but then remembered this verse from the Quran:

"By no means shall you attain to righteousness until you spend generously out of what you love."

(Qur'an, 3:92)

So she gave the poor woman the new wedding dress, while she wore her old dress to her wedding. When asked by the Prophet why she did not donate her old dress, Sayyidah Fāṭimah replied that she followed the teachings of Qur'an from this verse.

LET'S THINK!

Have you ever given away your old clothes, books or toys for charity? How would you feel if you had to give away a new dress or toy instead of an old one, for someone who had nothing new to wear or play with? Could you do it? What did Sayyidah Fāṭimah think about when she gave away her new wedding dress?

Class Activity

Your teacher will choose one of the stories from Sayyidah Fāṭimah's life and act it out in class with you. How did you feel or behave in each of those incidents. How was Sayyidah Fatimah's behaviour worthy of being modelled or followed?