



يا فاطمة الزهراء يا بنت محمد يا فرقة بين الرسول يا سيدتنا و مولانا  
انا نؤمنك و نستشفقنا و نؤمنك يا بنت الله و نؤمنك بين يدي حاجتنا



## SAYYIDAH FATIMAH (AS)

### سَيِّدَةُ فَاطِمَةَ (ع)

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 3

#### LESSON 1: FĀṬĪMA'S (AS) CHASTITY

In previous years we were introduced to, Sayyidah Fāṭimah (as), the greatest woman in history- the leader of all women of the worlds. In this lesson we will learn more about her life and see what lessons she taught us.

#### FĀṬĪMA AR-RĀDHĪYA (AS)

One of the most important titles that were given to her was that of Al Rāḍīyah which means the: 'One content with Allah's Will'.

She was given this title because throughout her life she did not complain at all about the hardships she suffered for Islam and for her family. She was at all times happy with the Will of Allah, and she was fully and sincerely obedient to Him. This is seen in her lifestyle as, Sayyidah Fāṭimah (as) lived in a simple house made out of clay, wore simple garments from head to toe, ground wheat and barley with her bare hands to prepare meals for her family, and attended to her four children with utmost love and mercy.

#### SAYYIDAH FĀṬĪMAH'S (AS) EARLY YEARS

When Sayyidah Fāṭimah (as) was a child, she did not pass her time in playfulness, wasting time and making mischief. Rather, as a child she learnt as much as she could from her father and this knowledge prepared her for her role in helping her father spread the message of Islam. Once a non-believer who had come to visit Prophet Muḥammad (saw), threw dirt and garbage on the Prophet. Prophet Muhammad (saw), acted as if nothing had happened, forgave him, and returned home. When Sayyidah Fāṭimah (as) saw what had happened to her father, she ran to him with some water

#### Objectives >>>

#### Students should:

- Be introduced to her title of – RĀDHĪYAH - with its brief meaning
- Review the biography of her young years
- Discuss the different aspects of chastity in more detail:
  - Chastity in dress
  - Chastity in looking at opposite gender
  - Chastity in speaking with the other gender
- Be introduced to chastity from the life of Sayyidah FĀṬĪMAH (as)
- Understand the benefits of chastity in terms of respect and better relations
- Discuss Sayyidah FĀṬĪMAH'S (as) title of Al-Mardhiyya, with its brief meaning
- Discuss the great status of Sayyidah FĀṬĪMAH (as) and the importance of love for her
- Learn the importance of practicing goodness to parents, which is an Islamic obligation
- Understand the benefits of being good to parents and the consequences of not practicing goodness to parents

and washed his head and face. We see many acts like this that show that Sayyidah Fāṭimah (as) as a child had the characteristics of kindness and compassion.

Sayyidah Fāṭimah (as) was brought up and trained in the family of Prophet (saw) and took advantage of the knowledge and wisdom of the Prophet (saw). She used to hear the recitation of Quran from the Prophet (saw) and learnt it by heart.

## **CHASTITY**

One of the most important characteristics that Sayyidah Fāṭimah (as) had was chastity. Chastity has many examples, but basically it means that we should dress appropriately in public and interact with the opposite gender appropriately,

Islam does not forbid men and women to interact, as long as they keep the rules of modesty.

### **Class Discussion**

- Do you talk to the opposite gender?
- What do you talk about?
- Do you set any limits?
- Is talking to someone of the same gender the same as talking to someone of the opposite gender?

## **CHASTITY IN DRESSING**

This sort of chastity means respecting and valuing the body by covering it properly so as to avoid creating distractions and unnecessary attraction that lead to sin. Women practice chastity by covering their bodies except their face and hands while men practice chastity by wearing decent clothes.



## **CHASTITY IN LOOKING**

This type of chastity is to lower and limit our gaze. It means to avoid ogling and lustful look at the opposite gender. Allah, the Exalted says:

قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَغُضُّوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ وَيَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ ذَلِكَ أَزْكَى  
لَهُمْ

“Tell the believing men to lower (and limit) their gaze and to cover their private parts. That is purer for them.” (24:30)

We have to realize that any woman is somebody’s daughter, mother or sister. So, as we like the females of our family to be respected we should respect the females of others.

## **CHASTITY IN SPEAKING**

This type of chastity means speaking to the opposite gender respectfully with kind and decent words and only when necessary. Each should avoid talking in a way that will seduce the opposite gender. It includes avoiding laughing loudly, making jokes and speaking in a playful manner.

Allah, The Exalted, says:

...فَلَا تَخْضَعْنَ بِالْقَوْلِ فَيَطْمَعَ الَّذِي فِي قَلْبِهِ مَرَضٌ وَقُلْنَ  
قَوْلًا مَعْرُوفًا

“...then be not soft in speech, lest he in whose heart is a disease (of hypocrisy, or evil desire for adultery, etc.) should be moved with desire, but speak in an honourable manner...” (33:32)”

## **BENEFITS OF CHASTITY**

### **Respecting the Opposite Gender**

The following story from the life of Sayyidah Fāṭimah (as) demonstrates how *Hijāb* can bring about respect between men and women.

One day, a blind man asked for permission to enter Fāṭimah's house, but she kept a veil between them.

The Messenger of Allah noticed her actions and asked: "Why did you keep a veil between you when he cannot see you?" Sayyidah Fāṭimah (as) answered: "Messenger of Allah, it is true that he cannot see me, but I can see him and he can smell my fragrance."<sup>ii</sup> From this we can see that it isn't only the way we dress that has an effect on the other person, and that *ḥijāb* includes a number of other aspects also.

### Stronger families

Chastity results in stronger, stable and more loving families that last for a lifetime. Chastity creates trust between family members and leads to a healthy respect for each other.



The importance of chastity, is seen from this hadith by Imam Baqir (as):

*"Chastity and faith are wound together. If one goes, so does the other."*

## Review Questions

### Q1. Chastity refers to:

- The clothes we wear only, and whether they are suitable or not
- All things related to how we relate to the opposite gender
- Being pleased with the Will of Allah

### Q2. Chastity leads to:

- Respect of members of the opposite gender
- Stronger families
- Both a & b

### Q3. As Muslims, we are:

- Not allowed to talk to members of the opposite gender at all
- Allowed to talk to members of the opposite gender, but have to set limits
- Allowed to talk to members of the opposite gender just as we talk to someone of our gender

## SAYYIDAH FĀṬIMAH (AS) AND HER PARENTS

In the previous lessons we were introduced to one of the most important personalities in history who showed the best characteristics of modesty and chastity. This was the daughter of the Prophet of Islam Muḥammad (saw), Sayyidah Fāṭimah (as). In this lesson, we will look at Fāṭimah's (as) relationship with her father, and see what lessons we can learn from this.

### SAYYIDAH FĀṬIMAH (AS) AND THE PROPHET

Fāṭimah (as) was not more than six years of age when her mother Sayyidah Khadija (as) passed away. After the death of her mother, she always looked after the comfort of her father at home. Sayyidah Fāṭimah (as) was such a daughter who followed the footsteps of her father in all actions. The streets of Mecca were full of those who teased, insulted and tortured the Prophet (saw). Whenever her father returned home, sometimes injured or hurt, she would wash the blood off his sacred face and dress his wounds and encouraged him with her sweet conversation.

It was in difficult times when only Sayyidah Fāṭimah (as) pleased and consoled the heart of her father with her sincere love and affection. That is the reason why the Prophet used to say, "May your father sacrifice his life for you" or that he would call her the "mother of her father", because, she was like a mother for her father.

### GOODNESS TO PARENTS AND ITS BENEFITS

In Islam it is obligatory for us to practice goodness to parents and be kind and compassionate to them at all times.

Our parents have brought us up. They have lived for us. They gave us love and attention, they taught us the difference between right and wrong, they gave us food, clothes and toys and so many other things for our comfort and happiness.



If there was ever a time when there was only enough food for one person, they would give it to the child. Our mothers carried us for 9 months, day and night before we were born.

This is the reason why Allah says in the Qur'ān

*"Worship Allah and do not join any partners with Him; and do good to your parents." (4:36)*

Our parents work so hard for us and our happiness because they only want us to grow up being healthy and happy. Since they work so hard for us, to make us better people, shouldn't we also love, respect and obey them?



The Holy Prophet Muḥammad (saw) said:

*"One, who follows the orders of Allah with regards to obeying parents, shall have two doors of Paradise opened up for him. And if there happens to be only one parent, one door of Paradise shall open up for him."<sup>iii</sup>*

There are many ways to respect our parents, some of them are:

- ✓ Talk to them gently
- ✓ Do not call them with their names
- ✓ Do not raise our voice above theirs
- ✓ Fulfil their needs
- ✓ Thank them and pray for them
- ✓ Do not sit when they are standing.
- ✓ Do not walk in front of them unless told to do so.
- ✓ Do not speak when they are speaking.
- ✓ Never correct them in front of others.
- ✓ Do not displease them or make them angry.
- ✓ Never insult, argue or shout at them.
- ✓ Speak to them nicely even if they are not Muslims
- ✓ Pray for them – here, we can recite the following verse as much as possible.

## Memorisation Activity

A prayer for parents from the Holy Qur'an to memorise:

رَبِّ اَرْحَمُهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيْتَنِي صَغِيرًا

*"My Lord! Bestow on them (my two parents) Your Mercy just as they cared for me in childhood." (17:24)*

## CONSEQUENCES OF NOT PRACTICING GOODNESS TO PARENTS

In the Holy Qur'ān Allah, The Exalted, says

*"Your lord has commanded that you worship none but Him, and that you be kind to your parents. Whether one of them or both of them become old in your life, do not say (even) 'uf' to them or repel them, but address them in terms of honour. And out of kindness, lower to them the wing of humility and say: "My Lord! Bestow upon them your mercy just as they cared for me in childhood." (17:23-24)*



Imam al-Ṣādiq (as) has said:

*"Had Allah known of a thing more trivial and insignificant than the word 'uf', he would have forbidden it (to be spoken to the parents). Uttering 'uf' (to the parents) is the mildest form of ill conduct towards the parents. One of the ways in which a person can be regarded as 'āq (having cut the bond of relations) with their parents is that he casts a hard and stern look upon them."<sup>iv</sup>*

Imam al-Ṣādiq said:

*"Allah shall not accept the prayers of a person who looks at his parents with hatred, even if they have been unfair to him!"<sup>v</sup>*

Imam 'Ali (as) has said:

*"One who causes his parents to become sad has indeed been 'āq (cut relations) with them."<sup>vi</sup>*

From all these narrations we can clearly see that displeasing one's parents is a great sin in Islam and it denies the child who disrespects his or her parents the Mercy of Allah and only brings great punishments.

## A STORY ABOUT A FATHER...

An old man was sitting in the courtyard of his house along with his son who was highly educated. Suddenly a crow perched on a wall of the house. The father asked the son: "What is this?"

The son replied: "It is a crow." After a little while the father again asked the son: "What is this?"

The son said: "It is a crow!"

After a few minutes the father asked his son the third time: What is this? The son said: Father, I have just now told you that this is a crow. After a little while the old father again asked his son the fourth time: what is this? By this time some statement of irritation was felt in the son's tone when he rebuffed his father: Father! It is a crow, a crow! A little later the father again asked his son: What is this? This time the son replied to his father with temper. Father: You are always repeating the same question; although I have told you so many times that it is a crow. Are you not able to understand this? The son had raised his voice.

The father went to his room and came back with an old, dusty diary. Opening a page, he asked his son to read what was written. What the son read were the following words written in the diary:

'Today my little son was sitting with me in the courtyard, when a crow came there. My son asked me twenty-five times what it was and I told him twenty-five times that it was a crow and I did not at all feel irritated. I rather felt proud of my innocent child.'

The son felt ashamed of himself. He had raised his voice and also lost his temper. He came close to his father and said: "Please forgive me. I'm very sorry. I should never have spoken to you in this tone."

The old man hugged his son and smiled. "I forgive you." He said.

It is our duty to be good to our parents all the time.

## ADDRESSING PARENTS RESPECTFULLY

We will end the lesson with a story from the life of Sayyidah *Fāṭimah (as)*:

Some of the people living with the Prophet had rough manners and would disrespectfully address him by his first name, rather than addressing him as 'the Messenger of Allah'. Allah (SWT) revealed an ayah in the Qur'an (24:63) commanding them not to call the Prophet by his first name like they would with each other.

After this *āyah* was revealed, the Prophet came to visit Sayyidah *Fāṭimah (as)* and she, out of the great respect she had for her father, addressed him as 'Messenger of Allah' instead of for example saying 'O father!' When the Prophet (saw) heard this, he was touched by her respect, but explained to her that she was not included in this command, and that she could continue to call him father, saying the following to her:

"My daughter, this *āyah* was not revealed about you nor your family. You are from me, and I am from you...your saying 'O father' is more beloved to my heart, and more pleasing to the Lord...you are the best of children' Then he kissed her face..."<sup>vii</sup>

This shows the extent of the respect that Sayyidah *Fāṭimah (as)* had for her father (saw), and the mutual love that existed between them.

## Review Questions

**Q1. In the Holy Qur'an, the next order God gives us after the order to worship Him is:**

- To pray on time
- To be good to our parents
- To fast

**Q2. A person who is rude and disrespectful to their parents but who prays and is otherwise religious:**

- Is doing okay and is not displeasing God
- Is still displeasing God and risks his deeds not being accepted
- Neither of the above

<sup>i</sup> **References**

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<sup>ii</sup>Fatima al-Ma`suma, by Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlullah

<sup>iii</sup> Kanzul `Ummal, Volume 16, Page 67

<sup>iv</sup> Al-Kafi, Volume 4, Page 50

<sup>v</sup> Al-Kafi, Volume 4, Page 50

<sup>vi</sup> Biharul Anwar, Volume 74, Page 64

<sup>vii</sup> Narrated in al-Burhan fi Tafsirul Qurna, from the Book al Manaqib al Fakhira (Sayed Radhi)