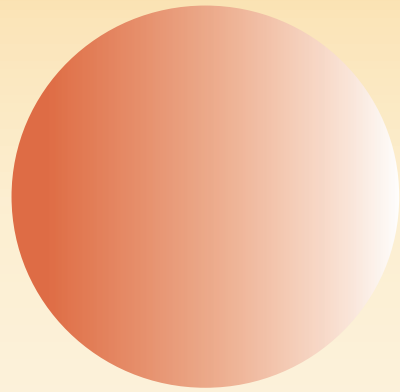


**GOLDEN
TREASURES**



HADHRAT RUQAYYA

(May Allah be pleased with her)

**The Daughter of Hadhrat Muhammad
(May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)**



Isha'at Department - Lajna Ima'illah UK 2013



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In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

Foreword

In a time when social temptations are on the increase, never more is the need for spiritual inspiration. In this booklet, you will be introduced to a true role model.

This booklet is about the humble life of Hadhrat Ruqayya^{ra}, the daughter of our beloved master, Prophet Muhammad^{saw}. Readers will truly be inspired and if God wills, see a change within their own lives.

This booklet was written in Urdu by Faiza Sadeeqa Sahiba at the occasion of Khilafat centenary in 2008. It has been translated into English with the kind permission of our beloved Hudhur, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah strengthen him). I would like to acknowledge and give heartfelt thanks to the Lajna Ima'illah UK Isha'at team under the leadership of Mrs. Zahida Ahmed for undertaking and supervising its completion for the benefit of our younger members.

I pray that those who read this book are truly inspired. Indeed, firm faith in Allah the Almighty is the only route to salvation. May we always be guided by Allah the Almighty, Ameen.

Nasira Rehman
Sadr Lajna Ima'illah UK
April, 2013



Alhamdulillah, with the blessings of Khilafat, this is a great honour for Lajna Ima'illah UK to design and produce stories of prominent personalities in Islam, at the time when we are celebrating 100 years of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the UK.

Hadhrat Musleh Maud^{ra} established Lajna Ima'illah for the training and education of Ahmadi Muslim women in 1922. He envisioned a broader and active role for Ahmadi women. He felt their participation was of great importance for the success of the Jamaat. Women play an important role in the moral and spiritual development of their children. They are responsible for raising the leaders of tomorrow.

Keeping this in mind, we are presenting this booklet for the younger members of our community so they can be inspired by the special people of Islam.

Zahida Ahmed
Secretary Isha'at Lajna Ima'illah UK
2013



HADHRAT RUQAYYA
(MAY ALLAH BE PLEASED WITH HER)
The Daughter of Hadhrat Muhammad
(May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

Dear Children!

This is the story about Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her). She was one of the most fortunate women as she had the honour of being the daughter of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Allah the Almighty blessed the Prophet of God (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) with four daughters from his first wife Hadhrat Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her). Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) was his second daughter.¹

Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) was born when the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was 33 years old, seven years before he became a prophet. Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) was three years younger than Hadhrat Zainab (may Allah be pleased with her) and was born in Mecca- the land where many great prophets were born. It was near the House of Allah, in a house in Al-Hijr, that Hadhrat Ruqayya's (may Allah be pleased with her) eyes first opened. It was God's design that this fortunate daughter was born in a prosperous home where contrary to Arab tradition, she was blessed with deeply loving parents.²

Hadhrat Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was a deeply affectionate and loving father. Once a man saw an exceptional incident of the Holy Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) love for his children and related it to others saying, "*I have never seen anyone with greater love for their children than the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).*"³ The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was himself orphaned in childhood and so was deprived of the love of his mother and father, yet he gave his own children lots of love, affection and respect and was very close to them. Being the Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) daughter, Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) also received an immense share of this love.

Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) spent the early years of her life in comfort and ease. The atmosphere at home was religious and pious. In this atmosphere of gentleness and love, she witnessed amazing occurrences during her childhood. For example, her revered father (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) would often take some supplies of food and go to a dark and narrow cave, where he would spend his time praying. As her mother was a wealthy lady, there were maids in their home for their service and Hadhrat Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her) kept a servant from Aqba, Salma, to help with the children.⁴ Being the custom in wealthy households, servants would make sure the children were fed properly. Despite the presence of maids, Hadhrat Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her) fulfilled her duties towards her children herself. When the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) claimed prophethood, Hadhrat Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her) voluntarily gave all her wealth and everything she had to the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). In this way, the time of financial comfort and ease came to an end.⁵

Hadhrat Ruqayya's (may Allah be pleased with her) first *Nikah* (legal marriage) was performed with Utba bin Abu Lahab and her sister Hadhrat Umme Kalsoom's (may Allah be pleased with her) *Nikah* was performed with Ateeba bin Abu Lahab. They were both sons of the Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) uncle, Abu Lahab.

The wife of Abu Lahab, Umme Jameel, was ill mannered, cold-hearted and a rude woman. When the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) declared his prophethood, the non believers not only rejected him but also started to be cruel and vicious towards him and to the Muslims. Abu Lahab and his wife were at the forefront in causing distress to the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). When Surah Lahab was revealed in response to Abu Lahab's evil doings, Abu Lahab threatened both of his sons that unless they divorced both daughters of Hadhrat Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), he would cut all ties with them. Thus both sons Utba and Ateeba issued divorces to the Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) daughters before their marriage ceremonies.⁶ This was the first major hardship that Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) had to face in the way of Islam.

Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) and her other sisters accepted Islam alongside their mother. It was the result of their upbringing, good morals and compassion that was ingrained in their minds from their childhood.

When Hadhrat Ruqayya's (may Allah be pleased with her) first *Nikah* was terminated, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) thought to get her married to Hadhrat Usman Ghani (may Allah be pleased with him). Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) was from a very respected family of the Quraish and was a modest

person. Even at the time of ignorance, Allah Almighty blessed him with respect. His lineage resembled that of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). He was a good-looking, good-natured young man and was counted among the esteemed noblemen of Mecca. Moreover, Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) was an extremely righteous young man and when he accepted Islam through Hadhrat Abu Bakr Siddique (may Allah be pleased with him), the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) chose him to be his son-in-law. This was the heartfelt desire of Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) as well. Thus it was in Mecca that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) gave Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) in marriage to Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him). At the occasion of their marriage, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) advised Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) to care for Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) and to treat him with utmost kindness.⁷ The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: *“As compared to my other companions, Usman resembles me the most because of his morals.”*⁸ These words were a great source of comfort for Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her), yet they were not spoken merely to console her, but were the truth.

Once the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) related a true incident to some people. It is stated in a

Hadith that once the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), Hadhrat Abu Bakr Siddique, Hadhrat Umar and Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with them) climbed Mount Uhud. The mountain began to shake. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) stamped his foot on the mountain and said, *“Uhud be still! Upon you is none other than a Prophet, a truthful one, and two martyrs.”*

Many years after the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) passed away, Hadhrat Umar and Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with them) were martyred and in this way these spoken words were fulfilled.⁹

Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) was well-behaved and had good fortune. Just as Hadhrat Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her) raised her in comfort with the good things in life, in the same way Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) kept her in a lot of comfort. At the time of her marriage, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) sent one of his household’s female helpers along with Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her).¹⁰

The couple was a unique example in their mutual respect, love and faithfulness to each other. Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) would praise the qualities of his wife. On one occasion the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) visited their home and saw

Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) washing Hadhrat Usman's (may Allah be pleased with him) hair with her own hands.¹¹ This incident indicates that regardless of the facilities she had, Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) would help her husband herself.

When the cruelties of the Quraish became unbearable, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) instructed the Muslims to migrate towards Abyssinia (which is now commonly known as Ethiopia). Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her), daughter of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), was the first woman to migrate in the way of God from Mecca to Abyssinia. This migration took place in the fifth year of prophethood. Regarding her migration to Abyssinia, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, *"After Abraham and Lot (peace be upon them), Usman is the first person to migrate along with his wife for the sake of God."*

After several days had passed following Hadhrat Ruqayya's (may Allah be pleased with her) migration to Abyssinia, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) became extremely worried as no news was received regarding them. So the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) would go to the outskirts of Mecca where he would ask travellers for any news. Finally, one day, a woman replied that she had seen them in Abyssinia. On hearing her answer the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings

of Allah be upon him) said, *“God is their Companion.”*¹² Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) and Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) spent nearly seven or eight years in Abyssinia. It was Abyssinia that became the first land of peace for the Muslims and it was in Abyssinia that Muslims, for the first time could walk anywhere with religious freedom.

Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) was the only daughter of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who was blessed with God’s Grace of being part of Islam’s first migration. She bore the pain of separation from her kind affectionate mother and other family members, biding her time patiently in the hope that they would meet again. But sadly on the eleventh day of Ramadhan, three years before the migration to Medina, Hadhrat Ruqayya’s (may Allah be pleased with her) mother Hadhrat Khadijah-tul-Kubra (may Allah be pleased with her) passed away and so she was unable to live in Mecca again with her mother. At the time of Hadhrat Khadijah’s (may Allah be pleased with her) death, Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) was just seventeen years old.

Having lived in Abyssinia for some time, Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) received news that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was about to migrate to Medina and so he, along with Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) and some other

Muslims, returned to Mecca. When the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) instructed the Muslims to migrate from Mecca to Medina, Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) migrated with Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) to Medina.¹³ In this way, another distinction she held was that she was the only daughter of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who was blessed with the honour of making *two migrations*. At the time of the migration to Medina she was around twenty years old. All of the companions of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who migrated to Abyssinia and then migrated to Medina are known as the '*Ashab-ul- Hijrataen*.'¹⁴

In Medina, Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) and Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) stayed at the home of Aws bin Thabit (may Allah be pleased with him) whose brother was the famous poet of Islam, Ha'saan bin Thabit (may Allah be pleased with him). After some time, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also migrated to Medina.¹⁵

Another blessing of God was that Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) spent the last years of her life in her own homeland amongst her dear ones. The daughter of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), for whom he would go to the outskirts of Mecca for news of her welfare, became a resident of his neighbourhood. Furthermore, Hadhrat Umme Kalsoom and

Hadhrat Fatima Zahra (may Allah be pleased with them) also had the opportunity to spend some time together with their sister.

In 2 AH, Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) became ill with smallpox and was in extreme pain. This happened at the time when the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was occupied in preparations for the Battle of Badr. When the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) departed for the Battle of Badr, Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) was extremely ill. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) stopped Hadhrat Usman Ghani (may Allah be pleased with him) from going to Badr and instructed him to look after Sayedda Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her). The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) told Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) that in return, God would bless him with the reward of participating in Jihad and also bless him a share of the spoils.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was still at Badr when after twenty days of severe suffering, Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) passed away. At the time of her death she was twenty-one years old. As she was being buried, at that precise moment Hadhrat Zaid bin Harsa (may Allah be pleased with him) reached Medina with the news of victory at Badr. Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) was the first of

the daughters of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to pass away during his lifetime.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was deeply grieved when the news of the passing away of his dear child reached him and tears started to flow from his eyes. On his return to Medina he went to the grave of Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) where he said:

“Usman bin Mazoon has gone ahead; now you go and join him.” (Of the Muhajireen, Hadhrat Usman bin Mazoon (may Allah be pleased with him) was the first Companion of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to die in Medina).

The sorrow of Hadhrat Ruqayya’s (may Allah be pleased with her) painful death was not only felt by our dear Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) but his other daughters were also grieving for the loss of their sister. It is related that when Hadhrat Fatima (may Allah be pleased with her) visited the grave of her sister, she sat beside it and started to weep. As she wept, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) kept wiping her tears away with his blessed shawl.

Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) too was extremely saddened at the loss of his wife. Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) and Hadhrat Usman (may

Allah be pleased with him) loved each other very dearly. People used to give the example of their relationship and say that no one had ever seen a better husband and wife than them.¹⁶

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was concerned for Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) as well. It was for this reason after Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) died in 2 AH, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) gave his other daughter Hadhrat Umme Kalsoom (may Allah be pleased with her) in marriage to Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) in Rabi-ul-Awwal (the third month of the Muslim calendar). According to Divine Decree, she had the opportunity to care for him for six years.

Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) was so righteous and so dear to the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that once the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said about him: *"I am so pleased by the relationship of Usman as my son-in-law that even if I had ten daughters, whenever a daughter died, I would give them in marriage to Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) one after another."*

Following their migration to Abyssinia, Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) and Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) were blessed by Allah with a

son called Abdullah, the first grandson of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Because of this, Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) was known as Abu Abdullah. Hadhrat Abdullah was only six years old when one day a cockerel pecked his eye causing his whole face to become swollen. Due to this illness, he passed away in Jamadi-ul-Awwal (the fifth month of the Muslim calendar) in 4 AH. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) performed the funeral prayer and Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) buried him. After Hadhrat Abdullah, Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) did not have any more children.¹⁷

In the book of Zurqani it is recorded that Hadhrat Ruqayya (may Allah be pleased with her) was very beautiful; not just beautiful but also of pious nature. She was modest and pure. She was blessed with chastity, forbearance, devotion, righteousness, exquisiteness, shyness, modesty, zeal, a sense of honour as well as many other noble qualities and high morals.¹⁸

Her personage, worthy of respect, came into this world for a brief, blessed time during which she was still able to make sacrifices for the sake of Islam and spend her life with patience and uprightness. Difficulties were always accompanied with Allah's help and rewards. One great example of this is that when Abu Lahab's son broke off his pending marriage to her, just because she accepted Islam,

she subsequently married Hadhrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) and this union became known all over Arabia as a great one. Therefore this incident teaches us the lesson that sacrifices made in the way of Allah are never wasted. He is the Most Honourable and always rewards abundantly. Thus, we should always keep in mind the luminous portrait of these pious companions and try our best to follow their example.

May Allah raise them in status and may He always be with us – Ameen.



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