

**GOLDEN
TREASURES**



Hadhrat Safiyyah
(May Allah be pleased with her)
(The Daughter of Abdul Muttalib)

Isha'at Department - Lajna Ima'illah UK 2013



First published in Urdu by Islam International Publications Ltd. UK, printed by Raqeem Press in 2008 as *Hadhrat Safia bint Abdul Muttalib*
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Printed in English in UK, 2013
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Produced by Isha'at (Publications) - 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 Safiyya^{ra}, the aunt 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 Azra Daud 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

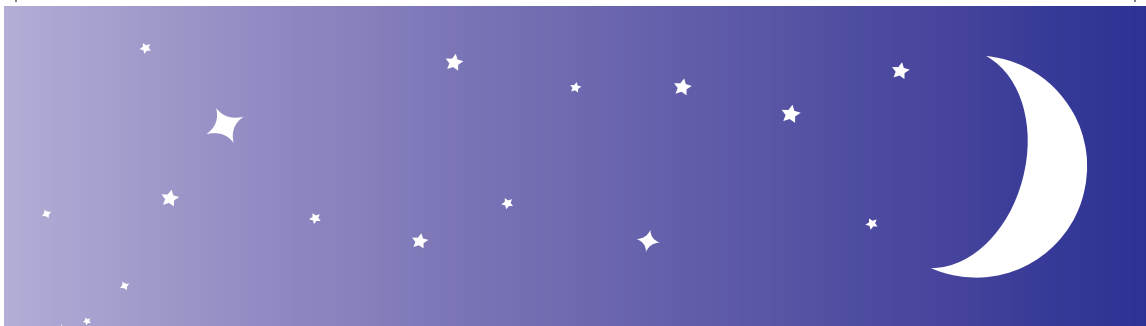


Alhamdulillah, with the blessings of Khilafat, this is a great honour for Lajna Ima'illah UK to design and produce stories of prominent personalities in Islam, at the time when we are celebrating 100 years of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the UK.

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 SAFIYYAH
(MAY ALLAH BE PLEASED WITH HER)
(The Daughter of Abdul Muttalib)

Dear children,

In this book we will be telling you about a very brave and courageous lady, Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her), an honourable companion of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). She was the daughter of Hadhrat Abdul Muttalib and the paternal aunt of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).¹

That's why she is also called "*Ammat-un-Nabi*" which means the Prophet's paternal aunt.² Her honourable mother's name was Hala, daughter of Wuhaib, who was the paternal cousin of the Holy Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) mother, Hadhrat Amna (may Allah be pleased with her). Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) was also the cousin and the aunt of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). There was a very small age gap between her and that of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).



The Holy Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) other paternal aunts are also mentioned in history. Their names were Umme Hakim Baiyza, Umaimah, Atkah and Burrah Imdarwa. However, from these aunts, only Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) accepted Islam. When our beloved Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) started to call people to the truth, Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) accepted his message immediately and thus had the honour of being among that sacred group to whom Allah gave glad tidings of Paradise.³

Before the advent of Islam, Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) had been married to Haris Bin Harb. After his death, she married Awwam bin Khuwailid who was a brother of Hadhrat Khadija tul Kubra (may Allah be pleased with her). Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) had three sons. One of them was Hadhrat Zubair (may Allah be pleased with him) who received the title of "*Hawari-e Rasool*," (Apostle of the Prophet may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). He was among the ten Companions who were given the glad tidings of Paradise in this very world.

Hadhrat Safiyyah's (may Allah be pleased with her) second



son was Sa'ib and the third was Abdul Ka'abah. Hadhrat Sa'ib (may Allah be pleased with him) was very fortunate to have the opportunity to fight in the Battle of Badr, the Battle of Ditch and the Battle of Yamama.⁴

Hadhrat Zubair (may Allah be pleased with him) was very young when his father passed away. After his demise Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) did not re-marry despite still being young and she remained a widow for the rest of her life.⁵

After the death of her husband, Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) became entirely responsible for bringing up her young son. Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) raised her son in a very disciplined manner. Her aim was to make him a brave and fearless soldier. Very often she subjected him to hard work and sometimes beat him as well. Once, when Hadhrat Zubair (may Allah be pleased with him) was being beaten, his paternal uncle, Nofal bin Khuwailid passed nearby and so he tried to stop Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) from beating the child. She said,

"I have no enmity towards Zubair. I am hard on him so that he may become wise and brave and defeat the army of the



enemies.”

As a result of Hadhrat Safiyyah’s (may Allah be pleased with her) firm upbringing, Hadhrat Zubair (may Allah be pleased with him) grew up to become a truthful Muslim, a brave soldier and a fearless commander.

Although Hadhrat Zubair (may Allah be pleased with him) was born pious and humble by nature, his mother’s training enhanced these qualities and filled his heart with a deep passion and love for Islam and the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

Hadhrot Zubair’s (may Allah be pleased with him) love for the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was so immense that once during the early days of the prophethood, he heard a rumour that enemies had either captured or martyred the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). He became extremely restless and so in a flash he grabbed his sword and rushed towards the residence of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) where he found him safe and sound. He was relieved of his agony. When the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saw him with a sword in his hand, he asked him: *“What is the*



matter, Zubair?"

Hadhrat Zubair (may Allah be pleased with him) replied: *"O Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), may my parents be sacrificed upon you. I heard a rumour that the enemies of Islam have either captured or martyred you."*

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) smiled and asked, *"Had it been so, what would you have done?"*

Hadhrat Zubair's (may Allah be pleased with him) spontaneous response was, *"O Prophet of Allah, I swear to God, I would have fought against the people of Mecca and given my life."⁶*

This was the spirit Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) wanted to see in her dear son. This was the result of her training and despite the extreme cruelty inflicted on him by the non-believers who wanted him to revert to their faith, his only reply was, *"By God, I will never revert to non-belief at any cost."* When this persecution reached extreme levels, in the fifth year of the prophethood, under the instructions from the Holy Prophet (peace and



blessings of Allah be upon him), Hadhrat Zubair (may Allah be pleased with him) and a group of fifteen Muslims migrated to Habsha (which is now known as Ethiopia). Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) was deeply grieved by this separation from her son but in view of the Holy Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) command and for the safety of her son, she let him depart to a distant land with a spirit of exemplary patience and bravery.

It had only been three months since the migration of these 15 followers to Habsha when they heard the news that the non-believers of Mecca had accepted Islam or that at least a truce had been agreed between the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the non-believers. On hearing this news, quite a few of the migrants returned to Mecca. Hadhrat Zubair (may Allah be pleased with him) was one of them. On their return, they found this news to be false. Nonetheless, Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) was delighted to see her dear son on his unexpected return and prostrated in gratitude to Allah. After some time Hadhrat Zubair (may Allah be pleased with him) started trading and undertook journeys to Syria. During this time, Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) arranged his marriage to Hadhrat Abu Bakr's



(may Allah be pleased with him) daughter, Hadhrat As'ma.

When the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) migrated to Medina with his companion Hadhrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him), Hadhrat Zubair (may Allah be pleased with him) was in Syria on a business trip. On his return journey from Syria, he met the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and Hadhrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) and presented them with some white garments. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and Hadhrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) wore these clothes when they entered Medina.

Shortly after his return to Mecca, Hadhrat Zubair (may Allah be pleased with him) migrated to Medina with his mother and wife. In Medina, Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) lived with her son, who served her with love and care.

Hadhrot Zubair (may Allah be pleased with him) was blessed with a son in the first year of Hijra. The birth of a grandson called 'Abdullah' held great importance. For many months there had been no births in the Muslim families. The Jews of Medina had spread a rumour that they had



put a spell on the Muslims and as a result no child would be born to them. The birth of Abdullah exposed their false claim. The Muslims were overjoyed and the hills of Medina resounded with the slogans of *'Allahu Akbar.'*

Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) was a very brave and courageous lady. She participated in most of the battles. She would bandage the wounded and give them water and on some occasions she would take up a sword and attack the enemies.

In the third year of Hijra, during the Battle of Uhud, due to a fault on the part of some of the Muslims, the battle was nearly lost. The Muslim army scattered in confusion and so the enemy was able to surround the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) came out of Medina with a spear in her hand and put to shame those Muslims who were running away from the battlefield. She called out to them in anger, *"Have you deserted the Prophet of God?"*

Hearing the voice of Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her), all the Muslims gathered around the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).



In the fifth year of Hijra, at the Battle of Ditch, all the non-believing tribes of Arabia and the Jews joined forces with the intention of attacking Medina, the headquarters of the Muslims. The enemy tribe of Banu Quraiza became ferocious in its hostility. This was an extremely hard time for the Muslims but they adhered to their pledge of sacrificing their wealth and their lives in the way of Allah. The protection of women and children from Jewish mischief posed a problem. For their protection the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) transferred the women and children to a castle called 'Fa'ray.' Hadhrat Ha'saan bin Thabit (may Allah be pleased with him) was appointed to look after them.

Although the castle was safe, this arrangement was not free from danger as there was no armed protection against the Jewish settlement nearby. One day, a Jew appeared and started to snoop around. By chance, Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) saw him and, being an intelligent lady, understood his intention of spying. She realised that if this man was to learn that there were only women and children in the fort, the likelihood was that the enemy would attack the fort. Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) asked Hadhrat Ha'saan bin Thabit (may Allah be pleased with him) to go out and kill this Jew.



Hadhrat Ha'saan bin Thabit (may Allah be pleased with him) hesitated and said, *"If I was able to fight, I would be with the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)."*

Hearing this Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) immediately got up, pulled out a tent pole and hit the Jew's head so hard that it split open and he died. Then she asked Hadhrat Ha'saan bin Thabit (may Allah be pleased with him) to go out and take off the Jew's clothes and weapons and bring them in. But Hadhrat Ha'saan (may Allah be pleased with him) again excused himself. Then Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) asked him to cut the Jew's head off and throw it below the fort. Hadhrat Ha'saan (may Allah be pleased with him) again hesitated. Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) herself cut off the Jew's head and threw it down the castle wall. The people of Banu Quraiza saw this and assumed that the Muslim army was in the castle and so they did not dare to attack.

By doing this, Hadhrat Safiyyah's (may Allah be pleased with her) bravery and fearlessness saved many women and children from the cruelty of the Jews. With her foresight, not only did she impress the Jews but she also proved that



if the need arose, Muslim women could participate fully in the war itself. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), in appreciation of this bravery, gave her a share of the war booty. She was fifty eight years of age at that time.⁹

Upon hearing the news of Hadhrat Hamza's (may Allah be pleased with him) martyrdom during the Battle of Uhud, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) set out to look for his body. He found the body in Ba'ten Valley. Hadhrat Hamza (may Allah be pleased with him) had fought bravely and was martyred with the spear of Wahshi, a slave of Jabar bin Mut'am. When the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saw Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) going towards the battlefield, he called her son, Hadhrat Zubair (may Allah be pleased with him), and advised him to stop his mother from going further. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was afraid that the sight of the mutilated body of her dead brother might affect her badly. She understood the reason for the message and said,

"I know my brother's body is mutilated. All this is for the sake of Allah. I swear to God I do not like this but, God willing, I will be patient in this difficult time and will control my



emotions. I hope that Allah will reward me.”

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) allowed her to see Hadhrat Hamza’s (may Allah be pleased with him) dead body. She came to the body, tears flowing, sighed and simply said,

“Inna Lillah-e Wa Inna Ilaih-e Raajioon,” which means: *“Surely, to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return.”*

Then Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) fell silent. She prayed to Allah for her brother’s forgiveness and presented two sheets for his shroud.

During prayer for her brother, Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) could not control her tears and cried intensely. Seeing this, the eyes of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) filled with tears. Advising patience and consoling Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said,

“(The Archangel) Gabriel has informed me that in the high heaven the name of Hamza son of Abdul Muttalib has been written as ‘Assad Ullah and Assad ul Rasul’ - (meaning ‘Allah’s



Lion' and 'The Prophet's Lion')."¹⁰

After her brother's burial, Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) returned to Medina.

This incident shows that Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) was a very patient woman who was always ready, as a true Muslim ought, to submit herself to the pleasure of Allah.

Hadhrt Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) was an intelligent and literate companion of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). She was well versed in Arabic poetry and traditions. She herself was a poet and used to compose excellent verses. She wrote touching elegies (funeral poems) on the death of her father, brother (Hadhrt Hamza) and that of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).¹¹

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was Hadhrt Safiyyah's (may Allah be pleased with her) nephew, maternal cousin and brother-in-law of her husband. They spent their childhood together under one roof and had deep affection for each other. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) loved her



greatly and often used to call Hadhrat Zubair (may Allah be pleased with him), 'Ibn Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her).'

During eleventh Hijra, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) passed away and so unparalleled grief befell Hadhrat Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her). The poem she wrote on this occasion reflects her deep grief and pain.

Hadhrot Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) passed away at the age of 73 in the year twentieth Hijra during the caliphate of Hadhrot Umar (may Allah be pleased with him). She was buried in Jannatul Ba'qi.¹²

May Allah bless her soul. Ameen.



References

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3. Azwajay Mu'taha'rat wa S'habiyat (page 302-303)
4. Al-Istiab (page 428)
5. Azawjay Mu'taha'rat wa S'habiyat (page 394)
6. Tazkar-e-S'habiyat (page 166-167)
7. Tazkar-e-S'habiyat (page 167-169)
8. Tazkar-e-S'habiyat (page163-164)
9. Tazkar-e-S'habiyat (page 170)
10. Tazkar-e-S'habiyat (page169-170)
11. Azwajay Mu'taha'rat wa S'habiyat (page 307)
12. Tazkar-e-S'habiyat (page 171-172)





