

**GOLDEN  
TREASURES**

***Hazrat Bu Zainab***  
***(may Allah be pleased with her)***

***Wife Of Hazrat Mirza Shareef***  
***Ahmad***

***(may Allah be pleased with him)***

**Isha'at Department - Lajna Ima'illah UK 2015**





***Hazrat Bu Zainab (May Allah be pleased with her)***

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## Salutations and abbreviations

The actual salutations have not generally been set out in full, but they should nevertheless be understood as being repeated in full in each case.

The name of Muhammad<sup>saw</sup>, the Holy Prophet of Islam, has been followed by the symbol <sup>saw</sup>, which is an abbreviation for *Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam* (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

The names of other prophets and messengers are followed by the symbol <sup>as</sup>, an abbreviation for '*Alaihissalam* (on whom be peace).

The symbol <sup>ra</sup> is used with the name of the companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. It stands for *Radi Allahu'anhu/'anha/'anhum* (may Allah be pleased with him/her/them).

The abbreviation <sup>rh</sup> stands for *Rahimahullahu Ta'ala* (may Allah have mercy on him).

The abbreviation <sup>aba</sup> stands for *Ayyadahullahu Ta'ala binasrihil 'Aziz* (May Allah be his Helper), and is used for the present khalifah of the Community.

*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 Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> the daughter in-law of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Research Cell Team -

Sahib for providing us with the resources required to compile this book. I would also 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. May we always be guided by Allah the Almighty, Ameen.

Nasira Rehman  
Sadr Lajna Ima'illah UK  
2015

***Hazrat Bu Zainab***  
***(may Allah be pleased with her)***

***Wife Of Hazrat Mirza Shareef Ahmad***  
***(may Allah be pleased with him)***

## Introduction

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was the daughter in-law of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. She was one of those blessed women, for whom the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> received the following revelation:

***“Your house will be filled with blessings and I shall perfect My favours unto you and you will have a large progeny from blessed women, some of whom you will find hereafter, and I will cause a great increase in your progeny and will bless it;.....”***

(Tadhkirah: English Rendering Published in UK 2009: Page: 180)

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was a pious person with outstanding qualities. As being one of the blessed women, we can see how Allah Almighty has showered His blessings on her many folds. After granting her the privilege of becoming the daughter in law of the Imam of the age; He blessed her further by being the grandmother of our present beloved Khalifah, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup>.

We are presenting this booklet for the younger members of our community so they can be inspired by this great personality.

May Allah Almighty raise her status in paradise and enable us to follow in her footsteps, Ameen.

Zahida Ahmed  
Secretary Isha'at, Lajna Ima'illah UK  
2015







## *Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup>*

Hazrat Bu<sup>1</sup> Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was the Promised Messiah's<sup>as</sup> youngest daughter-in-law. She was married to his youngest son, Hazrat Mirza Shareef Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> and was also the grandmother of our beloved Huzoor, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup>. She is highly revered for her humble and righteous nature and is counted among the '**Blessed Ladies**'. (Please see introduction for meaning of 'blessed ladies')

### **Family Background of Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup>**

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was the daughter of one of the Promised Messiah's<sup>as</sup> most beloved companions, Hazrat Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan Sahib<sup>ra</sup>. He is counted among the blessed and special companions, known as 'the 313 Companions' of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

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1. 'Bu' was a title given to a noble lady as a mark of respect in an area in India called Malerkotla

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was born on the May 19, 1893 in her father's mansion in 'Sherwani Kot'. She spent her childhood in the area of Malerkotla region of India. In her childhood she sometimes travelled to Qadian with her father where she would enjoy the blessings of being a guest of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> for long periods of time. Even though her family led a very luxurious life, they were very humble in nature. Whilst in Qadian Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> would even sleep on the floor with other children, so that her father could sleep on the only bed. Her father had accepted Ahmadiyyat but the majority of his family were not Ahmadi and indeed were opposed to the movement. Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup>'s own mother, Bu Mehr-Un-Nisa, had not accepted Ahmadiyyat and was not very keen to visit or live in Qadian.

It was a custom of the people who lived in Malerkotla at the time to try and find religious guidance from people who were regarded as 'Holy'. They wore lucky charms and amulets to ward off evil and bring them good fortune. Bu Mehr-Un-Nisa was influenced by these superstitions but her husband, Hazrat Nawab Sahib<sup>ra</sup>, strongly disliked them. Sometimes Bu Mehr-Un-Nisa's mother would give her daughter amulets as good luck charms.

Bu Mehr-Un-Nisa would try to hide them from her husband, but Hazrat Nawab Sahib<sup>ra</sup> somehow managed to discover them.

Once, he noticed that the fabric of his clothes seemed a bit crisp. He became suspicious and when he unstitched the cloth, he found a secret amulet sewn into the lining!

Slowly but surely with the blessed influence of her husband and the prayers of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, Bu Mehr-Un-Nisa's character was transformed. She began to abandon her superstitious beliefs; she realised that she could not hide such things from her husband and she became a pious and righteous person as her husband expected her to be. Over time, Bu Mer-Un-Nisa's mother realising the change in her daughter, stopped sending her such amulets.

It is said that Bu Mehr-Un-Nisa had made a promise to herself that she would accept Ahmadiyyat after she had her fourth child. However, she passed away while giving birth to her fourth baby in November 1898 (page,48). Her last child was a son named Nawab Abdul Rabb. She was most privileged as the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> led her funeral prayer in Qadian.

At the time of the passing of her mother, Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was only 5 years old. With four young children who needed looking after, her father remarried Bu Amtul Hameed Begum, who was the maternal aunt of Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup>. Bu Zainab's<sup>ra</sup> aunt proved to be a loving and affectionate stepmother. She tended to the needs of Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> and her brothers. Many years later when Hazrat Bu

Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was an adult, she returned this love. Whenever anyone visited Qadian, she would request them to pray at the grave of her aunt in the Bahishti Maqbarah.<sup>2</sup>

## Marriage

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was just 13 years old when her beloved step mother Bu Amtul Hameed passed away on October 27, 1906.

(<http://www.alislam.org/urdu/pdf/1>

702.pdf page 474)

Hazrat Nawab Sahib's<sup>ra</sup> one and only adored daughter was left without a mother once again.

Hazrat Nawab Sahib<sup>ra</sup> began to worry about the loneliness of his young daughter. He wanted to find her a good and suitable marriage partner. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was also concerned about her and would often express this concern to his family members; because of this concern, he would pray a lot for her. After these prayers, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> sent a marriage proposal of his youngest son, Hazrat Mirza Shareef Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> for Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup>.

Nawab Sahib<sup>ra</sup> accepted this proposal very happily and the *Nikah* took place on the November 15, 1906 (Ramadan 27, 1324 Hijri).

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2. Heavenly graveyard established by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>

This was held in the courtyard of Darul Barakat, which was a part of the Promised Messiah's<sup>as</sup> home (Darul Masih).

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih I, Maulvi Hakeem Noor-ud-Din<sup>ra</sup>, announced the Nikah in the presence of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Although the 'Nikah' had taken place, Hazrat Bu Zainab continued to live with her father until her marriage ceremony a few years later in 1909.

However, the great happiness of Hazrat Nawab Sahib<sup>ra</sup> was met with the fierce anger of his relatives. Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum Sahiba<sup>ra</sup> (who was the daughter of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and got married to Hazrat Bu Zainab's<sup>ra</sup> respected father Hazrat Nawab Muhammad Ali<sup>ra</sup>) writes:

'Nawab Sahib loved his daughter a great deal and would remember her childhood stories more than he would of any of his other children. All of his relatives were angered by her marriage. They said that such a marriage match had never taken place before and that he had done something terrible. Nawab Sahib remembered how his brother would say to him, 'What did you notice in these people (referring to the family of Hazrat Mirza Shareef Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>)? Why did you cast off your daughter so easily? Nawab Sahib<sup>ra</sup> would reply, "You cannot see what I see. Just remember that if I had to choose between a king and Shareef Ahmad begging in the streets with a potsherd in hand, I

would still marry my daughter to Shareef Ahmad.”

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by  
2008 p. 1-6)

His relatives did not realise what a great honour it was for Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> to become the daughter-in-law of the Imam of the age, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Moreover, her husband was the honourable person regarding whom the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had received many prophecies from Allah and he was counted among the **‘Blessed Children’**. **One of the revelations received about him was;**

وہ بادشاہ آیا

**‘Here comes the king’.**

(Tadhkirah: English Rendering Published in UK 2009: Page: 911)

Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum Sahiba<sup>ra</sup> further writes about the marriage ceremony in the following words:

“The marriage .... was a very simple ceremony, in a house next door to Darul Masih. Hazrat Amma Jan<sup>ra3</sup> had already sent clothes and gifts of jewellery to our house. It was Hazrat Nawab Sahib’s wish that his daughter should be married in the simple manner that Hazrat Fatima<sup>ra</sup> had been married.

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3. The Promised Messiah’s<sup>as</sup> blessed wife - Seyda Nusrat Jahan Begum (ra)



Therefore when the bride was ready for her wedding, Nawab Sahib sat with her and gave her some words of advice. He then told me to take her to Hazrat Amma Jan's<sup>ra</sup> house. Hazrat Amma Jan<sup>ra</sup> welcomed us near the stairs leading from Seyda Umme Waseem's house into the courtyard of Seyda Umme Nasir. Hazrat Amma Jan<sup>ra</sup> then took the bride to Darul Barakat'.<sup>4</sup>

(<http://www.alislam.org/urdu/pdf/>

-V02.pdf pp.266, 475)

### **Loving Relationship with Siblings**

A little while before Hazrat Bu Zainab's<sup>ra</sup> marriage, her father married for the third time. He married Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum Sahiba<sup>ra</sup> (daughter of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>).

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> and her brothers accepted the marriage wholeheartedly, and were very excited to welcome the new family member into their home. Nawab Sahib<sup>ra</sup> writes:

'After spending a few days in Qadian following the wedding ceremony, we went to Lahore by train. When we arrived at the station, I heard Abdul Rahman's voice. I found out that the boys had cycled to the station to welcome us. I was very pleased with the gesture of these dutiful and lovely children as they greeted their new mother with so much love and warmth.

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4. This house is now known as Hazrat Umme Tahir's house

I was even more pleased when I arrived home where Zainab welcomed Mubaraka Begum wholeheartedly. All the children, including Zainab had decorated the house beautifully to express the love and happiness they felt at the marriage.'

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> loved and respected Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum<sup>ra</sup> a lot. She always used to admire and mention her good qualities. She said that Nawab Mubaraka Begum proved to be a very loving mother. Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum<sup>ra</sup> had five children of her own who became Hazrat Bu Zainab's<sup>ra</sup> half brothers and sisters. They were:

1. Late Nawabzada Muhammad Ahmad Khan. He was married to Amtul Hameed Begum Sahiba who was Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad's<sup>ra</sup> daughter.
2. Late Seyda Mansoorah Begum Sahiba. She was the first wife of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III<sup>rh</sup> .
3. Late Nawabzada Masood Ahmad Khan. He was married to Hazrat Dr. Mir Muhammad Ismael Ahmad's<sup>ra</sup> daughter, Tayyeba Begum.
4. Late Sahibzadi Mahmooda Begum Sahiba. She was married to Dr. Munawwar Ahmad Sahib, son of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup> .
5. . The wife of Dr. Mirza Mubashir Ahmad Sahib, son of Sahibzada Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>.

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by

2008 p. 7-9)

Many years later, when questioned about eminent elders who had passed away, Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> expressed a great deal of love for Hazrat Nawab Mubaraka Begum Sahiba<sup>ra</sup> and was full of praise for her. Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> frequently mentioned that:

‘Begum Sahiba [her step-mother] was an extremely loving and noble lady. Once when I fell ill, Mian (Bu Zainab Sahiba’s father) invited me to stay with them for my medical care. During that time I never heard her say anything unkind at all. When she (Nawab Mubaraka Begum Sahiba) got married and moved in with us, she was quite young. However, she never did or said anything that could be hurtful to us as children; indeed she used to take very good care of us.’

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by  
2008 p.19)

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> had a great deal of love for all of her siblings. They never felt that they were her half brothers and sisters. All her brothers and sisters were very informal with her and were easily able to share their feelings with her. She joined in their happy occasions with a lot of sincerity, and cared deeply about their wellbeing. She was a very loving lady and received a lot of love in return. All her brothers and sisters loved her immensely and showed her their deepest respect. So sincere was her love for them that moments before her demise, when there can be no dishonesty in one’s feelings, she continually called out for

her half-sister, Mansoorah Begum.

Another instance that demonstrates her sincere love for her siblings was when Hazrat Bu Zainab's<sup>ra</sup> youngest sister, 'A' got married. She gave her the gift of a heavily decorated sari, 25 grams of gold and a 'jhoomar' (a type of jewellery worn over one side of the head). Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> said that she wanted to give her these items because 'A' was the youngest child and she felt that it was her duty to care for her in this way, despite the financial hardships they were going through at the time.

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by  
2008 p.10)

## Children

Allah blessed Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> with three sons and three daughters. She lived to see her next generation as well. Her children's names are as follows:

1. The eldest son was **Late Sahibzada Mirza Mansoor Ahmad** (he married the eldest daughter of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup>, Sahibzadi Nasira Begum Sahiba). He was blessed with five children, three boys and two girls. One of his sons is Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup>, the fifth Khalifah and the present worldwide Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at. Thus, our beloved Huzoor is the grandson of Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup>.

2. Another son was the **Late Sahibzada Mirza Dawood Ahmad** who married Sahibzadi Amtul Hafeez Begum

Sahiba's daughter, Zakia Begum. They were blessed with five daughters.

**3. The Late Sahibzada Mirza Zafar Ahmad** was the third son who married the elder daughter of Mirza Aziz Ahmad Sahib (son of Hazrat Mirza Sultan Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>) Naseera Begum Sahiba. They had four daughters and one son.

**4. One of her daughters was Sahibzadi Amatul Wadood Sahiba** who passed away when she was still young.

**5. Another daughter is** \_\_\_\_\_ **who was** married to Late Nawabzada Abbas Ahmad Khan, son of Nawab Abdullah Khan Sahib<sup>ra</sup>. They had four sons and one daughter.

**6. The third daughter is Sahibzadi Amatul Waheed** who is the wife of Sahibzada Mirza Khursheed Ahmad, son of Hazrat Mirza Aziz Ahmad. Mirza Khursheed Ahmad is serving as *Nazir A'ala* and local Ameer of Rabwah. They are blessed with six sons.

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by  
2008 p. 10-11)

### **Excellent Qualities**

By the Grace of Allah, Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> lived a very long life. When she passed away at the age of 91, many of the ladies of her time had already passed away. However, her relatives, who were able to share their memories of her, remembered her to be a very loving and good-natured lady. She would never complain about anyone. Backbiting annoyed her immensely; she wouldn't indulge in it herself, and found it intolerable to listen to anyone else backbite.

If she overheard anyone backbiting she would keep quiet and not join in. Quarrels made her very anxious indeed.

She was an excellent hostess to her guests, and was accustomed to welcoming everyone with a smile. It would please her greatly if someone brought her something cooked with their own hands. She would praise the food and offer it to others saying, 'Look how delicious this is!'

She would listen to people when they presented their problems to her. If anyone hurt her feelings, she would remain silent in response. Her younger sister says, 'what can I tell you about her? I can summarise her character by telling you that she was an angel.'

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was a loving and deeply caring person. In general, she had a quiet nature but she would always have a smile on her face. Many ladies used to visit her in Qadian and she would greet them wholeheartedly and listen to their problems.

She took great care of the poor and the needy and would try to help them in any way possible. She would help each individual according to their needs. She particularly took care of her servants and did not treat them in a base manner or let them go hungry. Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> would sometimes admonish servants for making a mistake but it was never done in a manner which could cause any real

or long-lasting hurt. She never let needy person go empty-handed.

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by .....  
2008 pp. 11-12,  
September, October 2008 p.117)

She would particularly offer financial help to the needy at times when they had a wedding to organise among their families. Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was a very generous person. If she helped someone, she would do it very discreetly.

She inculcated this spirit of charity deeply in her children by continually instructing them to give financial support to those in need. Her son Mirza Zafar Ahmad says,

‘My habit of never rejecting anyone who asks for something is due to her training. I learnt from her that by giving something to the needy , it does not make one poor.’

( 18 September  
1984, p.3)

A lady used to bring eggs from her village and although she offered them as a gift, Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> would say to her daughter,

‘Bari, give her a gift of money as she is a poor lady and travels from far.’

This practice continued when they moved to Rabwah; lots of ladies used to come to meet her every day. She never

regarded this as a nuisance, and would meet everyone, rich or poor, with equal enthusiasm and devotion.

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was very caring by nature and would try to help the needy to ease their suffering. Her caring nature is reflected in many incidents when she helped people. One lady, known as Mayee Ghausaan, used to look after Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> during her childhood and accompanied Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> after her wedding. Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> would take good care of her needs especially when she fell ill.

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by

2008 p. 12-13)

Another well-known lady in the Jama'at by the name of Ustani Memoona Sahiba, had nowhere to live after she became a widow. Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> provided her with accommodation in a portion of her own house and looked after Ustani Memoona's children like her own.

Another instance of her exemplary kind nature can be found in the following recount of her son Mirza Zafar Ahmad Sahib:

'When I was young, I remember an elderly Sikh gentleman who would stop at our well, which was on route to his village. He would ask us to give his salaam to our mother. When this was conveyed to my mother, she would send him some sugar so that



he could add it to the water from the well and make himself a sweet drink. The man would then use the sugar to make his drink, convey his salaam and leave.'

(1984, p.4)

18 September

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was a generous and righteous lady. Her heart was filled with the fear of Allah and she was very careful not to hurt anyone by her words or actions. She was especially careful in this regard with her close relations. She would not complain if someone did not go to meet her, preferring to remain quiet.

She also cared for and looked after animals. She would regularly feed birds with seeds and pieces of bread and express concern that the crows did not let smaller birds get to the food.

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by

2008 p. 19)

### **Simple Lifestyle**

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> belonged to a very well-off family; she lived in a large house with servants. The family owned lots of land but when she joined the home of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, she lived in a small room; yet she never complained about it as she felt blessed to be married into the family of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. She made every sacrifice that was required of her without complaint or resentment and fitted into her new role and environment

whole heartedly.

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was a well-organised lady. She would run her household affairs efficiently, even on limited finances. She continued to give charity and managed to fulfil the needs of the house and of her children as well as those of her servants through all hardships. After the partition of Pakistan and India, Ahmadis had to leave Qadian and settle in Rabwah where they faced extreme hardship. Even in these difficult times, she maintained her house very well despite increased financial problems. She was never heard to complain and always gave the impression of contentment and plenty even in difficult circumstances.

### **Exceptional in Hygiene and Cleanliness**

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> paid special attention to cleanliness and hygiene. She disciplined her lifestyle in accordance with her standards of cleanliness. She would keep her utensils separate from those used by others. Her nephews and nieces used to tease her about her extreme dislike to drinking from someone else's glass. Her nephew,

used to tease her by saying,

'Bu, if in the next world in Heaven Allah asks me what I wish for, I will say that I want Bu Zainab to drink out of my glass!'

Commenting on the reason for her exceptionally hygienic manners, she told her granddaughter,

<sup>5</sup>, that she once fell ill for a long period of time. Doctors suspected tuberculosis because it was a disease common among her maternal forefathers. Due to this suspicion, she decided to eat and drink from separate utensils so that the disease would not infect anyone else. She said that she thought to herself, **'Before people start to become uneasy, I might as well separate my plates from others myself.'** This then became her regular practice at home and also while travelling. (Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by 2008 p.13-14)

### Enjoyment in Household Chores

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> had helpers for household chores, but despite this she often shared in these tasks. For example, she enjoyed cooking certain dishes herself. All her relatives were of the opinion that '*Cholia*' (green chickpeas) cooked by her were much better than those cooked by anyone else, no matter how hard they tried.

When she sent clothes to a laundry, she would supervise and keep an eye on exactly how many clothes had been sent. Then, she would receive them personally on arrival, and put them back in their proper places.

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5. Daughter of Mirza Mansoor Ahmad Sahib

Even if she was ill, she would keep a strict eye on her household affairs.

A person from a wealthy background may normally just throw old and torn clothes away, however, Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> used her skills to mend them. Her granddaughter, *Umm al-Fa'ima*, once went to meet her and found her sewing something with her own hands. Upon inquiry, Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> told her that a *Kameez* (a shirt) had become torn, so she had cut it up to make dusters and was now hemming the edges.

She knew how to embroider clothes with a variety of sequins (commonly known as 'salma', 'sitare' and 'gota' which are used for embroidery in ladies' clothing in the Indian subcontinent). The family's financial situation had suffered following the partition of India and Pakistan but upon the occasion of her younger sister, *Umm al-Fa'ima*, wedding in Lahore, she embroidered her *Dupatta* (a long scarf) and her *Kameez* with sequins. She would get her sister to join in with her, teaching her what to do as they went along. So the two sisters managed to heavily embroider a suit themselves and this is how they saved a large sum of money.

### **A Pious Lady**

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was a righteous and pious lady. She followed the commandments of the Holy Qur'an in their

entirety. She occupied her time with worshipping Allah by praying extensively.

She regularly offered *Tahajjud* prayers, even as a child. Her sister Sahibzadi Mahmooda Begum reports that she would wake up at night and spend long hours offering *Tahajjud* prayers. In her childhood she became seriously ill, a doctor told her father not to let her wake up for so long during the night at such a young age. Her father became worried and an elderly nurse stayed in her room to prevent Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> from waking up at night. However, Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> would wake up and persuade the nurse into letting her perform her ablutions so she could offer her prayers. The nurse became so frustrated by this that she complained to Hazrat Nawab Sahib<sup>ra</sup> that Bu was not listening to her. She followed the commandments of her faith with commitment. She was renowned for her piety as a result of which many ladies would visit her and request her to pray for them.

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> took great care of her duty of observing the five daily prayers. During her last illness, when she was admitted to the hospital and was not fully conscious, she would repeatedly raise her hands to her head when she felt restless. Doctors were puzzled by what she was doing and asked her daughter. She replied that as soon as Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> regains consciousness, she starts offering Salaat. The doctors were amazed at how conscientious

she was about offering her prayers. (Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by .  
2008 p. 20,31)

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V's<sup>aba</sup> respected wife, Hazrat Syeda Amatul Sabooh Sahiba relates,

'Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was very diligent in praying and she was a lady who demonstrated patience and gratitude. I never heard any words of complaint from her. Once I went to meet her before I departed and requested her to pray for me. She replied, "You are my Masroor's wife, how can I not pray for you?"'

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by .  
2008 p.25)

### **Excellent Upbringing of her Children**

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> tried her utmost to raise her children in the best possible way. The essence of their religious training was the excellent example of her own noble character. Her sacrifice, her selflessness, her love and her righteousness were rewarded by Allah through the means of her children who all respected her and took good care of her.

Her daughter, \_\_\_\_\_ relates she would instruct them not to argue or quarrel in front of her and she particularly insisted that they must not respond, no matter how much someone tried to quarrel with them.

When her daughter was getting married, she said to her,  
'Bari, make sure my brother does not get hurt by you  
in any way whatsoever'<sup>6</sup>.

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by .

2008 p.25)

Her offspring bear testimony to the excellent manner in which she was able to raise her children. Her eldest son, Sahibzada Mirza Mansoor Ahmad who was the national Ameer and *Nazir -e - A'ala* after the migration of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>th</sup> to London, was a very righteous and saintly person. He was a close friend and companion of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III<sup>th</sup>. The Late Sahibzada Mirza Mansoor Ahmad was very attentive in looking after his mother. Whenever he returned home from either his office or some other place, the first place he would visit was the section of his house where his mother lived. He would greet her, ask her how she was and would also find out if she needed anything before going to the portion of the house where his own family lived.

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by

2008 p.17

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6. Sahibzadi Bari married the eldest son (Khazada Abbas Ahmad Khan) of Hazrat Bu Zainab's brother (Nawab Abdullah Khan)

## Advice to Young Brides

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> always advised girls to look after their appearance, by looking clean, well groomed and properly adorned. She particularly advised married girls in this regard.

This was because she was trying to educate them to make an effort to dress nicely for their husbands.

She herself was a living example of this. She always looked clean and tidy throughout her life. Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> loved to wear elegant clothing made out of good quality material. She normally wore a traditional tight *pajama* and *kurta* (Traditional Indian subcontinent clothes) and put on a 4-yard long crinkled *Dupatta*. Her clothes would be sewn to a good pattern. She did not like clothes that were sewn without any style or shape. Even during times of illness, she would not look untidy. She would wear clean clothing and her hair was always arranged in a neat bun. She would also use a bed with clean bed linen.

When Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III<sup>rh</sup> married for the second time, he took his wife , to meet Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup>. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III<sup>rh</sup> was well aware of her outlook with regard to brides so he advised his wife to dress beautifully and adorn herself with jewellery.



After a time, Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> stopped attending weddings in the family, probably owing to ill health. She would send gifts to the bride and groom and remember them in her prayers.

She would instruct her daughters to meet her before they left. She would then make sure they were appropriately dressed and adorned. When they returned from the ceremony she would keenly ask them how the bride looked and what her clothes and jewellery were like, whilst not forgetting the groom! She would keep herself informed of all these details.

Her eldest grandson's<sup>7</sup> wife, \_\_\_\_\_ relates that she would often stay at Hazrat Bu Zainab's<sup>ra</sup> house.

She says,

'Bu Zainab used to look after me very well. She would continually offer me food and refreshments. Because of her finesse, she would take care of how I dressed etc.'

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7. The late Sahibzada Mirza Idrees Ahmad

Once . . . had come to Rabwah by herself, without her husband. She says,

“I used to dress up well every day and go to meet Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> who would give me admiration and appreciation. One day when my husband was due to arrive, I went to meet Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> wearing a printed shirt with a white *pajama* and a white Dupatta. Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> knew that Idris was to arrive and when she saw me she humorously admonished me saying that normally I was nicely dressed and the day when my husband was arriving, I was dressed so plainly. Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> did not like white *shalwaar* (Trousers) and dupatta; she preferred married girls to be dressed in colourful clothes.”

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by

2008 p. 17-19)

### **A Wise And Intelligent Mind**

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> gave excellent advice on a wide range of issues, and people often sought out her counsel. Even Hazrat Khalifatul- Masih II<sup>ra</sup> put a lot of trust in her opinion. An elderly gentleman once asked on which date of Ramadan one should begin to observe *I'tikaf* (Seclusion for the Remembrance of Allah in the last ten days of Ramadan). He was of the opinion that it should be on the morning of the 21st of Ramadan, because that is the start of the last 10 days of Ramadan. Hazrat Sahibzada Mirza Shareef Ahmad agreed with this opinion too, but Hazrat

Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup> told him to find out what Bu Sahiba thought.

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup> sent her the message, telling her that he recalled the answer vaguely from the time of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, but wanted to know what she remembered. She said with utmost certainty that during the time of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, *I'tikaf* began from the night of the 20th of Ramadan because that is when the moon of the 21st is seen and the last 10 days begin. At this, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup> gave his decision that *I'tikaf* must begin from the night of the 20th of Ramadan.

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was literate, and very fond of reading. She would read the *Al-Fazl* and other newspapers regularly. She loved to read books of the Jama'at, magazines, novels and stories etc. One would always find a book by her bedside. She also read the Holy Qur'an regularly, with translation.

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by  
2008 p.21)

### **Love Towards Family**

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was very loving towards all members of her family. She especially loved Hazrat Amma Jan<sup>ra</sup> (blessed wife of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>). She would visit her at her home and treat her with utmost respect. Hazrat Amma Jan<sup>ra</sup> enjoyed going to Hazrat Bu Zainab's<sup>ra</sup> house

on hot summer mornings where they would all sit under thick *Jamun*<sup>8</sup> trees in the courtyard of her house. Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> used to offer a plentiful supply of refreshments not only to Hazrat Amma Jan<sup>ra</sup>, but also to all the ladies who used to accompany her.

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was extremely loving towards all the children of her extended family. She would invite them round to her house and look after their every need.

She especially loved her brothers-in-law's sons who were of the same age as her sons. Her house was near Hazrat Bashir Ahmad's<sup>ra</sup> farm where all the boys used to gather to play on their days off school/college. When Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> found out, she would send her servant to make sure they had lunch with her before they returned home. The children felt very relaxed and comfortable in her company. They would sometimes stay with her for the whole day. They would play freely, enjoy their snacks and talk to her.

The railway station was right next door to her house so whenever any of the children arrived from anywhere, they would go straight to her house after getting off the train. There they would refresh themselves and then go to their own homes.

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8. An exotic fruit, English name is Eugenia jambolana

On one occasion, Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad Sahib,<sup>9</sup> returned home from Lahore where he had been studying. He arrived at 10am and accompanying his cousins, went to Hazrat Bu Zainab's<sup>ra</sup> house and stayed there the whole day, returning by train to Lahore at 4pm. When Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> found out, he wrote to his son, **'I commend you for the love you have for your uncle and for your aunt and for the mutual love between cousins, but parents have rights over you too.'**

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by .  
2008 p.21,22)

Her son, Mirza Zafar Ahmad Sahib wrote that,

'After her marriage, my mother did not maintain significant connection with her relations in Malerkotla. The only exception was her paternal aunt who loved her greatly. However, if anyone from Malerkotla came to visit her, she would look after them to the best of her ability. She would expect her children to treat her relatives with the same warmth as well. If any men or women who were workers for one of her relations visiting from Malerkotla, she would not permit them to return without a gift. She was an excellent hostess to her guests.'

(Meri Walda by  
1984, p.4)

18 September

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9. The son of Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>

## Excellent Hostess

It is evident that Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was a very loving and caring host. Whenever anyone went to meet her, no matter how young they were, she would welcome them with the deepest love. Children of all ages, from the third and the fourth generations after the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would all enjoy visiting her. On hot summer days, she would give them home-made ice-cream made of milk that had been cooked with cardamom and thickened. The ice-cream would also have *Kewra* (Panadanas syrup) and saffron etc added for extra flavour. During the winter months she would offer the children sugar-coated chick peas or jiggery (*Goor*) coated wheat grains. She would also give children '*pinyaan*' (a snack) which she used to make herself. The children loved these freshly made sweets. These children would also come to say salaam to her and ask her to pray for their exams; a testament to the love and compassion she showered on them.

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by

2008 p. 22,23)

\_\_\_\_\_ recalls her first impressions of Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> when she went to meet her after her marriage to Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III<sup>rh</sup>,

'When we arrived in her home, she welcomed us very warmly. Huzoor went and sat with her on the bed in a very informal manner. She looked after us very well and our conversation was very relaxed.' Thereafter

whenever . . . went to see her, she would always welcome her lovingly and whole-heartedly.

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by

2008 p.17)

### **Cheerful in Good and Bad Times**

Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> had tremendous amount of patience. She did not hold back from expressing her gratitude, and refrained from lamenting even if she was undergoing a traumatic experience or a difficult trial.

She would try to be pleased with whatever Allah had ordained for her. Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> would remain cheerful during both good and bad times.

says that she never saw Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> weep out of grief even if a close relation died. She would just bow her head and keep silent. It was as if she just did not want to speak. One of her daughters, Amtul Wadood Sahiba who was in the prime of her youth had just passed her BA examinations when a blood vessel in her head burst and she suddenly died. One can imagine the grief and the pain Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> must have undergone. However, she did not lament or complain in the slightest. She just went silent.

(Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> by

2008 p.28,29)

Mirza Zafar Ahmad Sahib writes about her beloved mother:

Our father passed away in 1962, Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> showed an excellent example of the astonishing patience and forbearance.

(Meri Walda by  
1984, p.4)

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### **A Righteous Lady Departs**

In May 1984, Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> became very ill and was admitted into Zainab Memorial hospital in Lahore. Dr. Waseem Ahmad Sahib operated on her in June, but she was unable to recover. Then, after a long and difficult illness which lasted two months, she passed away on August 24, 1984, aged 91, just before Maghrib prayers. ***Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'oon*** (Surely, to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return ) (2:157)

Her body was taken to Rabwah on the same day. Her funeral prayers were led by Soofi Ghulam Ahmad Sahib, near the Bahishti Maqbarah. Her body was laid to rest in the area in the middle of the graveyard. When the grave was prepared, Soofi Sahib led collective silent prayers. Just four months before her demise, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>rh</sup> had migrated to London, and he was therefore able to lead her funeral prayers in absentia in London.



Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> was a *Moosiya*<sup>10</sup>. She had paid Wasiyyat on her property during her lifetime. During her final illness, she sent Rs. 100,000 to Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>rh</sup> as a donation for the construction of the Baitul Mahdi Mosque in Australia.

(Meri Walda by I  
1984, p.5)

Allah bestowed upon Hazrat Bu Zainab<sup>ra</sup> the honour of becoming the daughter-in-law of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and she fulfilled all the rights befitting this honour. Without making it known to others and without making a show of it, she would quietly follow the teachings of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. She tried her best not to let any of her actions or words reflect negatively on the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> or to the excellent religious training given to her by her noble father, Hazrat Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan Sahib<sup>ra</sup>.

She believed passionately and strongly in the Khilafat of Ahmadiyyat and lived through four Khilafat eras. Although Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III and IV (May Allah have mercy on them) were both younger than her, she accepted them as her spiritual masters and for as long as she lived; she was tied in a sincere, faithful and obedient relationship with them.

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10. Someone who has entered into the Wasiyyat institution of the Jama'at

May Allah raise her status in paradise and may He include her among the noble souls of the true followers of the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup>, *Ameen*.



