

**GOLDEN
TREASURES**

HAZRAT SALMAN FARSI

(MAY ALLAH BE PLEASED WITH HIM)



Isha'at Department - Lajna Ima'illah UK 2015





Hazrat Salman Farsi (May Allah be pleased with him)

Compiled by Farzana Bashir

First published in U.K. in 2015

Published by

Lajna Ima'illah United Kingdom

Department of Publications

Printed at Gemini Press

Design and Layout by Fauzia Mirza

*No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means
without prior written permission from the Publishers.*

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 Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him), a very dear companion of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

I would like to express my gratitude to the Research Cell Team - Rabwah and Incharge Tarikh e Ahmadiyyat, Asfand Yaar Muneeb 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

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

Introduction

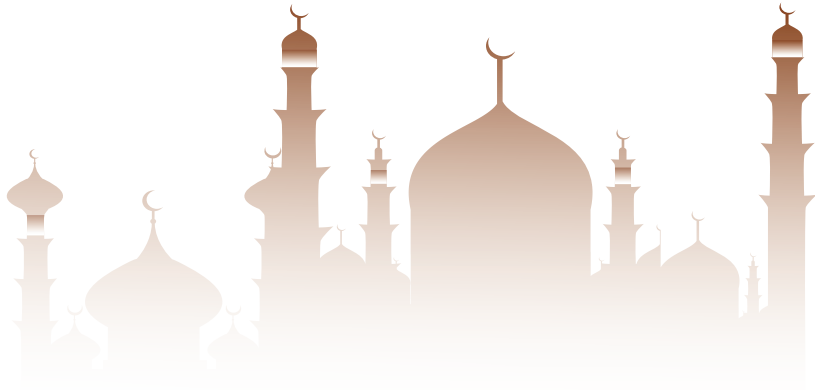
Alhamdulillah, with the blessings of Khilafat, this is a great honour for Lajna Ima'illah UK to design and produce stories of prominent personalities in Islam. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) belonged to a noble family in Persia (Iran). He was a very pious person - a dear companion of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) had the Privilege to learn Islam directly from the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). His greatest desire was to spend as much time as possible in the company of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

He spent many years of his life in search of the true religion; he faced many challenges and suffered hardships but his passion, steadfastness, piety, trust in Allah and desire eventually bore him fruit. He was a very devoted Muslim, he left his family and all comforts of home and riches, for the cause of a true religion. May Allah Almighty elevate his status in paradise, Ameen.

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

HAZRAT SALMAN FARSI
(MAY ALLAH BE PLEASED
WITH HIM)



Hazrat Salman Farsi

(may Allah be pleased with him)

This is the story about the life of a very dear companion of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him). His birth name was Ma'aba, but his name was changed to Salman after he accepted Islam. He was later also given the title of 'Salman Al-Khair.' Before accepting Islam, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) followed the religion of his ancestors - fire worshippers. He was responsible for guarding the fire and making sure it was always kept alight. He used to perform this role with diligence and commitment. Thus Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) had developed an interest in religion from an early age and he used to participate enthusiastically in all religious activities.

Background and Early Life

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was born in Iran where he lived in a village called Jiyye near Asfahan (a town in Persia). Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) belonged to a wealthy family. His father was well known in this region and owned an estate of land. He loved his son dearly and was very protective of him. He would not let Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) out of his sight even for a moment. Once his father was caught up in some important work and could not leave his house to attend matters regarding his lands. So he asked his son to go on his behalf. However, he also instructed him not to stay out until late as his absence would worry him. On his way, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) passed by a church where some elderly Christians were occupied in worship. Their prayers and chants were loud enough to be heard from the outside. This attracted his attention; he became curious and entered the church to watch. He did not know anything about Christianity but was impressed by their manner of prayer. He was instantly drawn to their religion.

He forgot the task he had been assigned by his father and instead stayed with the Christians until nightfall. He asked them a lot of questions and details about Christianity and found out about the centre of their religion which was based in Syria. He felt this religion was certainly better than his own.

When Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) returned home late, he found everyone anxiously waiting for him. He told them of his experience with the Christians and how impressed he was with their form of worship. Upon hearing this, his father became utterly shocked. He tried to change his son's heart by presenting arguments in favour of their ancestors' belief of fire worship, but Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) insisted that Christianity was better. Seeing that his son had lost interest in fire worship his father refused to discuss this matter any further with him. He became upset and afraid that Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) would leave their religion. So he decided to keep him locked up in the house. His feet were chained and Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was kept under guard at all times¹.

Search for the True Religion

While he was detained at home, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) managed to send a message to the Christians, asking them to inform him of any trade caravan going to Syria. After a very short while, they told him of the news he had been anxiously awaiting. Some traders were going back to Syria and it was decided Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) would accompany them. He freed himself from the chains on his feet and secretly escaped from the house to join them.

This was the beginning of his journey in the search for the true religion - the journey that would take him to his lord and master, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

Upon arriving in Syria, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) enquired from people about the most knowledgeable and scholarly person. He was sent to a priest named, Usuqf (the leader of priests). Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) approached him and told him about his interest in religion. He also enquired if he could be of service to him and if he could stay with him and learn more about his religion. Usuqf gave him permission to stay with him. However, very soon he realized that the priest only appeared to be pious but was actually a worldly and greedy person. He would encourage people to give alms and charity which he kept for himself instead of distributing among the poor and needy. He continued with this practice until he collected seven containers filled with gold and silver. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) became disheartened with the priest and when the priest died, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) told the Christians about him. They did not believe Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) and scolded him, asking for proof of what he was saying. When he showed them the hidden treasure, they refused to bury the priest and instead stoned his body.

The Christians replaced Usuqf with another priest who was a very pious and knowledgeable man. Hazrat Salman

Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) had not seen a more pious and righteous man who observed prayer day and night. He began to love him dearly and remained devoted to his service. Before the priest passed away, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) asked him about any other religious person he could recommend for him to see. He told Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) that he did not know of anyone who truly followed the teachings of his religion. He said that righteous people had passed on and the ones living today have lost their religious values. However, he advised him to go and meet his friend, who was also religious figure in a town called Mosul² (a city in northern Iraq).

Journey to Mosul and Naseebain

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) travelled to Mosul to meet the clergyman the priest had mentioned. He stayed with him and found him to be very pious. He would spend his days in observing fasts and nights in worship. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) spent three years in Mosul, surviving only on very little food. Before the saint's demise, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) asked him to suggest someone else who would help him in his search for the truth. The clergyman said he did not know anyone in the region except a saint in Naseebain whom Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) should visit and also convey his greetings to him. Thus Hazrat Salman

Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) went to Naseebain where he met the saint and like the previous two priests, he found him also to be very pious. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) stayed with him for approximately three years³.

Journey to Amooriya

When the priest in Naseebain was about to pass away, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) requested him to recommend another saintly person to which he replied that there was no-one left in the world who followed his religion except for a person who lived in Amooriya. After the priest's death, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) travelled to Amooriya to meet him and told him of his circumstances. The priest gave him permission to stay with him and Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) found him to be also very righteous.

During his stay with him, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) worked hard for his livelihood and was able to accumulate some wealth and cattle for survival. When this priest was also about to pass away, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) asked him to recommend a righteous person to him. He replied that he was not aware of any person in the world whom he could recommend. However, he knew that the time had arrived for a prophet to appear in the land of Arabia who had been prophesied by Hazrat Isa (Jesus) (peace be on

him) and who would be a descendant of Hazrat Ibrahim (may Allah be pleased with him). He also said he would migrate to a place that was between two rocky plains containing palm trees. He mentioned three signs which would help Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) to recognize the prophet:

- **Firstly, that the prophet would not accept food as Sadqa (charity);**
- **Secondly, he would accept gifts**
- **Thirdly, he would have a mark resembling a seal between his shoulders⁴.**

This was a vital turning point in Hazrat Salman Farsi's (may Allah be pleased with him) life. He became restless and eager to travel to the land of Arabia and meet this prophet.

Slavery and Journey to Arabia

One day Hazrat Salman Farsi's (may Allah be pleased with him) wish was granted when he met some traders who agreed to take him along with them to Arabia in exchange for his sheep and goats. When the caravan arrived at the valley of **Al-Qura'a**, the traders' intentions changed and they sold him as a slave to a Jew. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him), who had given up all the comforts of his wealthy home for the sake of Allah, was forced into slavery under a Jewish master. The days he

spent in the Valley of Al-Qura'a serving his master were very tough but he spent them in the hope that this might be the land which the saint had told him about. A few days after he had begun his life as a slave, his Jewish owner's cousin who was visiting from Yathrib and belonged to Banu Qurayza tribe, bought Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) from him as he was very pleased with his hard work. So Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) travelled with his new Jewish owner to Yathrib, which would be later known as Medina-tun-Nabi or Medina. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was not aware at the time in Yathrib, he would discover the signs his teacher had mentioned⁵ .

**The Holy Prophet's
(may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)
Arrival in Medina**

Around this time, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had already claimed to be a prophet and faced a lot of opposition in Mecca. Muslims were being persecuted, Allah granted them permission to migrate to Medina. Following the command of Allah and under His protection, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) accompanied by Hazrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him), left Mecca and travelled towards Medina. He arrived at Qaba, a small town located outside of Medina and stopped there.

The lands belonging to Banu Qurayza where Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) worked for

his Jewish master were not far from Qaba. On that day, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was busy at work removing dates from a palm tree while his master sat under the tree supervising his work. Suddenly a relative of his master approached and started to hurl abuse at the Ansar (local Muslims of Madina), saying that they had all gathered at Qaba around a man who had just arrived from Mecca and called himself a prophet of God.

As soon as Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) heard the man say these words, he became overjoyed and emotional. He could neither understand his feelings nor explain them to anyone. He thought that he had spent all his life waiting for this very moment and travelled far and wide for the sake of meeting the prophet. His condition was like that of a traveller who has lost his way in a desert and becomes disheartened with his life until when all of a sudden, he finds his destination. In fact, he felt even happier than such a traveller would in this situation. He had only one purpose in life: to find the Arab prophet.

Unable to control his emotions any longer, he climbed down from the tree and began to enquire more details. However, when his Jewish master noticed Hazrat Salman Farsi's (may Allah be pleased with him) interest, he became angry and slapped him, telling him to get back to work⁶.

However, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) did not give up; he decided to go and visit the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

and test him to see if he fulfilled all the three signs. So he bought camel meat worth one Dirham from the market, prepared a meal from it and took it to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). He presented the food to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saying that he would be very pleased if the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) accepted the food as charity as he was living in Qaba with some poor and needy companions. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was overjoyed to observe that the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did not eat the food himself and gave it all to his companions⁷.

The second sign was also in his mind. The next time he went to meet the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), he took a plate decorated with dates for him and requested him to kindly accept it as a gift. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) accepted the gift, ate some of the dates himself and also gave some to his companions. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was very pleased that these signs had been fulfilled and felt as though he had almost reached his destination. Only the last sign which the saint had told him about remained to be fulfilled. If it were also fulfilled, he would feel as though he had attained all the happiness of this world.

This quality referred to the mark between the shoulders of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). A short time after the arrival of the Holy Prophet

(may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in Medina, Hazrat Kulsoom bin Alhadm Al-Ansari passed away. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) attended his funeral and burial. At this time, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was present at Jannatul Baaqee. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) arrived there as well. Drawing close to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), he tried his best to locate a mark on him through the sheets. Then suddenly, the sheet moved momentarily and he saw the mark he had been searching for on his back. He could not control his emotions, tears began to roll down from his eyes. He presented himself before the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), broke down and started to kiss him. When the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saw him in this state, he enquired the reason for this. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) started to relate his heartbreaking story. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) drew everyone's attention towards him and told them to listen to the incidents in silence. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) then pledged his allegiance at the hand of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and converted to Islam⁸.

Freedom from slavery

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) now wished to gain freedom from slavery and serve the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of

Allah be upon him). But it took long for this wish to be fulfilled as his Jewish master was not ready to give him his freedom. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) suggested that Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) should negotiate a compromise with his master and after a lot of reluctance on his part, his master finally agreed to grant him freedom based on a condition. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) had to plant 300 palm trees for him and only on completion of this garden of dates would he get his freedom. He also had to pay his master 40 grams of gold.

When the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) heard about this condition, he instructed his companions to help their brother gain his freedom. Hence, the companions presented plants of dates according to their means. Together they dug holes in the ground and when 300 holes had been dug, they handed the plants one by one to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who placed the plants in the holes with his blessed hands and all the plants developed into trees without a single one of them being decayed.

The gold was left to be paid to gain complete freedom from his master. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) received some gold as a gift. He told Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) to get it weighed who expressed his surprise saying that it did not appear to be the required weight. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) touched the bar of gold with his tongue and gave it to

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) to pay for his freedom which weighed 40 grams⁹.

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) related how he was freed from the bond of slavery from his Jewish master and became bound entirely in the service of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). He finally arrived at the destination which he had dreamt of in his youth. That day it seemed that his journey had been very short and all the obstacles and difficulties he had faced in this journey had completely vanished. He had become successful. Allah had valued his genuine emotions and sent him to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Although there were some rare moments when he missed his family and would feel the need of relatives close by, such thoughts were completely erased from his mind when the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) made him a brother of Hazrat Abu Aldarda'a Ansari.

Later on the occasion of the **Battle of Khandaq**, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) stated this about Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him):

سَلْمَانُ مِنَّا أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ

‘Salman belongs to us, so he should be considered as a member of the family of the house of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)’.

This was the incredible love and compassion the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had for a humble servant like Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him). Being considered part of the family of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was a great honour for him and in comparison, the abundant love of family and other sacrifices faded away. This led him to offer immense gratitude to Allah, the Almighty¹⁰.

An Arab poet described the greatness of Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) in the following Arabic couplets:

لَقَدْ رَقِيَ سَلْمَانُ بَعْدَ رَقِّهِ مَنزِلَةً شَا مِخَةَ النَّبِيِّانِ
 وَكَيْفَ لَا وَالْمُصْطَفَى قَدْ عَدَّهُ مَن أَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ الْعَظِيمِ الشَّانِ

This means that Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) attained a very high status after gaining freedom from slavery. How could this not happen when the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) included him in his blessed family¹¹.

Service of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

After Hazrat Salman Farsi's (may Allah be pleased with him) freedom from slavery, his greatest desire was to spend as much time as possible in the service of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). He would remain at a terrace near the Mosque Nabwi with

some friends, spending his time engaged in religious talk. Whenever the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) arrived in the mosque, he along with other companions would present themselves to him. This was a much cherished time in the life of Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him). He felt honoured to be in the company of his beloved master, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and to be blessed with his love.

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) learned a lot from the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) while being in his blessed company. Hazrat Abu Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) states that once Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) took a branch from a tree and shook it and its leaves fell off. He then explained the reason for his action to Hazrat Abu Usman (may Allah be pleased with him), saying that once the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did the same for him and stated that **when a Muslim performs Wudhu and observes prayers five times a day in its right manner, he will be rid of all his sins just as these dry leaves had fallen off** ¹².

Battle of the Ditch

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be upon him) had a prominent role to play in the Battle of the Ditch (Battle of Khandaq). The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) received news that the non-believers

along with other tribes had formed a large party consisting of 24,000 soldiers and were planning to attack Medina and completely destroy the Muslims. This was indeed a very dangerous plan and the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) following the instructions of Allah, gathered all his companions for consultation.

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was completely aware of the geographical logistics of Medina and knew that instead of a direct confrontation, they would have to stop the enemy in some other way. Based on his knowledge of the strategies used in the battles in Iran, he offered a suggestion to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Due to the geographical location of Medina, the enemy could easily attack from the north whereas all the other sides were safe. So if a wide ditch was dug on the northern side, the city could be protected. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) pondered and reflected over this suggestion from all perspectives and accepted it. He instructed the work of digging the ditch to different groups of companions and initiated the work himself by marking the ditch¹³.

Appearance of Signs during the Digging of the Ditch

An interesting incident occurred during the digging of the ditch which was witnessed by Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) and some of the other companions. While digging, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may

Allah be pleased with him) hit a hard rock with his pick axe. **The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was nearby. He came over, took the tool and when he struck the rock with it, a third of the rock broke and gave off a spark of light. He immediately recited the following verse from the Holy Qur'an:**

وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَتُ رَبِّكَ صِدْقًا وَعَدْلًا ط لَا مُبَدِّلَ لِكَلِمَاتِهِ ج وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ .
'And the word of thy Lord has been fulfilled in truth and justice. None can change His words; and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.' [6:116]

The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) then struck the rock a second time and recited the same verse. Again a spark lit up and another part of the rock broke off. **Then he struck the rock a third time and recited the verse again.** Another spark appeared and the rock was completely destroyed. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) told the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that he witnessed this sight as well¹⁴. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) then explained its meaning. He said:

"I struck this rock three times with this pickaxe, and three times I saw scenes of the future glory of Islam revealed to me. In the first spark I saw the Syrian palaces of the Roman Empire. I had the keys of those palaces given to me. The second time I saw the illumined palaces of Persia and Mada'in, and had the keys of the Persian Empire given to me. The third

time, I saw the gates of San'a and I had the keys of the Kingdom of Yemen given to me. These are the promises of God and I trust you will put reliance in them. The enemy can do you no harm"¹⁵.

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) witnessed the fulfilment of these prophecies in his own lifetime. He successfully led Muslims in the position of Ameer in various victories in Iran.

Despite the cold and harsh weather, the companions of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) followed his instructions and spent day and night in this work. Their spirits were lifted even more when they would see their master, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) working beside them while supervising the work. The ditch was completed after six days and nights. When the party of the non-believers arrived with a desire to destroy Medina, they were left utterly shocked. It was impossible for them to cross this wide and long ditch, so they settled down beside the ditch in a state of helplessness and began to think of the next steps. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) along with 3,000 companions also put up a tent near the ditch to observe and watch the activities of the non-believers.

The non-believers surrounded Medina and started to search for any places from where they could attack the city. In addition, using their manipulative ways, they persuaded the neighbouring Jewish tribe, Banu Qurayza to join them although these tribes had already made a pact

with the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) not to fight against him. The betrayal from Banu Qurayza (a group within Medina) and Jarar (another group from outside of Medina) had turned the war in favour of the non-believers. So the people who were weak in faith and the hypocrites began saying that the promises of Allah and His messenger (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) were false. On the other hand, the believers had firm faith and trust in Allah and knew that no matter how adverse the situation became, it was the decree of Allah that He and His messenger (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) would defeat the enemy. Thus as the hope of a victory seemed impossible, their faith in Allah became even stronger.

Day and night, the enemy tried to inflict a big attack but except for a few small attacks, they were unable to do so. Days passed by without any major victory for them and their hopes began to decline. As this party was made up of different tribes which had no other motive to remain united except the enmity towards the Muslims, gradually misunderstandings arose among them. Eventually, this disunity became evident and one night when it reached its peak, Allah sent a severe sand storm which caused confusion within the non-believers' camp and destroyed their tents. The sand and rocks from the storm rained heavily on the party of the non-believers, causing havoc among them. The fires that had been lit as symbols of their greatness were extinguished. There was already so much hatred that had arisen among the non-believers who were now in utter disbelief and in a state of great fear. The party

who had come with the intention of destroying Medina abandoned the battlefield before dawn¹⁶.

Demise of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) had travelled far and wide for the true faith and finally found it in Islam. He felt happy and content serving his master, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and partook of his blessings as much as possible. The days he spent in the service of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) were the most precious moments of his life. When the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) departed from this world, Hazrat Salman (may Allah be pleased with him) was deeply saddened. The memories of his beloved master in Medina made it unbearable for him to stay there any longer. He eventually got the opportunity to move to Iraq during the Khilafat of Hazrat Umar (may Allah be pleased with him). In Iraq, he participated in various schemes with other Muslims and also supervised the moral training of new converts to Islam. With his knowledge of the area and his fluency in the Persian language, he had the added advantage of spreading the true message of Islam to his fellow citizens¹⁷.

Spreading the message of Islam

It was Hazrat Salman Farsi's (may Allah be pleased with him) habit that whenever he travelled towards any place, he would first present the teachings of Islam to the people and if they wished, they could extend a hand of friendship. Hazrat Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) appointed him as '**Dayee**' (one who invites others towards Islam) and he gave the message of Islam to the non-believers. During battles, he was also responsible for making food arrangements for the soldiers and animals in the army and he would usually be part of the first forces. He attained his first achievement in '**Buyab**' when they fought against the Iranian forces. After a fierce battle, Allah granted them victory and the Iranian army was defeated.

After this incident, in 14 Al-Hijra Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) had the opportunity to fight in the Battle of Qaadsiya in which the Muslims were only 30,000 in comparison with 120,000 Iranians. Hazrat Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas (may Allah be pleased with him) was the leader of the Muslim army. Despite the small number in the Muslim army, Allah granted them victory against a strong army and a super power like Iran faced defeat. After conquering different regions, the Muslim army finally reached Mada'in, the capital of Iran and in 16 Al-Hijra, Mada'in was also conquered. Mada'in remained the capital of Iran until a year after its fall but the environment did not suit the Arab Mujahideen and they started to become

weak. So on the instruction of Hazrat Umar (may Allah be pleased with him), Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) along with Huzaifa bin Yamaan went off in search for a place which was more suitable for them and could provide fodder for the animals. After a lot of search, they selected an appropriate place for the Muslim forces to settle down and named it '**Kufa**'¹⁸.

It is related by Abul Bakhtari that once Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was leading a Muslim force as Ameer and they had surrounded an Iranian fort. People asked him why he did not attack the fort and he replied that he would first prefer to invite the people who lived there to Islam as the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to do. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) gave them the message of Islam in a very welcoming and warm manner. He said to them,

“I am a Persian and you can see that the Arabs show obedience towards me. If you accept Islam, you will have the same rights over us as we have over you. However, if you continue to believe in your faith, you will have to pay **Jizya**(a certain amount of monetary contribution paid by the non Muslim citizens living in a Muslim state towards the expenses for the protection of their property etc).”

He then addressed them in Persian and when they did not pay heed to his invitation, as a last resort he had to attack the fort¹⁹.

Marriage

During the last years of the khilafat of Hazrat Umar (may Allah be pleased with him), Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) felt the need for companionship. So he got married to a pious and respectful woman, Baqeerah, who was from the family of Bani Kunda. Until then he had led a life which was free of marital responsibilities. He had never thought of making a home but now he had to set up a small house where he could spend his days in comfort. Even though Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) had not participated in the Battle of Badr, Hazrat Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) had assigned a bursary for him equal to that given to the companions who took part in the battle. As a result, with Allah's blessings, he was able to lead a good life. The hardship of the past, his travels in search of the true faith from Iran to Arabia and his journey from freedom to slavery and with the help of his beloved master, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) from slavery back to freedom, now seemed to be a memory of the past. All his pain and hardship had eased and he was able to lead his life in peace and contentment²⁰.

Prophecy regarding Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him)

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was a great man who had firm faith in Allah and chose a path that was very difficult. He put everything he had on stake by leaving home in search for the true prophet. No obstacle that he encountered on his journey made his will

and patience falter and the world witnessed that Allah did not let his true intentions go to waste. Not only did he meet the Prophet of Allah, he also received the compassion of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who made him part of his family. Commenting on the translation of **Sura Al-Juma'a**, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) kept his hand on the shoulder of Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) and stated the following prophecy:

لَوْ كَانَ الْإِيْمَانُ عِنْدَ الْكُفْرِيَّةِ لَنَا لَهُ رَجُلٌ أَوْ قَالَ رَجَالٌ مِنْ هَؤُلَاءِ

'If faith were to go up to the Plaides, a man from his (Salman Farsi) tribe will bring it back'²¹.

As you may know, this prophecy was fulfilled in the person of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) whose origin was Persian and his family had migrated from Iran and settled in India. In this regard, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (may Allah have mercy on him) stated in his Friday Sermon of February 8, 2002 that:

'The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings be on him) had said that in accordance with Allah's Will after prophethood Khilafat will be established and then the world will go through many stages of oppressive rules until it will be Allah's Will again to establish Khilafat, which will be preceded by prophethood. Huzoor also expounded that the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings be on him) had prophesised that the Latter-Day revival of faith would be by the people of Hazrat Salman

the Persian's descent and that he had declared that his Ummah could be exemplified with rain'²².

Demise

Hazrat Baqeerah, the wife of Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) stated that before his death, he was in a room with four doors and he said,

“Open all the doors. I can see angels approaching and I don't know which door they may enter through.”

Then he asked for some water to be sprinkled around his bed and to be left alone after some time. He added that she could come and check on him later. When his wife went and checked on him, his soul had departed from his body²³.

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) passed away in 35 Al-Hijra in Mada'in. Hazrat Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas (may Allah be pleased with him) led his funeral prayers and he was buried in Mada'in where his tomb exists to this day. This area is known as '**Salman Paak**'. People who visit this place frequently go to pray on his tomb²⁴ (the current conditions of this tomb is not known as the area is affected by the war crisis).

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) left behind his widow and three daughters. One of his daughters got married in Asfahan while the other two were married in Egypt²⁵.

Personality and character of Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him)

There are many beautiful aspects of Hazrat Salman Farsi's (may Allah be pleased with him) personality, a few of which are:

Simplicity and humility

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was a simple and ordinary man and remained so even after becoming a governor. In spite of being a governor, he still served people as he had always done and derived much pleasure from it. An interesting incident happened which highlights this simplicity and frankness. A person from another region came to Mada'in and needed help in lifting his luggage. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) happened to be passing by at the time. Looking at his simple style, the stranger thought he was a labourer and asked him to carry his luggage to another place. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) did not tell him that he was the governor of this area and carrying his luggage, silently walked with him. When people in the town saw this, they informed him of the position of Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) and told him to ask for his forgiveness. The stranger became quite worried and apologetic for causing him inconvenience. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) reassured him and said,

'I don't mind at all. I will take your luggage to your

destination and return once I have done that.'

Thus despite his constant persuasion, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) helped him²⁶.

The deep love Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) had for the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is highlighted in various incidents throughout his life. He used to follow in his footsteps to the best of his ability. Once a guest came to his house and he offered him whatever he had at home at the time saying,

“If the Holy Prophet (may Allah be pleased with him) had not told us to observe simplicity, we would have surely made extra effort in preparing nice food for you”²⁷.

Hazrat Abu Darda's (may Allah be pleased with him) mother said that once Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was visiting Syria from Mada'in. At the time he was the governor of Syria but was dressed in very simple clothes. On being asked why he was dressed so simply, he replied that a life of luxury is only for the Hereafter.

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was very generous in spending in the way of Allah. He used to donate all of his salary to the poor and the needy. In addition, he would also distribute one third of his earnings which he made from weaving mats as a means of making his living as charity. If he received money from somewhere,

he would invite people and have food prepared for them²⁸.

Hazrat Huzaifa (may Allah be pleased with him) asked Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) if he should make a house for him. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) enquired if he wanted to make a house of luxury for him like the one he had in Mada'in and so that he could be treated like a king. Hazrat Huzaifa (may Allah be pleased with him) said that he was thinking of a different house for him: that built of hay with a very low roof made of thatch. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was very pleased to hear this and felt that Hazrat Huzaifa (may Allah be pleased with him) had read his mind²⁹.

Hard work

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was an extremely hardworking man and liked doing work with his own hands. He used to earn his living by making mats from the branches of palm trees and selling them. He would earn 5000 Dirhams which he used to spend on the poor and needy³⁰.

As Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was trying to fulfil his responsibilities according to the capacity Allah had granted him and was content with his work, he was given a huge responsibility by the khalifa of the time. Hazrat Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) appointed him as governor of Mada'in. Although this was a big responsibility, Allah enabled him to fulfil it through His Grace. He would always try to work with his own hands and spent the money that he received in return in

the way of Allah. Thus despite being a governor, he would sew bags and sell them for an earning. When Hazrat Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) found out about this, out of sympathy, he instructed him to stop³¹.

Justice

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was a just man. Once when he went to visit his Ansar brother, Hazrat Abu Darda'a (may Allah be pleased with him), he found his house in a mess. When he enquired from his wife the reason for this, she replied that Hazrat Abu Darda'a (may Allah be pleased with him) spent all his time in the worship of Allah and observing optional fasts and therefore ignored his household. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) suggested to his brother that he should maintain a balance in his life. When Hazrat Abu Darda'a (may Allah be pleased with him) offered him food he said he could not join Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) as he was observing a voluntary fast. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) said that he would wait until he opened his fast. He suggested that Hazrat Abu Darda'a (may Allah be pleased with him) should fast on every other day instead of everyday. When he stood up to pray, Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) suggested that he should spend one portion of the night sleeping and then observe prayer in the remaining part. When Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) told the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) about this incident, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said,

“Salman is right. You have a right over your own self and similarly your wife also has a right over you. A friend and a guest also have a right over you. So fulfil all the rights of everyone.”

Another tradition states that the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said,

“Salman is more intelligent than you are and also more knowledgeable in matters of religion”³².

Love of Allah and the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

Hazrat Salman Farsi’s (may Allah be pleased with him) personality was a symbol of love for Allah and His Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). It was the longing to seek the truth which had led Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) to leave his homeland and wander around in search for this true love of Allah, the Almighty.

As his search was genuine and honest, Allah did not let it go to waste and guided him towards the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who was the leader of all the prophets. Immersed in the love of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), he adapted such a high standard of service that he progressed from a slave to becoming a member of the family of the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The fact is that only those who truly deserve love receive it. Indeed Hazrat Salman

Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was one of the fortunate ones who deserved it³³.

This was a brief overview of the life and character of a man one who was one of the most beloved companions of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The journey of his life was one of immense sacrifice in the way of Allah yet he remained an epitome of strength, courage and humility exemplifying a truly noble character.

Pearls of Wisdom

Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was a very wise person. There are many incidents from his life that reflect this wisdom and knowledge. We will mention a few instances below:

- Once Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) happened to be on the shore of a river bank with one of his students. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) instructed him to feed the horse with water until the horse's thirst was quenched and he was completely satisfied. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) asked his student if the water in the river had decreased at all as a result of the horse drinking water from it. His student replied that it had not made any difference to the water in the river. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) told him that knowledge can be likened to water; no matter how much you use it, it does not decrease. Therefore, one should gain as much knowledge of faith in one's lifetime as possible

since the span of life is short whereas knowledge is vast. One should not try to seek all kinds of worldly knowledge; rather he should try to seek knowledge of faith.

- Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) compared the state of a believer to that of a patient who has a physician looking after his health. The physician is aware of his illness as well as its treatment. When the patient desires something which may cause harm to his health, the physician warns him and stops him from taking it. Thus he takes care of his patient until he is fully recovered from the illness. Similarly, a believer has many wishes and desires but Allah protects him from the harmful ones until death overtakes him and he attains all kinds of blessings in paradise. Had Allah not protected him, he would not have attained these heavenly blessings in the afterlife.
- Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) once expressed his feelings of shock at three kinds of persons:

One who chases after the material world whereas death awaits him; **the second** who is neglectful of his death whereas his death does not ignore him; and **the third** being a person who spends all his time in fun and laughter and is not aware if Allah is pleased with him or not. He further stated that there are three things which make him deeply

saddened until he cries: the first one is separation from the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and his companions; the second one is the suffering and anguish of the grave; and the third one is the fear of the Day of Judgment.

- Once a man came to visit Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) and asked him for advice. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) told him not to speak to which the man replied that it was not possible as he lived among people. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) then told him that when he speaks, he should think before speaking and choose his words carefully and appropriately. The man then asked him for more advice. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) told him to avoid anger to which the man replied that it was not possible as he loses control when he becomes angry. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) told him to control his hands and his tongue. The man asked him for further advice. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) told him not to socialise with people to which he replied that it was impossible not to meet people. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) replied that if he meets people, then he should be honest in his speech and actions³⁴.
- Hazrat Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) stated about Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) that he possessed deep knowledge of two kinds: knowledge of the early scriptures and

knowledge of the Holy Qur'an, the final revealed book. As a result of his efforts, a large portion of Ahadith were published³⁵.

- Hazrat Abu Darda (may Allah be pleased with him) once asked Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) to come to the holy land (he was referring to Baitul Muqaddas). Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) wrote in his reply that no land makes a man holy. Rather it is actions which make him righteous. He further wrote that he had learned about Hazrat Abu Darda (may Allah be pleased with him) being appointed as Qazi of a particular area. He advised him that he should always strive to become a just leader and his decisions should always be fair. If he did not practise justice while making decisions and became a fake and dishonest leader, it might lead him towards the fire of Hell³⁶.
- Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) related that the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) asked him if he knew the significance of Friday to which Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) replied that Allah and His Messenger knew better. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) then told him that Friday was the day when Hazrat Adam (peace be upon him) was created; it is also the day when a believer who purifies himself by bathing and going to the mosque for Friday prayers and observes complete silence until the Imam

finishes the prayers, Allah will forgive his sins.

- Once when Hazrat Abu Darda (may Allah be pleased with him) was in Syria and Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) lived in Iraq, he wrote a letter to Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) saying that he had been blessed with children and wealth and he lived in a peaceful land. Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) in his reply said that Allah had not granted him with these blessings but so that he would understand that the abundance of these things does not lead to a good end. Rather what brings benefit is attaining humility and increasing one's knowledge. He further wrote to him that the land that he lived in would not do anything for him³⁷.

Study Questions

1. What were the religious beliefs of Hazrat Salman's Farsi's (may Allah be pleased with him) family and why was he dissatisfied with them?

2. What difficulties did Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) encounter in his search for the true religion? Describe some of them.

3. Write down the name of the saintly person Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) met on his journey to meet the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

4. Name the three signs the saint at Amooriya told Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) which would help him to recognize the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

5. How were these three signs fulfilled?

6. Explain how Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) was freed from slavery.

7. What advice did Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) give on the occasion of the Battle of the Ditch and how effective was this advice?

8. What three signs appeared during the digging of the Battle of the Ditch and how did the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) explain them?

9. What was the Holy Prophet's (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) prophecy about Hazrat Salman Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) and how was it fulfilled?

10. Briefly describe Hazrat Salman Farsi's (may Allah be pleased with him) character and personality in your own words.

References

1. Seeral Sahaba, vol. 6, parts 10-12, pages 181-182
2. Seerat Ibn-e-Hasha'am, vol. 1, pages 141-142
3. Seerat Ibn-e-Hasha'am, vol. 1, page 142
4. Seerat-e-Sahaba Rasoolullah^{sa}, page 516
5. Seerat Ibn-e-Hasha'am, vol. 1, pages 143
6. Seerat Ibn-e-Hasha'am, vol. 1, pages 143-144
7. Seerat-e-Sahaba Rasoolullah^{sa}, page 518
8. Seerat Ibn-e-Hasha'am, vol. 1, pages 144-145
9. Seerat Ibn-e-Hasha'am, vol. 1, page 145
10. Hazrat Salman Farsi, page 13-14
11. Seerat-e-Sahaba Rasoolullah^{sa}, page 521
12. Seerat-e-Sahaba Rasoolullah^{sa}, page 524
13. Hazrat Salman Farsi, pages 14-15
14. Seerat-e-Sahaba Rasoolullah^{sa}, page 522
15. Zurqani, vol. 2, quoted in http://www.alislam.org/library/browse/book/Life_of_Muhammad/#page/135/mode/1up).

16. Hazrat Salman Farsi, pages 16-17
17. Hazrat Salman Farsi, page 18
18. Hazrat Salman Farsi, page 19-20
19. Seerat-e-Sahaba Rasoolullah^{sa}, pages 522-523
20. Hazrat Salman Farsi, pages 21-22
21. Sahih Al-Bukhari, Kitabu-Tafseer, footnote verse 'Akhareena minhum lamma yalhaqubihim'.
22. <https://www.alislam.org/friday-sermon/2002-02-08.html>
23. Seerat-e-Sahaba Rasoolullah^{sa}, page 527
24. Urdu Daira, Ma'arifa-e-Islamiyyah, page 189
25. Asadul Ghaba, vol. 4, page 953-954
26. Hazrat Salman Farsi, pages 21-22
27. Seerat-e-Sahaba Rasoolullah^{sa}, page 524-525
28. Seeral Sahaba, vol. 6, parts 10-12, pages 195-196
29. Asad-ul-Ghaba, page 953
30. Seerat-e-Sahaba Rasoolullah^{sa}, page 526
31. Hazrat Salman Farsi, page 20
32. Seerat-e-Sahaba Rasoolullah^{sa}, page 523
33. Hazrat Salman Farsi, page 24

34. Seeral Sahaba, vol. 6, parts 10-12, pages 196-198
35. Seeral Sahaba, vol. 6, parts 10-12, pages 191
36. Seeral Sahaba, vol. 6, parts 10-12, page 197
37. Asad-ul-Ghaba, page 953





