

HADRAT SUMAIYYAH BINT KHABAT

May Allah be pleased with her

The First Woman Martyr of Islām

CHILDREN
SERIES
#4/10

Department of Ishā`at, Lajna Imā'illah Canada

2015

Stories of Şahābiyāt

Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah Bint

Khabāṭ^{ra}

Other book in this series:

1. ḤAḌRAT UMMUL-MASĀKĪN ḤAḌRAT ZAINAB BINT KHUZAIMAH^{RA}
2. ḤAḌRAT UMMI HĀNĪ^{RA}
3. ḤAḌRAT UMMI ḤARĀM BINT MILḤĀN^{RA}
4. ḤAḌRAT MAIMŪNAH^{RA}
5. ḤAḌRAT UMMUL-FAḌL LUBĀBATUL-KUBRĀ^{RA}
6. ḤAḌRAT FĀṬIMAH BINT AL-KHAṬṬĀB^{RA}
7. ḤAḌRAT ZAINAB BINT JAHASH^{RA}
8. ḤAḌRAT ḤAFŞAH^{RA}
9. ḤAḌRAT FĀṬIMAH-UL ZUHRA^{RA}



*An English Adaptation of the
Urdu book by Tahira Riaz*

Translation and Adaptation

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Message from the National President Lajna Imā'illah Canada

In the name of Allah the Gracious, the Merciful

It is with great joy, I am writing these lines that Allah Almighty has enabled Lajna Imā'illah Canada to publish the series of these books for children. The objective of publishing these books is to provide children with a basic knowledge and understanding of revered personalities from our religious history and to develop a desire in their hearts to imitate them.

During several *tarbiyyati workshops* that I had with girls, they expressed their desire that they would like to know about the life of Ṣahābīyāt, of Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him). I hope these books can provide them valuable insight about these personalities *inshaAllah!* Moreover, these may be able to help and motivate readers to develop their bond with Allah Almighty – the Lord of all the worlds.

I am thankful to National Secretary Ishā`at Lajna Imā'illah Canada Dr. Amtul Qudoos Farhat Sahiba for gladly taking up this project and working hard until its completion. I pray that may Allah accept her humble efforts and reward her abundantly *Ameen!* Along with her there is a team who has helped in adapting the translation of these books in English. I am thankful to Rasheda Sial Sahiba, Nasim Sahi Sahiba, Ansa Talat Sahiba, Mansoor Rauf Sahiba, Munazza Khan Sahiba and all other members of the team. May Allah reward them abundantly *Ameen!*

I hope and pray that these books will be beneficial for children *inshaAllah* and they will be able to gain knowledge about the revered personalities from the history of Islam after reading these.

May Allah accept this humble effort of Lajna Imā'illah Canada and enable us to further excel in our abilities *Ameen!*

Wassalam,

Amtul Noor Daud

Sadr Lajna Imā'illah Canada

August 19, 2015

FOREWORD

It has long been felt by Lajna Imā'illah Canada that there is scarcity of books for English speaking Ahmadi children. As a humble effort to meet the needs of our children Lajna Imā'illah Canada has planned for a series of Islamic books for children in English language. The first in this series is entitled **Şahābiyāt** (the she- Companions of the Holy Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)). It includes stories of selective Şahābiyāt and some noble wives of the Holy Holy Prophet^{sa}.

Most of these stories have been translated and adapted from Urdu books previously published by Lajna Imā'illah. A team of dedicated members have worked on this project under continued inspiration, guidance and advice by our National President Respected Amtul Noor Daud Sahiba. I am grateful to all of them from the bottom of my heart. Jazakum Allah wa Ahsanal Jaza!

Dear children we hope that you enjoy reading these stories of noble women in Islam and derive knowledge and maximum benefit out of their lives and character. Inshā Allah!

Happy Reading! And kindly keep praying for successful completion of future series on other topics. Inshā Allah!

Amtul Qudoos Farhat
National Secretary Ishā'at
Lajna Imā'illah Canada

In the name Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful

Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah Bint Khabāṭ^{ra}

the First Female Martyr of Islām:

Dear Children,

When Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) first claimed to be a Prophet, the first woman to believe in him was his wife, Ḥaḍrat Khadīja-tul-Kubrā (may Allāh be pleased with her). Similarly, the first person to lay down her life as a martyr was also a woman by the name of Sumaiyyah bint Khabāṭ^{ra}.

In spite of her old age and frailty, she bore persecution and brutality with courage and fortitude in the cause of Islām. She is remembered in history by her beautiful name, Ummi ‘Ammār bin Yāsir^{ra}.

Sumaiyyah bint Khabāṭ^{ra} was the mother of a martyr, wife of a martyr, and a martyr herself. She was among the early believers in Islām, being 7th among the first 7 individuals who openly declared themselves to be Muslims right at the onset of Islām.

Three years after the claim of prophet-hood, The Holy Prophet^{sa} was commanded by Allāh to explicitly proclaim his prophet-hood and call upon people to accept Unity of Allāh. Therefore, the Prophet^{sa} openly started the propagation of Islām.

The message of Islām was opposed with extreme hostility by the Disbelievers of Makkah. Not only did they become mortal enemies of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, but waged every kind of brutality against those who accepted Islām. They did not leave any stone unturned in order to harass them and turn them away from Islām. Even influential individuals like Ḥaḍrat Abū Bakr^{ra}, Ḥaḍrat ‘Uthmān^{ra} and Ḥaḍrat Ṭalḥah^{ra}, became victims of persecution.



Life of Slavery:

In the past, slavery was very common in most societies. Arabia was no different. There existed numerous slaves who were forced to work, had no rights and could be bought and sold as their masters decided.

It is hard to imagine the dire condition of those slaves who accepted Islām, both men and women, without any rights or protection without a friend or a helper. Those great individuals bore the hardships and cruelty from the disbelievers of Makkah with great fortitude and courage, in spite of physical weakness and old age. They attained eternal life, reaching the rank of martyrdom. Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah bint Khabāṭ^{ra}'s name is at the top of that list.

Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah bint Khabāṭ^{ra} is counted among the highest ranking Ṣaḥābiyāt. Ṣaḥābiyāt is a term referring to those women who were blessed with the company of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. Only the name of her father, Khabāṭ, can be traced among her ancestors. There is no historical record as to how or why Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah's ancestors moved to Makkah. All we know is that during the Period of Ignorance, Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah bint Khabāṭ^{ra} was a slave of a Makkan chief, Abū Ḥudhaifah bin Al-Mughīrah of the Banū Makhzūm clan.

Family:

Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah bint Khabāṭ^{ra} was married to Ḥaḍrat Yāsir bin ‘Amīr^{ra}, who had come from Yemen with two of his brothers to Makkah, about 45 years before the claim of prophet-hood by the Holy Prophet^{sa}. They had come to look for a long lost brother whom they could not find even after an extensive search. Whereas the other two brothers returned to Yemen, Yāsir^{ra} became a permanent resident of Makkah. During his stay, he became friends with Abū Ḥudhaifah bin Al-Mughīrah, who gave his slave girl, Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah bint Khabāṭ^{ra} in marriage to him.

They had 3 sons: Ḥaḍrat ‘Ammār^{ra}, Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullāh^{ra}, and Ḥarīth. Both Ḥaḍrat ‘Ammār^{ra}, and Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullāh^{ra} became Muslims, whereas Ḥarīth was killed long before the advent of Islām.

The family of Yāsir^{ra} had witnessed the purity of Holy Prophet^{as} life right from his childhood to his youth. They were deeply influenced by his great personality, noble character, and conduct. When Ḥuḍūr^{sa} claimed to be a prophet, the family accepted Islām right away.

Persecution:

It was a time of trial for Muslims. Anyone in Makkah who accepted Islām became a target of wrath of the Polytheists of Makkah, who did not even spare their closest relatives in this regard. Ḥaḍrat Yāsir^{ra} was a Yemenite, and Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah bint Khabāṭ^{ra} was still a slave of Banū Makhzūm; therefore, there was nothing to prevent the abuse against them. Such atrocities were committed against that poor, helpless family, the likes of which we do not find in history.

Ḥaḍrat Yāsir^{ra} and Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah^{ra} were very old and frail, but had such a strong commitment to Islām, that endless acts of cruelty could not move them away from the Truth, even for a moment. Their faith was as strong as mountains, which could not be swept away by stormy waves or damaged by turbulent winds. Their sons were going through the same circumstances. It was a daily routine of the non-Muslim Makkans to make them lie down on the burning sand of Makkah, clad in iron suits of armor, to heap burning charcoal on their backs and to nearly drown them in water.

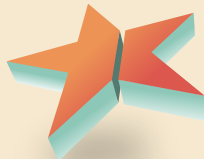
The Holy Prophet^{sa} passed by when Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah^{ra} and her family were being tortured. He^{sa} cried out, “O’ Family of Yāsir! Glad tidings be to you that your abode would be in Paradise!”

At another time, when the Holy Prophet^{sa} saw Ḥaḍrat Yāsir^{ra}, Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah^{ra} and their sons in distress, he^{sa} said, “Have patience! O, My Lord, grant salvation to the family of Yāsir, and You *have* granted salvation to them.”

Suffering such brutality, elderly Yāsir^{ra} died as a martyr. Even that did not bring any mercy from the Polytheists of Makkah for that family, and atrocities continued against Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah^{ra} and her sons.

Martyrdom:

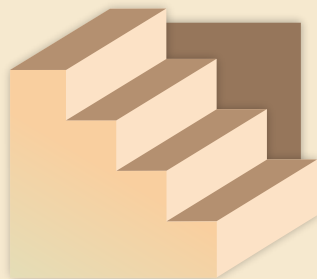
One day, having gone through the hardships of the day, Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah^{ra} came home in the evening when Abū Jahl started hurling verbal abuse at her, and then he became so violent that he speared her to death. After that, with a bow and arrow, he martyred her son ‘Abdullāh^{ra} too. ‘Ammār^{ra} was the only one left. He came crying to the Holy Prophet^{sa} and narrated the circumstances of the martyrdom of his mother. The Holy Prophet^{sa} advised him to exert patience, and prayed to Allāh to reward the family of Yāsir^{ra} in the life hereafter



Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah^{ra} attained the rank of a martyr in the 6th year of the Call. She was the first woman to be martyred.

In 2 Hijrah, during the battle of Badr, the murderer of Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah^{ra}, Abu Jahl was killed. Remembering Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah^{ra}, The Holy Prophet^{sa} called for ‘Ammār^{ra} and told him, “Allāh has taken revenge from the murderer of your mother.”

There have been none in the history of Muslim women who demonstrated such fortitude as Ḥaḍrat Sumaiyyah^{ra}. She had cultivated patience as her habit. This extremely old and frail lady has left such examples of fortitude which have no parallel in history and their fragrance will keep spreading. In spite of the atrocities committed against her, she did not move away even an iota from her faith, and stayed steadfast like a rock. May Allāh exalt her rank in heaven, and grant us the ability to walk in her footsteps. Āmīn.



References:

1. Daur-e-Nabuwwat kī Bargazīdah ‘Auratain, pg. 449-453
2. Tadhkār-e-Şahābīyāt, pg. 171-173
3. Azwāj-e-Muṭāhharāt wa Şahābīyāt Encyclopedia, pg. 394-396

Acronyms for salutation used in this book:

sa: *Şallallāhu ‘alaihi wa sallam* (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him) for the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa}

as: *‘Alaihis-salām* (peace be on him) for the Prophets of Allāh.

ra: *Raḍiyallāhu ‘anhu/‘anha/‘anhum* (May Allāh be pleased with him/her/them) for the companions of Holy Prophet^{sa} and of the Promised Messiah^{as}







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