

NEWSLETTER

uswatul MUSLIMAH

ROLE MODELS FOR THE MUSLIMAH

*"Inspirations
from the life of
Sayyidah
Faatimah
(radhiyallahu
'anha)"*

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Life's a Rollercoaster! *Enjoy the ride!*

Life is topsy turvy. One day you are feeling high and the next day low. Every coming day is, well ... just unpredictable.

*Life is like a see saw, it's just like that
One up one down, tit for tat
You a ball one day, and the next you a bat
Be happy like a child,
bear patience till the end
Old became gold, just like that*

This phenomena affects everyone, without exception. Every Nabi that set foot on this planet experienced these feelings and emotions. The rich in their high rise apartments and the poor in their crumbling huts, the pious on their prayer mats as well as the sinful on their sofas and couches - every single one rides the changing tides of fortune. All shake the hands of prosperity and poverty. Everyone's bowl is filled with his share of happiness and sadness, as well as the excitement and disappointment.

What we fail to observe is that no one has any influence over what has been decreed for him. One cannot command the amount of wealth that is desired, or the happiness that is cherished and dreamed about. Neither is it possible for an individual to avert the problems and pains that are destined for him/her. None have any say whatsoever, in the matters of destiny.

This is because we are the creation and Allah Ta'ala is the Creator. We are owned and He alone is the Owner. What He has decided will happen, regardless of anything and everything else. In short, every man will receive and live through the full spectrum of life's offerings at the time, place and condition that Allah Ta'ala decides ... not at his own behest and desire.

*What He wants to decide, by it shall we abide
Never can we His will avoid, with
His pleasure we walk side by side
Heads bowed down to His command,
His word never denied
In His presence no arrogance,
in His court no pride*

We are just like passengers on a plane, train or any other commuter. One might either sit grumpily for the entire journey, whining and complaining all the way. When the journey's end is reached, physical exhaustion and mental fatigue accompanied by darkness, doom and despair shall be his only companions.

*Ah, the end-result of helpless whining,
carping and complaining!*

The other option would be to make the best of it. Share a smile. Say a good word. Be patient, positive and productive. The trip remains the same: but one's a winner at the end.

This was the theme of the life of the Queen of Paradise (Jannah) - Sayyidah Faatimah (radhiyallahu 'anha). She was born as the youngest of four siblings and her childhood was rocked by extreme abuse and persecution that her noble father, Nabi Muhammad (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) had to endure. But she was brave. Her courage reached to such an extent that she openly defied the abuse of his enemies and removed the entrails of a camel off his back, in their presence. It was such a time that men lacked the courage to do what she fearlessly did. Did she choose to be in a difficult situation? Not at all! The challenge never put her down. Instead, she was daringly and boldly pro-active. She accepted the challenge, threw down the gauntlet and defended the truth.

She was just entering the second ten years of her life when her elder sister Ruqayyah (radhiyallahu 'anha) leaves Makkah Mukarramah and migrates to Abyssinia. She bids her farewell knowing very well this may be their last meeting for it was a trip into the unknown ... a journey to the wild jungles of Africa. Would they return alive? Would they come back safe and sound? This was life's bitter pill that she *had* to patiently swallow. It may not have suited her idea of the perfect family setting but she knew that Allah Ta'ala had a better plan.

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A few years down the line and the brave and young Faatimah (radhiyallahu 'anha) joined her family when they were forced to abandon their homes and "dumped" in a valley. This was the evil boycott imposed by the Quraish. No one was permitted to trade with this banished group. Effectively, the boycott was frightening, cold and totally inhuman.

Society was forbidden to interact with them and vice-versa. Starvation had reached such a point that the babies' cries of hunger could be heard resounding through the valley. People had to suffice on eating the roots of grass and shrubs for some nourishment for there was nothing else available. What could this feeble human being, who was the beloved daughter of the most beloved of Allah Ta'ala, do? She knew and understood that this was indeed, the decision of Allah, The Mighty and The Wise. The earth belongs to Him and He decides what His creation should receive and experience.

With time, the boycott ends and relief barely sets in when her loving mother, Sayyidah Khadeejah (radhiyallahu 'anha) falls ill and passes on, leaving her forever. She was never to see her again. It just happened. It was all over. This was not any small problem. This was her mother. There was no replacement. But she knew that her mother belonged to Allah Ta'ala, who takes life and gives life. She could only turn to Him for solace.

The period that followed, recorded an unprecedented increase in pressure, persecution and harassment. The inhumanity became more intense and continued unabated. The pillars of support that her family once enjoyed had now fallen away and the horizon appeared dark, dingy and daunting. It was just a matter of a "brief pause" and the next big change and challenge befell her arduous life. She had to move house.

Not from one street to the next!

She had to abandon her homeland and

move to a place new and foreign to her. She had to leave behind fond memories, friends and family. Young Faatimah (radhiyallahu 'anha) had learnt a long time ago that the mindset of a Muslim was to be happy and contented with the decree of Allah Ta'ala, in any and all situations. Why wouldn't she live out this lesson, when she was, after all, the daughter of the leader of both the worlds (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) and the Queen of Jannah (paradise) in waiting?

The "wheels of time turned on" and she soon found herself living in Madeenah Munawwarah as a young woman who



was married to Sayyiduna 'Ali (radhiyallahu 'anhu). Things were difficult and became even harder with four children to tend for. Food was hard to come by. Sayyidah Faatimah (radhiyallahu 'anha) would carry out her daily chores by herself. She had no assistant whatsoever.

When she had requested for a helper from her loving father (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) he turned her attention towards the Hereafter. He recommended the famous "tasbeeh Faatimi" to her. An intangible in exchange for a tangible! He gave her something she couldn't feel, see or even talk to in response to her request for physical help! But accepting it, was a breeze for her and for anyone who Allah Ta'ala has guided.

Why this mindset?

Indeed, it was simply because she had

decided to be happy with the ultimate decree of Allah Ta'ala. How could she not be pleased? Indeed, she *was* Faatimah (radhiyallahu 'anha), the beloved daughter of the most beloved of Allah Ta'ala, Nabi Muhammad (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) ... she understood that everything that happens, positive or negative, is the will of Allah Ta'ala and is backed by the wisdom of the All-Wise. Simply because she understood that pious deeds like salaah, reciting Quraan, zikr and abstaining from sin have a telling impact on our physical daily lives. *She* accepted it and it worked wonders for her. It will work for *you too*. Make it part of your daily life and experience it firsthand.

Sayyidah Faatimah (radhiyallahu 'anha)'s life was a manifestation of the verse:

"We will afford a good life to those people whose actions are pious and carried out in the condition of Imaan, be they male or female". (An-Nahl v97)

A good life is not based on hoards of riches, good health and happy families. Rather it is the blessing of an empowered heart to take on the world and still smile from within.

ENERGY BOOSTER

Once Faatimah (radhiyallahu 'anha) had requested Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) for a slave (servant) to assist her with all the difficult chores of the home. Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) said to her and 'Ali (radhiyallahu 'anhu): *"Should I not show you something better than what you asked for? When you retire to your bed, recite Subhanallah 33 times, Alhamdulillah 33 times and Allahu-Akbar 34 times. This is better for you than a servant"* (Saheeh Bukhaari #3705).

The Scholars of hadeeth deduce from this that the recitation of these tasbeehaat before going to bed, apart from the spiritual benefit, will be a means of gaining physical strength which will make it easy for one to accomplish one's daily tasks.



COVER UP ...

On The Catwalk!

She stepped onto the catwalk, her outfit clinging to her body. She was dressed, yet undressed. She was covered, yet uncovered. Cameras flashed and music blared from each end of the arena. Heads turned and everybody looked in her direction. Some stared. Many ogled. She didn't seem to mind the attention. In fact, she didn't mind anything at all. It was all in a day's work for her. This was her business. She sold her body using it to display the latest designs from around the globe.

After the show ... most certainly ... another sale is on the cards!

She would sell her body to those who had fancied her, at a price, of course. But she was at risk. Those who couldn't afford her were plotting other ways of violating her already violated self. They couldn't control themselves. They saw her and liked her. Bad luck for her, but it was her fault and the worst was still to come.

Stable, happy families were about to be ripped apart. Fathers who emotionally supported young innocent children, were about to be detached from them and husbands who once would love their darling wives with all their heart, were now torn between her and them. Her figure and gait would haunt them when they would look at their loyal life partners and the thought of her "charming" smile and "shy" giggle would shatter the hugs and kisses they would shower on their kids.

And as every woman and girl leaves her home she does indeed step onto the catwalk of the world. It may not be a fashion arena in Milan or a chic hotel in Paris surrounded by world class designers, fashion media and the social elite but the elements are exactly the same. The world is a jungle where the strong dominate the weak and hungry predators prowl in large numbers. A woman is prey whether she likes it or not! The "liberated" Western world teaches us how to use her to attract customers to a car or even an ice-cream!

So by allowing the unfit to look at her or the unworthy to touch her, why should she give her body away for free? Selling it was bad enough! Some things are sold to be looked at. Others are sold to be used. Both are just as awful.

So cover up!

A woman was never that cheap. A woman is not that cheap. A woman will never be that cheap.

A woman would never stoop so low as to share her knight in shining armour with anyone. Not even her sister. I mean, he belongs to her happily ever after. "Not just sad and bad, and just for now". Every woman deserves that. So let's protect the marriages of others and cover up! Lets like for others what we like for ourselves.

And mind you, covering up doesn't mean that we are prisoners or that we

are oppressed. This is our protection. A bulletproof vest is not a sign of oppression. It indicates just who is in control. It protects your vital organs from bullets and it's used at the time of *need*.

A surgical mask is not a sign of oppression. It shows that you know what you're doing. It's used at the time of *need* to protect you from the germs and bacteria of others and to protect others from your germs and bacteria. It's not your fault, and neither is it theirs!

An unattractive veil and loose fitting clothes in unattractive colours is meant to protect us from the evil glances and wicked advances of 'sick' men and to protect 'healthy' men from falling 'sick'. It's not oppression. It's used at the time of *need*. When the need is over you may resume your favourite permissible outfit. Simple as that.

Note: Permissible clothing for women refers to such garments that cover the "awrah" and do not resemble the clothing of men.

Sure, you may receive attention when you leave your door in this manner but who doesn't? No one's invisible. However, what makes you different to the woman next to you is that you are dignified and respectable. Her clothing tells a different story ... yours another!

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Covering up is the natural instinct of a human being and for a woman it's a passion. The body of a woman is her private possession which she jealously guards. No one should see me. No one should hear me. No one should touch me. I'm priceless. I'm a diamond ... polished to perfection. I'm not placed on a shelf neatly lined up with the others. Someone might drop me on the dusty floor. I'm not placed in a window for public viewing. Someone might get the wrong ideas. I'm kept in a velvet case. Only those who are permitted may see me with respect, with honour and with dignity.

It was a passion in the life of the Queen of Paradise - Sayyidah Faatimah (radhiyallahu 'anha) not to allow a strange man to even look at her. On being asked:

"What's the best thing for women?" her spontaneous reply was that they don't see men and men don't see them! (Musnadul Bazaar #526) Wow! The Queen of Paradise elegantly articulates what's the best thing for us.

If there was anything that would stress the Queen of Paradise, it was that a strange man would lay his eyes on her. She ensured that this would never happen, even after her demise. She made a bequest that as she is carried to her grave, a frame draped with a sheet should be placed over her bier. She further advised that every effort should be made in order to ensure that no man should ever see her body shape and figure. She also insisted that she be buried at night.

And the cherry on the top ... It just gets better for those who are loyal to Allah Ta'ala and his Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam). Allah Ta'ala so highly rated this passion of Sayyidah Faatimah (radiyallahu 'anha) of covering up, that an announcement will be made on the Day of Qiyaamah to all those present, "look down and keep your gazes low so that Faatimah bintu Muhammad (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) may pass!" (*As-Siraajul Muneer, vol. 1, pg. 173*)

Ah, what an honour! What a stamp of approval for such lofty sentiments!

So ... cover up the next time you're on the "catwalk"!



From the Pen of Hazrat Moulana Yunus Patel Sahab (rahimahullah)

The Right Marriage Partner

Letter

Respected Moulana

I am seeking Maulana's advice and guidance in regards to marriage, and would like to know what are the qualities that one looks for in finding a suitable partner, and how does one know that she has found the right person?

Reply

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem

As salaamualaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh

Respected Sister in Islam

1. Allah Ta'ala has established such a perfect system with the deen of Islam, that every aspect of our lives is accommodated for, to establish peace, harmony and happiness. So when it comes to nikaah, we find that Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) has offered the best guidance in regards to

choosing a spouse, giving us clear direction as to what should be given priority. Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) has asked us not to marry only for a person's looks, for their beauty might become a cause of moral decline. Not to marry for the sake of wealth, as this may become a source of sin. **Marry rather on the grounds of religious devotion.** Thus, precedence should be given to deen over everything else.

2. Together with marrying on the basis of piety, share'ah also takes into consideration, compatibility in respect to lineage, piety, wealth, etc, so that the marriage is a lasting and successful one.

3. Insha-Allah, the following would offer some guidelines in respect to the qualities you should seek:

- The person performs salaah five times a day.
- He has the basic knowledge of deen and practises on it.

- He associates with good people, and is not seen in discos, raves or in the company of drug addicts, or with those who have other bad habits.

- He has piety and righteousness

We can only go by what is seen outwardly. However, discreetly, the required information can be obtained by your parents, through family and friends.

4. If there is uncertainty, istikhaarah offers the best direction, and thereafter, you can make a decision.

5. Your parents' approval is also extremely important, for that will secure their du'aas and blessings, which will be a means of great goodness for you.

May Allah Ta'ala grant you a pious and compatible spouse.

Was Salaamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh

Yunus Patel (Maulana)