

INTRODUCTION

As-salaamu alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatu

Nahmaduhu wa nusalli ala Rasoolihil Kareem. Amma ba'd.

All praise is due to Almighty ALLAH, the Cherisher, Nourisher and Sustainer of the Universe. Peace, blessings and salutations be upon our Beloved Master and Leader, Nabi Muhammad Mustafa, SallALLAHU Alayhi wa Sallam (ﷺ).

WAFATUN-NABI ﷺ – THE DEMISE OF NABI MUHAMMAD ﷺ**1. 10 AH: HAJJATUL WIDAA – THE FAREWELL HAJJ**

On this occasion, Nabi ﷺ informed the people: خذوا عني مناسيكم لعلي لا ألقاكم بعد عامي هذا

Khuthu 'anni manaasikakum la-'alli la alqakum ba'da 'aami hatha – Take from me your actions and duties regarding Hajj because, perhaps, next year I will not meet you. [Hadith in Muslim Shareef]

This was how Mustafa Nabiyullah ﷺ prepared the Ummah for his imminent demise. After completing the Hajj, Mustafa ﷺ returned to Medina Munawwarah.

2. 11 AH, SAFAR:

At the beginning of Safar, Nabi ﷺ went to Shuhada-i-Uhud and bade them farewell. He made dua for them: O Almighty ALLAH, forgive them and elevate their rank and status.

Thereafter, one night, Mustafa ﷺ went to Baqi, the famous cemetery in Medina Munawwarah, and made dua for the deceased there as well, bidding them farewell.

When the Master عليه الصلاة والسلام returned at the end of Safar, he became very sick and this illness intensified.

3. RABI-UL-AWWAL:

In the second week of Rabi-ul-Awwal, Nabi ﷺ asked, “*Ayna ana ghadan? Ayna ana ghadan?*” – Where will I be tomorrow?

All the honourable wives realised that Mustafa Rahmatulil Alameen ﷺ wanted to be in the house of Siddiqah Sayyida Ayesha رضي الله عنها. He ﷺ was taken to the *Khujarah Mubarakah*, the house of Siddiqatu bintu Siddiq Sayyida Ayesha رضي الله عنها, the daughter of Sayyidina Abu Bakr Siddiq رضي الله عنه.

Our mother Sayyida Ayesha رضي الله عنها said that she read *Mu'awwathatain (Qul a'oothu bi Rabbil falaq, Qul a'oothu bi Rabbil-naas)* and other duas and blew on Nabi ﷺ. She also rubbed his Mubarak body with his Mubarak hands because the Master ﷺ's condition was deteriorating.

3.1 THURSDAY 8TH RABI-UL-AWWAL: SAYYIDINA ABU BAKR رضي الله عنه's IMAMAT

وَقَوْلِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى: إِنَّكَ مَيِّتٌ وَإِنَّهُمْ مَيِّتُونَ ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ عِنْدَ رَبِّكُمْ تَخْتَصِمُونَ. Almighty ALLAH states: *Innaka mayyitu wa innahum mayyitoon* – Ya Rasoolullah, your demise will happen and so will theirs. [S. 39; 30]

حَدَّثَنَا إِسْحَاقُ بْنُ نَصْرِ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا حُسَيْنٌ، عَنْ زَائِدَةَ، عَنْ عَبْدِ الْمَلِكِ بْنِ عُمَيْرٍ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنِي أَبُو بُرَيْدَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي مُوسَى، قَالَ مَرِضَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَأَشْتَدَّ مَرَضُهُ فَقَالَ " مُرُوا أَبَا بَكْرٍ فَلْيُصَلِّ بِالنَّاسِ "

On the last Thursday night of his Mubarak life, at Esha, Mustafa ﷺ was so ill that he could not make the Imam. He said, “*Muru Abu Bakrin fal yusalli bin-naas*” – Command Sayyidina Abu Bakr Siddiq رضي الله عنه to lead the people in Salaat.

Reference: Sahih al-Bukhari 678 In-book reference: Book 10, Hadith 72 USC-MSA web (English) reference: Vol. 1, Book 11, Hadith 646 <http://sunnah.com/bukhari/10/72>

Thus, 17 Salaat – from Thursday night, Esha; Friday 5 Salaat, Saturday 5 Salaat, Sunday 5 Salaat to Monday Fajr – were led by Sayyidina Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه.

Those were the final Salaats during Nabi ﷺ's lifetime and that was the Imam of Sayyidina Abu Bakr Siddiq رضي الله عنه Wardha. No other person enjoyed this virtue and honour of leading Salaat in Nabi ﷺ's lifetime.

Sayyidina Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه was **Thani-Ithnain**, the Second of the Two, in the Cave (*Ghaar*) of Thaur.

He was **Thani-Ithnain** on the journey of Hijra to Medina Munawwarah.

He was **Thani-Ithnain** on the musalla of Nabi Muhammad ﷺ.

Today also, he is **Thani-Ithnain** in the *Quboor-i-Mubarakah*, where the Master عليه الصلاة والسلام is buried.

3.2 MONDAY 12TH RABI-UL-AWWAL: NABI ﷺ'S FINAL WORDS

Mustafa ﷺ's condition intensified. Our mother, Siddiqah Sayyida Ayesha رضي الله عنها said:

On that morning, my brother Abdur-Rahman bin Abi Bakr رضي الله عنه, entered. He had a *miswaak* in his mouth and I saw Nabi عليه الصلاة والسلام looking at him. I asked, “Ya Rasoolullah, do you want the *miswaak*?” Nabi ﷺ gestured, “Yes”. I took the *miswaak*, softened it, and then inserted it into the Mubarak mouth of Nabi عليه الصلاة والسلام.

These are the unique distinctions of Siddiqatu bintu Siddiq Sayyida Ayesha رضي الله عنها: it was *her* house, *her* turn and, *her reeq* – *her saliva* – was mixed with the Mubarak saliva of Mustafa Nabi ﷺ.

While Nabi ﷺ was leaning against her body, he passed away.

Bukhari Shareef teaches us the last words and farewell advice of Nabi ﷺ:

" الصَّلَاةُ الصَّلَاةُ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ " قَالَ كَانَ آخِرُ كَلَامٍ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ .

<http://sunnah.com>

As-Salaah! As-Salaah! Wa ma malakat aymanukum – O Ummati-Muslima, regarding *Huqooqullah*, the rights of Almighty Allah – Guard your Salaah! Guard your Salaah!

Regarding *Huqooqul-ibaad*, the rights of people over whom you have authority: fulfil their rights and honour your obligations towards them. Therefore, whether it is our wives and children, our students, employees or domestic workers, whoever it is, O Ummah, we must fulfil our obligations towards them. These are the priorities that Nabi Muhammad Rahmatulil Alameen ﷺ emphasised.

Aisha رضي الله عنها reported: I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ saying, near the occasion of his passing away: “**O Allah, forgive me, have mercy upon me, and join me with the highest company.**”

Source: Sunan At-Tirmidhi 3496 Grade: *Sahih* (authentic) according to At-Tirmidhi

<http://dailyhadith.abuaminaelias.com/2012/07/30/hadith-on-death-the-prophets-supplication-for-mercy-before-his-passing-away/>

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ قَالَتْ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ عِنْدَ وَقَاتِهِ اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَارْحَمْنِي وَأَلْحِقْنِي بِالرَّفِيقِ الْأَعْلَى

Mustafa ﷺ who was, who is, who will always be the most beloved to Almighty Allah جلادعلى, begged Almighty Allah as his condition worsened:

Allahumma Rabbighfirlī – O Almighty Allah, forgive me; *warhamni* – and have Mercy on me; *wal hiqni birafeeqil a'laa* – and join me with the Highest Companion i.e. let me go to Almighty Allah's Mercy And those were the last words: *Arafeeqil A'laa*.

Even at that time and in that state, Nabi ﷺ was teaching a lesson to humanity and for posterity.

At Duha time, Mustafa ﷺ's *rooh*, soul Mubarak, left his Mubarak *badn*, body.

3.3 REACTION TO NABI ﷺ'S DEMISE: A DAUGHTER'S LAMENT

We can only imagine what went through the minds of the Sahaba رضي الله عنهم as news spread of Nabi ﷺ's demise.

Sayyida Fathima رضي الله عنها was the only surviving child of Nabi ﷺ, his sons having passed away in their infancy, and the other daughters also having pre-deceased Nabi ﷺ. She was there, seeing her beloved father ﷺ leaving this world.

After the demise of Sayyidul Awwaleen wal Akhireen, Sayyida Fathima رضي الله عنها said the following:

فَلَمَّا مَاتَ قَالَتْ يَا أَبَتَاهُ، أَجَابَ رَبًّا دَعَاهُ، يَا أَبَتَاهُ مَنْ جَنَّةُ الْفِرْدَوْسِ مَأْوَاهُ، يَا أَبَتَاهُ إِلَى جِبْرِيلَ نَنْعَاهُ

Reference: Sahih al-Bukhari 4462 In-book reference: Book 64, Hadith 478

USC-MSA web (English) reference: Vol. 5, Book 59, Hadith 739

<http://sunnah.com/bukhari/64/478>

Ya Abata, ajaaba Rabban da'a

O, my Beloved Father, you have answered the call of Rabb, of Almighty Allah

Ya Abata, man Jannatul Firdousi ma'wa

O Beloved Father, O Honourable Father, now Jannatul Firdous is your resting place

Ya Abata, ila Jibra'eel nan'a

O Father, to Jibra'eel we announce the news of your demise

With what courage, with what *himmat* of Imaan, did Sayyida Fathima رضي الله عنها utter these words.

Before Nabi ﷺ passed away, he gave her the glad tidings: O Fathima, you are Sayyidatun-Nisaa-i ahliil Jannat – You will be the leader of the women in Jannat (Hadith in Bukhari Shareef).

Mustafa ﷺ also told her she would be joining him very soon.

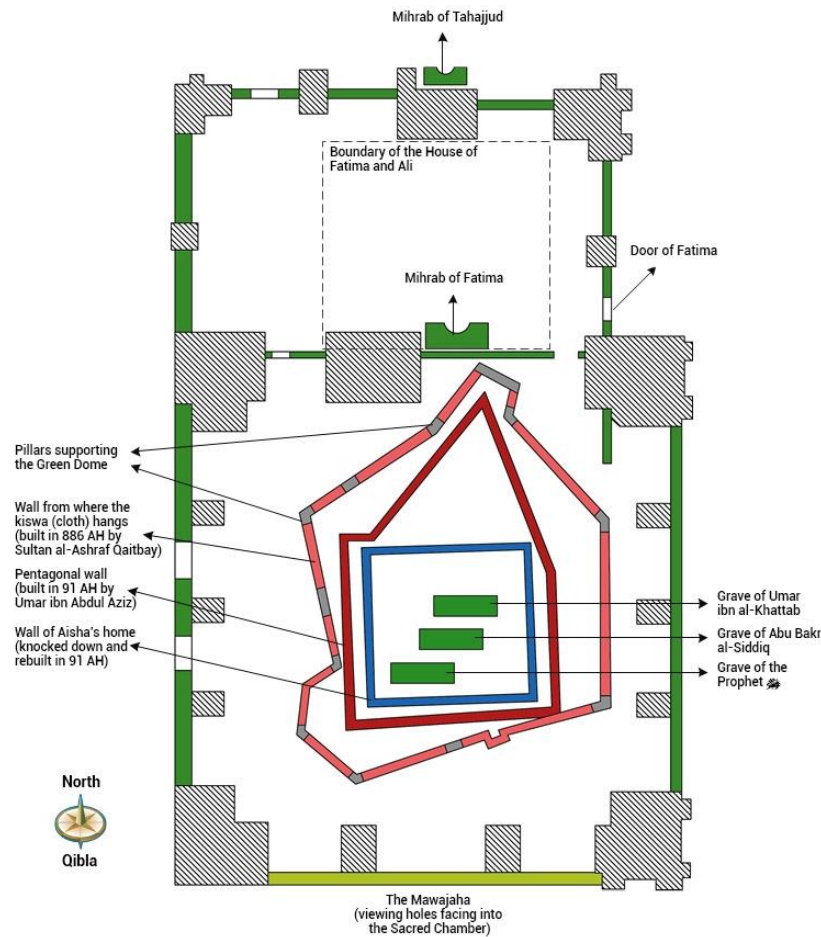
In Ramadhan of the same year, Sayyida Fathima رضي الله عنها passed away. She had been so sad that she had never smiled for the six months since Nabi ﷺ's demise. She would say:

Subbat alayya masa-ibuhu lo annaha subbat alal ayyaami sirna layyaaliha – Such a calamity, *museebat*, has befallen me that if such a calamity had to fall on the day, it would have turned into night.

LESSON: PREPARING FOR DEATH

One day, we have to leave this world so we should practise on the farewell advices of Nabi ﷺ.

BarakALLAHU feek. As-salaamu alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatu



THE RAUDAH MUBARAK

The Raudah Mubarak (Sacred Chamber) is split into two sections:

Outer chamber – comprising the house of Sayyida Fatima رضي الله عنها, and the area around the exterior wall of the Prophet's ﷺ grave.

Inner chamber – this contains the grave of the Prophet ﷺ and his two companions, RA. This sacred room, which was once the house of the Prophet's ﷺ wife, Sayyida Aisha رضي الله عنها is surrounded by **three sets of walls**:

The first set of walls was built with the house shortly after the Prophet's ﷺ migration to Madinah. These were replaced in 91 AH / 711 CE by Umar Abdul Aziz رحمه الله with stones similar to the black stones of the

Ka'aba.

The second set of walls was also built by Umar Abdul Aziz رحمه الله and is pentagonal in shape so that the chamber would not resemble the Ka'aba and, therefore, deter people from praying towards it.

After several plots were uncovered to steal the body of the Prophet (ﷺ) by digging underneath the graves, the Sultan Nooruddin Zangi had a trench built around the chamber and filled it with molten lead.

The third set of walls, from where the ghilaf (cloth) hangs, was built around the pentagonal wall in 886 AH / 1481 CE by Sultan al-Ashraf Qaitbay. This was done to fortify the pentagonal structure after it was damaged in a fire. It is this wall that visitors see when looking through the viewing holes in the Mawajaha.

Attempts to Remove the Blessed Body of the Prophet ﷺ

There have been numerous attempts throughout history to remove the blessed body of the Prophet ﷺ from its resting place. At least two attempts were carried out by the Fatimid Caliph Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah who wanted to transfer the body of the Prophet ﷺ to Cairo in Egypt.

The most audacious attempt occurred in 557 AH (1164 CE) when two Christian men, disguised as pious pilgrims, travelled to Madinah with this sinister intention. They stayed in the vicinity of the Sacred Chamber which was located inside Masjid Nabawi.

The local inhabitants were deceived into thinking that these men were very pious because of their regular visits to, and prayers in, the Prophet's ﷺ mosque. They also visited the cemetery, Jannatul Baqi, often and were extremely charitable.

However, as soon as these men settled into their lodgings, they began digging a tunnel towards the Sacred Chamber. They would fill leather bags with earth they had excavated and disposed of it in Jannatul Baqi. This continued for some time until they came close to their perverse goal.

One of the foremost leaders of the Muslim world at the time was Sultan Noorudin Zangi V, who was part of the Seljuk Empire and ruled over the Syrian province. He was a mentor of the great Salahuddin Ayyubi V, who he appointed as one of his governors. One night, after performing his night prayers, the Prophet ﷺ appeared to him in a dream, pointing out two men with blonde hair, and said: "Oh Mahmoud, save me from them." The Sultan woke up in a state of bewilderment. Unsure of what this statement meant, he prayed and went back to sleep. He had the same dream three times so he decided to share his dream with one of his wazirs (advisors), Jamaluddin Al-Mawsili V, who was known for his righteousness and wisdom. Jamaluddin advised the Sultan not to mention the dream to anyone and to leave for Madinah immediately.

The Sultan left Syria for Madinah shortly after, taking 16 days to reach it. Upon entering Madinah, the Sultan went straight to Masjid Nabawi where he performed salah. The governor of Madinah, surprised by the Sultan's sudden arrival, respectfully enquired about the reason for his unexpected appearance. He was told to gather all the citizens of Madinah which he did. He announced that the Sultan would be providing everyone with food and gifts.

Everyone in the city attended the gathering. However, Sultan Noorudin was unable to identify the culprits. After the governor enquired about any absentees, the residents informed him about the two righteous, pious pilgrims who were too engaged in worship to attend.

Sultan Noorudin then ordered the two men to be brought to him. He recognised them immediately. After questioning them about the intentions of their visit, they said they had come to perform the pilgrimage (Hajj), to visit Masjid Nabawi and spend time in worship. They said they had planned to live in Madinah for a year.

The Sultan then searched their residence but could not find any evidence of wrongdoing. After closer inspection, however, he came across large sums of money and a piece of wood covered by a sheet. After removing these he uncovered the tunnel, which had almost reached the Sacred Chamber.

The two men were arrested immediately and interrogated. They confessed they were Christians from Rome who had been taught the Arabic language and Arab customs. They admitted their mission was to steal the blessed body of the Prophet ﷺ and take it back to Rome. The men were sentenced to death and executed for their crime.

After this incident, Sultan Nooruddin Zangi ordered a trench to be dug around the Sacred Chamber. It was then filled with molten lead in order to prevent any future attempts of tunnelling into it from below.

REFERENCES:

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