

Ummahāt al-Mu'minīn MOTHERS OF THE BELIEVERS

“The Prophet is closer to the believers than their own selves, and his wives are their mothers.” [Surah al-Ahzab: 6]

Khadījah bint Khuwaylid



Khadījah ﷺ was the first wife of Nabī ﷺ and first woman to embrace Islam. Nabī ﷺ did not take any other wife during her lifetime, and she is the mother of all his children. Thus, for twenty-five years she remained his only wife. Nabī ﷺ said, “The best woman of her time was Maryam bint ‘Imrān and the best woman of her time was Khadījah bint Khuwaylid.” [Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim]

Sawdah bint Zam‘ah



Sawdah ﷺ was one of the devout early followers of Islam and the first woman to marry Nabī ﷺ after the demise of Khadījah ﷺ. She was gentle and kind, and would give up things dear to her for the other wives of Nabī ﷺ. ‘Ā’ishah ﷺ said in admiration of her, “I have not seen a woman whose temperament I would like to resemble more than Sawdah.” [Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim]

‘Ā’ishah bint Abī Bakr



‘Ā’ishah ﷺ had the unique honour of being the only one of all Nabī’s ﷺ wives to have been married only to Nabī ﷺ, his other wives all being widows or previously married. She was the most beloved of Nabī’s ﷺ wives to him after Khadījah ﷺ. Nabī ﷺ said, “The superiority of ‘Ā’ishah over other women is like the superiority of tharīd over other kinds of food.” [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī]

Ḥafsah bint Umar



Nabī ﷺ wed Ḥafsah ﷺ in 3 AH, after her first husband passed away. She was pious and an ardent worshipper of Allah. Nabī ﷺ once gave her a single divorce on which Jibrīl ﷺ informed Nabī ﷺ, “You divorced Ḥafsah whereas she fasts excessively and observes ṣalāh [at night], and she will be your wife in Jannah.” Nabī ﷺ then took her back into his wedlock. [Al-Mu‘jam al-Kabīr]

Zaynab bint Khuzaymah



Nabī ﷺ married Zaynab ﷺ after her husband, ‘Abd Allāh ibn Jahsh ﷺ, was martyred in the Battle of Uḥud. However, she only remained in the company of Nabī ﷺ for a few months and passed away in the fourth year after hijrah. She was extremely generous and would liberally spend upon the poor and needy, as a result she was called *Ummul Masakīn* [Mother of the Poor]. [Siyar A‘lām al-Nubalā’]

Umm Salamah bint Abī Umayyah



Nabī ﷺ married Umm Salamah ﷺ, whose name was Hind bint Abī Umayyah, in 4 AH, after her husband, Abū Salamah ﷺ, passed away. She was a very astute and wise lady, who was devoted to the welfare of the destitute and needy. Amongst the wives of the Nabī ﷺ she narrates the greatest number of hadīth after ‘Ā’ishah ﷺ. Nabī ﷺ also gave her glad tidings of Jannah. [Al-Iṣābah]

Zaynab bint Jahsh



Nabī ﷺ married Zaynab ﷺ in 5 AH. Nabī ﷺ had informed his wives that the one with the longest arms among them would be the first to join him in the next life, referring to the most generous amongst them. This prophecy materialised in favour of Zaynab ﷺ, who was the most generous of them and thus the first to depart from this world after his demise. [Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim]

Juwayriyah bint al Ḥārith



Nabī ﷺ wed Juwayriyah ﷺ in the fifth year after hijrah, after her tribe attacked Nabī ﷺ in the Battle of Muraysī. As a result of this marriage all the members of her tribe embraced Islam; she was thus a source of great blessings for her people. ‘Ā’ishah ﷺ said, “I have not seen a woman who was a greater source of blessing for her people than Juwayriyah.” [Musnad Aḥmad]

Umm Ḥabībah bint Abī Sufyān



Umm Ḥabībah, Ramlah ﷺ, accepted Islam early on and migrated to Abyssinia with her husband, where he then passed away. Nabī ﷺ then proposed to her and the Abyssinian king al-Najashī wed her to Nabī ﷺ. She was so conscious of fulfilling the rights of others that before her demise she sought pardon from all her co-wives for any harm she might have caused them. [Siyar A‘lām al-Nubalā’]

Ṣafiyyah bint Ḥuyayy



Ṣafiyyah ﷺ was the daughter of the Jewish leader Ḥuyayy ibn Akḥṭab and was married by Nabī ﷺ after she embraced Islam in the seventh year after hijrah. She had immense love for Nabī ﷺ and in his fatal illness desired that the agony that Nabī ﷺ was experiencing fall to her instead, and he be at ease. Nabī ﷺ was immensely pleased at her gesture. [Muṣannaf ‘Abd al-Razzāq]

Maymūnah bint al Ḥārith



Maymūnah ﷺ was the last to wed Nabī ﷺ and lived with him for three years, until his demise. She is renowned for having had no conflict with any of her co-wives due to her outstanding character. ‘Ā’ishah ﷺ said, “Maymūnah was the most virtuous, pious, and most considerate in treating her relatives well.” [Al-Iṣābah] Maymūnah’s life reflected deep faith, unwavering piety, and enduring virtue.