

Virtues & Excellences of
Sayyidah Khadījah
al-Kubrā



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SAYYIDAH KHADĪJAH AL-KUBRĀ

رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا

Her name with the lineage is: Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا bint Khuwaylid bin Asad bin ‘Abdul ‘Uzza bin Qusay bin Kilāb bin Murrah bin Ka’b bin Luwai. Her lineage meets the lineage of the beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ through Qusay. Her *kunyah* is *Umm Hind*. Her mother was Fāṭimah bint Zā’idah bin al-Asm from the tribe of Banī Amir bin Luwai.¹

She رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا has many titles. The most famous title is *al-Kubrā*. This was so frequently used that it seemed as if it was part of her name. Another famous title is *Ṭāhirah*. She رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا used to be called *Ṭāhirah* even in the pre-Islamic era of ignorance. Furthermore, she رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا was also called *Sayyidatu Quraysh*.²

Similarly, *Ṣiddīqah* is also her title. It has been narrated that the beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: “*She is the Ṣiddīqah of my Ummah.*”³

The good morals of the beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ were talked about everywhere; even the polytheists of Makkah referred him as *al-Sādiq* (The Truthful) and *al-Amīn* (The Trustworthy). To handle her business, Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا chose and conveyed the message to the Master صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ that he should take her merchandise to Syria for trade and take from the

1 Madārij-un-Nubūwah, Vol. 2, Part 5, Chapter 2, Chapter of Wives, page 1

2 Sirah Halabiyah, Vol. 1, page 199

3 Tarikh Dimashq, Vol. 70, page 118

profit a share whatever he feels appropriate. The Holy Prophet ﷺ accepted this offer in consultation with Abū Ṭālib. Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا sent her slave, Maysarah with the Holy Prophet ﷺ as his servant. The Prophet ﷺ sold the goods in Basra and made double profit. The people of the caravan profited greatly due to his blessed companionship. When the caravan returned, she رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا saw that two angels were casting a shadow over the mercy of the worlds ﷺ. The miracles of the journey made him ﷺ attractive to Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا.⁴

Apart from being wealthy and generous, Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا was the most noble and from the best of the lineages among the women of the Quraysh. Many from tribe of the Quraysh wanted to marry her, but she did not accept anyone's proposal. Instead, she sent the proposal of marriage to the Master ﷺ and called her uncle 'Amr bin Asad. The beloved Prophet ﷺ also visited the house of Sayyidah Khadijatul Kubrā رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا with his uncle Abū Ṭālib, Sayyidunā Ḥamzah, Sayyidunā Abū Bakr as-Ṣiddīq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ and other chiefs of the clan. Abū Ṭālib delivered the marriage sermon. According to a tradition, the *mahr* (bride gift) of Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا was twelve and a half *awqiah* (ounces) of gold.⁵

At the time of marriage, Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا was forty years old and the beloved Prophet ﷺ was twenty five years old.⁶

In the Cave of Hira', Sayyidunā Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام came to the Court of the Mercy of the Universe ﷺ with the revelation and asked him to recite it. The Prophet ﷺ said: "I do not recite" by saying "مَا أَنَا بِقَارِئٍ". Then Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام took him in his

4 Madārij-un-Nubūwwah, Vol. 1, Section 2, page 2

5 Madārij-un-Nubūwwah, Vol. 2, Section 2, page 2

6 al-Tabaqāt al-Kubrā by ibn Sā'd, Vol. 8, page 13

arms, hugged and left him. He said again: “Read”. He said: “I will not read”. Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام took him in his arms, hugged and left him. Then he said: “Read”. He said “I will not read.” The third time, Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام took him in his arms and said:

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ (١) خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ (٢) اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ (٣)
الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ (٤) عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ (٥)

Read with the name of your Lord who Created, Created man from a clot. Read and your Lord only is the Most Beneficent, The One who taught to write with the pen. The One Who taught man all what he did not know.

Upon returning home feeling unwell from this great incident, he صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said to Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا: “زملوني زملوني”. *Bring me a blanket. Bring me a blanket.* She put a blanket on his صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ body and sprinkled some cold water on his صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ face to relieve his discomfort. Then he صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ narrated the whole situation to her رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا. Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا while comforting him said, “Allāh will grant you only the good because you look after and carry the burden of the relatives. Strive and struggle in devotion, you are hospitable to the guest; you help the poor and the needy. You treat people with kindness, you engage with people with good manners, you help them when they are right and avoid them when they are evil, you shelter the orphans, you speak the truth and you return people, their trusts”. Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا comforted the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ with these words.⁷

All the grief the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ got due to the denial of the disbelievers of Quraysh used to diminish upon seeing Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا and he became happy. And when the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ came, she would be very hospitable to him, which would make every difficulty easier for him.⁸

7 Şahīḥ Bukhārī, Book of Revelation, page 65, Ḥadīth 3

8 Madārīj-un-Nubūwwah, Vol. 2, Part II, Chapter III, Revelation and Proof of Prophethood, page 32

She رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا (among women) was the first to be blessed to bring faith in the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.⁹

The majority opinion is that Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا was the first to publicly accept Islam. Because when the beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ came from the Cave of Ḥira' and informed her of the revelation, she believed. Some say that Sayyidunā Abū Bakr Ṣiddīq رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ was the first to believe after her. Some say that Sayyidunā 'Alī رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ was the first to believe when he was only ten years old. Shaykh ibn al-Salah says, "*The most cautious and appropriate opinion is that the first to embrace Islam among the free men is Sayyidunā Abū Bakr Ṣiddīq رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. Among children is Sayyidunā 'Alī رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. Among women is Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا. Among chiefs is Zaid bin Hāritha رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ and among slaves is Bilāl ibn Rabāh al-Habashi رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ.*"¹⁰

It is narrated on the authority of Sayyidunā Abū Rafay رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ that the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ first prayed on Monday morning. Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا prayed in the last part of Monday and Sayyidunā 'Alī رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ offered prayers on Tuesday.¹¹

Sayyidunā Abū Hurairah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ has narrated, Sayyidunā Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام came to the beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ and humbly requested: "*Ya RasūlAllāh! Khadijah is approaching. She has a pot of food. When she approaches you, then convey to her the salām of your Lord and mine and give her the good news of a home, made of a case-like (hollow) pearl in paradise that has neither any noise nor any other inconvenience.*"¹²

9 Sunan al-Kubrā of Bayhaqī, Kitāb Qism al-Fayy wa al-Ghanimah, Bāb I'ṭa al-Fayy, Vol. 4, page 597, Ḥadīth 13081

10 Madārij-un-Nubūwwah, Vol. 2, Part II, Chapter III, Revelation and Proof of Prophet-hood, page 5

11 al-Mu'jam al-Kabīr of Tabarānī, Chapter from the Name of Ibrāhīm, 'Ubaidullah ibn Abi Rafī' from his father, Vol. 1, page 251, Ḥadīth 945

12 Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī, Vol. 2, page 565, Ḥadīth 3820

In another narration from Sayyidunā Abū Hurairah رضي الله عنه, it is stated that: Sayyidunā Jibrīl عليه السلام came to the beloved Prophet's صلى الله عليه وعلى آله وسلم house and said, “O Messenger of Allāh! Sayyidah Khadijah رضي الله عنها is bringing you a tablecloth in which there is food and water. When she brings it, give her the greetings from her Lord.”¹³

It is narrated from Sayyidunā ‘Alī رضي الله عنه that I heard the Prophet صلى الله عليه وعلى آله وسلم say, “Maryam bint Imrān was the best of the women of her time and Khadijah bint Khuwaylid رضي الله عنها is the best of the women of her time.”¹⁴

It is narrated from Sayyidunā Anas رضي الله عنه that Master صلى الله عليه وعلى آله وسلم said, “It is enough to know the virtues of Maryam bint Imrān, Khadijah bint Khuwaylid, Fāṭimah bint Muḥammad رضي الله عليه وعلى آله وسلم and Pharaoh’s wife Āsiya رضي الله عنها are the best out of all the women of the world.”¹⁵

It is narrated from Sayyidunā ibn ‘Abbās رضي الله عنه that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وعلى آله وسلم said, “The best of the women of paradise are Khadijah bint Khuwaylid, Fāṭimah bint Muḥammad رضي الله عليه وعلى آله وسلم, Maryam bint Imrān and Āsiya bint Mazāhim رضي الله عنها.”¹⁶

Ummul al-Mu’minīn Sayyidah ‘Ā’ishah Ṣiddīqah رضي الله عنها says, “The beloved Prophet صلى الله عليه وعلى آله وسلم, fed Sayyidah Khadijah رضي الله عنها grapes of paradise.”¹⁷

The Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وعلى آله وسلم has said, “Khadijah رضي الله عنها believed in

13 Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim, Book of Virtues of the Companions, Chapter Virtues of Khadijah, Ḥadīth 2632, page 1322

14 Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī, Vol. 4, page 164, Ḥadīth 3432

15 Sunan at-Tirmidhī, Chapters of Virtues, Virtues of Sayyidah Khadijah, Vol. 5, page 469, Ḥadīth 3904

16 Musnad Imām Ahmad bin Ḥanbal, Musnad ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Abbās, Vol. 1, page 978, Ḥadīth 2903

17 al-Mu’jam al-Awsat of Tabarānī, Bāb al-Meem, from the name of Muhammad, Vol. 3, page 315, Ḥadīth 4098

me when people used to deny me and she helped me with her wealth at a time when people were depriving me.”¹⁸

In another narration, the Holy Prophet ﷺ said to Sayyidah ‘Ā’ishah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا, “By Allāh! I have not found a wife better than Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا. When all the people disbelieved me, she believed in me, and when all the people denied me, she accepted me, and at that time, when no one was willing to give me anything, Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا gave me all her belongings and from her womb Allāh Almighty gave me children.”¹⁹

All the children of the Holy Prophet ﷺ were born from the womb of Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا except for Sayyidunā Ibrāhīm رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, who was born from Sayyidah Maria Qibtiyah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا. Among the sons the names of Sayyidunā Qāsim رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ and Sayyidunā ‘Abdullah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ are mentioned while among the daughters, Sayyidah Zainab, Sayyidah Ruqaiyyah, Sayyidah Umm Kulthūm and Sayyidah Fāṭimah Zahra’ رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا are mentioned.²⁰

She was the wife of the Holy Prophet ﷺ for almost 25 years. She passed away in the month of Ramaḍān in the 10th year after the declaration of prophethood. And she was buried in Hajūn (i.e. Jannat-ul-Mā‘la or Mu‘allāh). The Prophet ﷺ entered her grave and made duas for her. Funeral prayers were not conducted as it had not been prescribed then. The Mercy of the Universe ﷺ was deeply saddened by

18 Musnad Imām Aḥmad bin Ḥanbal, Musnad as-Sayyidah ‘Ā’ishah, Vol. 9, page 429, Ḥadīth 24918

19 Sharh of Allāmah Zurqāni on al-Mawāhib al-Ludunniyah, Vol. 2, page 393

al-Isti‘ab, Kitāb al-Nisa’, Khadijah bint Khuwaylid, Vol. 4, page 379, Narration 3347

20 Sirah ibn Hishām, the children of the Prophet ﷺ from Khadijah, page 77

Usd-ul-Ghabbah, Book of Women, Khadijah bint Khuwaylid, Vol. 7, page 91

this tragedy.²¹

The Holy Prophet ﷺ did not marry anyone else during her lifetime.²²

After the demise of Sayyidah Khadijah رضي الله عنها, the Holy Prophet ﷺ used to pay homage to the friends of Sayyidah Khadijah رضي الله عنها in spite of his high and lofty position. He used to say, *“Take this to such and such woman because she was Khadijah رضي الله عنها’s friend, take this to such and such woman’s house because she loved Khadijah رضي الله عنها.”*²³

Ummul al-Mu’minin Sayyidah ‘A’ishah رضي الله عنها شديدقاه says, *“The Prophet ﷺ used to often mention about Sayyidah Khadijah رضي الله عنها. At times when the Prophet ﷺ would slaughter a goat, he would cut its meat into pieces and send it to the houses of the friends of Sayyidah Khadijah رضي الله عنها, just because they were Sayyidah Khadijah رضي الله عنها’s friends.”*²⁴

Sayyidah ‘A’ishah رضي الله عنها شديدقاه said, *“I have not been as fervor of any of the wives of the Holy Prophet ﷺ as Khadijah رضي الله عنها. Although I had not even seen her, but the Holy Prophet ﷺ used to mention about her a lot. Sometimes I asked the Holy Prophet ﷺ that was there no other woman in the world except Khadijah رضي الله عنها? He would say, she was such-and-such and my children are from her.”*²⁵

In comparison to other of his noble wives, she had the privilege

21 Madārij-un-Nubūwwah, Vol. 2, Part 5, Chapter 2, Mentioned under Blessed Wives, page 495

22 Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim, Book of Virtues of the Companions, Chapter Virtues of Khadijah, page 949, Ḥadīth 2434

23 Al-Ādab al-Mufrad, Bāb Qawl al-Ma’rūf, page 78, Ḥadīth 232

24 Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim, Book of Virtues of the Companions, Virtues of Khadijah, page 1323, Ḥadīth 2435

25 Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī, Book of Virtues of al-Ansār, Chapter on the Marriage of the Prophet ﷺ, page 992, Ḥadīth 3818

of living in the company and companionship of the Prophet ﷺ, for the longest period of more than 25 years.²⁶

Once, Sayyidah Hālah bint Khuwaylid رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا, the sister of Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا, asked permission to see the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Her voice was very similar to that of Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا. He ﷺ remembered Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا asking for permission and he ﷺ winced.²⁷

It is narrated on the authority of Sayyidunā Jābir رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ that the Master of the Universe ﷺ was asked about Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا and he said, “I saw her in a house made out of a Hollow Pearl in the Paradise which is located on one of the canals of the Paradise, there is nothing useless nor any kind of hardship in it.”²⁸

From one of the distinguishing attributes of Umm al-Mu'minīn Sayyidatunā Khadijatul Kubrā رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا is also that she always venerated the beloved and the Holy Prophet ﷺ and accepted his words before and after the revelation.²⁹

‘Allāmah Sayyid Shāh Turābul Ḥaḡ Qādirī رَحِمَهُ اللهُ states, “To mention her high virtues, it is enough to say that she is the mother of Sayyidah Fāṭimah az-Zahrā’ رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا.”³⁰

26 Faṭḥ al-Bārī, Kitāb Manāqib al-Ansār, Chapter on the Marriage of the Prophet ﷺ, Vol. 7, page 172, Ḥadīth 3818

27 Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī, Book of Virtues of al-Ansār, Chapter on Marriage of the Prophet ﷺ, page 942, Ḥadīth 3821

28 Al-Mu’jam al-Kabīr of Tabarānī, Manāqib Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا, Vol. 9, page 395, Vol. 9, Ḥadīth 1854

29 Al Iṣābah, Kitāb-un-Nisā’, Khadijah bint Khuwaylid رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا, Vol. 8, page 112, Ḥadīth 11092

30 Faza’il-e-Ṣaḥābah wa Ahl-e-Bayt, Chapter Wives of the Prophet ﷺ, Virtues of Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا, page 67