

RUQAYYA

THE DAUGHTER *of* OUR
MASTER MUHAMMAD 

Upon her be peace

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Lady Ruqayya

The daughter of our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

Lady Ruqayya was born three years after her older sister, Lady Zaynab¹², when the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was thirty-three years old.³ Lady Ruqayya alongwith her sisters accepted Islam with their mother Lady Khadija (upon them all be peace).⁴ Lady Ruqayya was born seven years before the proclamation of prophethood in Makka al-Mukarrama.⁵

Initially, she was married to ʿUṭba b. Abī Lahab, but prior to her moving to the home of ʿUṭba, Abu Lahab ordered his son to divorce the blessed daughter of the Messenger ﷺ.⁶

She then married⁷ the third caliph of Islam, ʿUthmān b. ʿAffān (may Allah be well-pleased with him). Lady Ruqayya was very beautiful. The Prophet ﷺ said, “I have married my daughter [to

1 Zubayr b. Bakkār and others have stated that she was the oldest of the daughters of the Messenger ﷺ, Jurjānī agreed to this; however, the correct position according to the majority is what has been mentioned earlier, that Lady Zaynab is the oldest of the daughters of the Messenger ﷺ. —Al-Qaṣṭallānī, *al-Mawāhib al-laduniyya bi al-minaḥ al-muḥammadiyya* (2:61) al-Maktaba al-Islāmi.

2 The Prophet ﷺ has seven children: four daughters and three sons. His noble daughters are: (1) Lady Zaynab, (2) Lady Ruqayya, (3) Lady Umm Kulthūm, (4) Lady Fāṭima. (Abu Ḥanīfa, *Fiqh al-akbar* (p. 200); in Maktaba al-Madina’s publication of ʿAlī al-Qārī’s, *Minaḥ al-rawḍ al-azhar fī sharḥ al-Fiqh al-akbar*)

His blessed sons: (5) Our master al-Qāsim, (6) Our master, ʿAbdullah — he was also given the titles: *al-tayyib* and *al-tāhir*, (7) Our master, Ibrāhīm, *upon them all be peace*.

All of the children were from the Prophet’s ﷺ first wife, our mother Khadija, except for Ibrāhīm, for his mother was Lady Māriya al-Qibṭiyya bint Shamʿūn.

3 *Al-Mawāhib al-laduniyya bi al-minaḥ al-muḥammadiyya* (2:61); al-Diyārbakrī, *Tārīkh al-Khamīs* (1:274).

4 Al-Zurqānī, *Sharḥ al-mawāhib al-laduniyya* (1:247).

5 *Sharḥ al-mawāhib al-laduniyya* (4:322).

6 This was after the revelation of *Surah al-Masad* (111). —Ibn Saʿd, *al-Ṭabaqāt* (8:261)

7 Al-Dulābī stated that the wedding took place prior to the declaration of prophethood; however, the reports of others substantiate the view that the wedding took place after the advent of Islam. —*al-Mawāhib al-ladunniya* (2:61)

‘Uthmān] in accordance with the command of Allah.’⁸ This took place during the second year of prophethood.⁹

The Prophet ﷺ once said to Usama b. Zayd, “Have you seen a couple more beautiful than them?” I said, ‘No, O Messenger of Allah ﷺ.’¹⁰

The Muslims made two emigrations to Abyssinia, due to the persecution of Muslims at the hands of the disbelievers, some of those who were persecuted were killed, such as Yāsir and his wife, Lady Sumayya bint Khubbāt¹¹ (may Allah be well-pleased with them).

‘Uthmān and his first wife, Lady Ruqayya were the first two to emigrate.¹²¹³ Abu Ya‘lā narrates that Anas said, ‘The first to emigrate with his family to the Abyssinians was ‘Uthmān b. ‘Affān.’ The Prophet ﷺ said, ‘May Allah accompany the two of them. ‘Uthmān is the first to emigrate with his family for the sake of Allah Most High since Lūṭ and Ibrāhīm (upon them be peace).’¹⁴ They both later migrated to Madīna as well, and hence were referred to as: *‘those who migrated twice.’*¹⁵

They were blessed with one child, a son, ‘Abd Allah¹⁶ (may Allah be well-pleased with him); who passed away at the age of six in 3H.¹⁷ When ‘Abd Allah passed away the Prophet ﷺ placed his beloved grandson onto his lap, and said: ‘Allah is merciful upon those among His slaves, who show mercy to others.’¹⁸ The Prophet

8 Muttaqī al-Hindī, *Kanz al-‘ummal* (13:57).

9 Muhammad Hāshim, *Badhl al-quwwa* (p. 87).

10 Al-Suyūṭī, *Tārīkh al-khulafā’* (p. 262); Ibn ‘Asākir, *Tārīkh dimashq* (39:21).

11 The mother of ‘Ammār ibn Yāsir. She was from the early Muslims. Abu Jahl (may Allah curse him) attacked her and this led to her martyrdom. She was the first to be martyred in Islam. —*Badhl al-quwwa* (p. 100)

12 *Badhl al-quwwa* (p. 97).

13 This took place five years after the proclamation of prophethood.

14 Al-‘Asqalānī, *al-Iṣāba* (4:304).

15 *Sharḥ al-mawāhib al-laduniyya* (4:322).

16 It is from his son that ‘Uthmān took his agnomen, Abu ‘Abd Allah. —al-Suyūṭī, *Tārīkh al-khulafā’* (p. 261)

17 It has also been mentioned that he was four years old at the time. —*Badhl al-quwwa* (p. 300).

18 *Sharḥ al-mawāhib al-laduniyya* (3:198).

ﷺ prayed over him and ʿUthmān laid him to rest in his grave.¹⁹

Lady Ruqayya fell ill before the battle of *Badr*²⁰; the Prophet ﷺ allowed ʿUthmān b. ʿAffān to stay and nurse his ailing wife, as mentioned in the tradition of al-Bukhārī.²¹ Lady Ruqayya passed away on the day Zayd b. Ḥāritha entered Madīna with the news of the victory at *Badr*; this was Sunday, 19th Ramaḍān 2H. When the news reached ʿUthmān, he was carrying out the burial of his beloved wife (upon them both be peace)²²; she was laid to rest in *Baqīʿ al-Gharqad* (also known as *Janna al-Baqīʿ*). She was twenty or twenty-one years of age at the time.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was present at *Badr* at this time.²³

May Allah Most High accept our efforts.



19 *Badhl al-quwwa* (p. 300).

20 This battle took place on the 17th Ramaḍān 2H.

21 ʿAbd Allah ibn ʿUmar narrates: ʿUthmān did not join the battle of *Badr* because he was married to one of the daughters (Lady Ruqayya) of the Prophet s and she was ill. So, the Prophet s said to him, “You will gain a reward and a share (from the war booty) similar to the reward and the share of one who has partaken in the battle of *Badr*.” —*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī* (§3130)

22 *Badhl al-quwwa* (p. 257).

23 *Al-Mawāhib al-laduniyya bi al-minaḥ al-muḥammadiyya*. (2:62)