

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَنِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْعَالَمِينَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيُرِضِّي بَنْ يُصْلِي عَلَيْهِ

Allah *azza wajal*, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,

The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah *azza wajal*, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon

His Beloved Messenger *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam*

Practising Patience in times of Adversity

Sayyidah Umme Sulaim *Radi Allahu 'Anha* is the mother of the youngest servant of the Holy Prophet *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam*, Hadrat Sayyiduna Anas bin Malik *Radi Allahu 'Anhu*.

Once, one of her children became very ill. At that time, her blessed husband, Hadrat Sayyiduna Abu Talha *Radi Allahu 'Anhu*, had gone out.

In his absence, the condition of the child became very serious. After a few moments, the child passed away. Sayyidah Umme Sulaim *Radi Allahu 'Anha* then took this child and placed him in a small room. She also covered the child. Sayyidah Umme Sulaim *Radi Allahu 'Anha* then continued to prepare food and continue the other duties of the day.

(Bear in mind that she was doing all of this not to disturb her husband who would be coming late and tired from his duties).

When Hadrat Sayyiduna Abu Talha *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* arrived, he inquired about the child and she replied, "Today, the child is indeed very comfortable". When he heard this, he thought that perhaps the child is feeling much better and he also felt at ease. He then ate whatever food there was. That night, they slept as normal husband and wife. After a while, the wife asked him, "I will like to ask you a question. If we have the Amaanah or trust of someone with us and he takes away his trust or Amaanah, are we entitled to become angry or unhappy with this person?" Hadrat Sayyiduna Abu Talha *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* replied, "Certainly not! In fact, we should return the trust happily (and willingly)."

After listening to the words of her husband, Sayyidah Umme Sulaim *Radi Allahu 'Anha* then revealed, "O my husband, the same issue has arisen in our house today. Our child who is actually the trust and Amaanah of Allah *azza wajal*, He has taken His Amaanah away and today, our child has passed away." When he heard this, he displayed immense patience and did not utter a word of complain.

In the morning, when Hadrat Sayyiduna Abu Talha *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* arrived for the Fajr Salaah, he mentioned what had happened in his house. The Holy Prophet *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* then made a special Du'a for him and also said, "The time spent last night with your wife in this consummation, Allah *azza wajal* will also reveal immense Barakah and blessing."

The effect of this Du'a was that due to that night, Hadrat Sayyidah Umme Sulaim *Radi Allahu 'Anha* felt pregnant and a child was born whose name was Abdullah. From the offspring of this son, eminent 'Ulama of the era were also born.

In another report, it is mentioned that in the morning when Hadrat Sayyiduna Abu Talha *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* mentioned this incident in the blessed court of the Holy Prophet *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam*, he declared "Last night was indeed a very blessed night. All Praise is for Allah *azza wajal*, what a great night indeed. I saw the wife of Abu Talha in Jannah." (Bukhari Shareef, 1/174)

Lesson

This incident teaches us about the great qualities of Sayyidah Umme Sulaim *Radi Allahu 'Anha*. It teaches us about her immense display of patience. At the same time, it also teaches us that when there is an incident during the time the husband is not at home, one should not reveal anything the moment he arrives. The reason is that the person who comes home tired, this type of sudden news can have a bad effect on him. In fact, it is also seen that sometimes listening to this sudden news of mishap and calamity can also cause the person to have a heart attack.

Muslims females should also bear in mind and learn a lesson from this incident. We notice that in the present age, when one's husband, brother, son or father arrives home, the females of the present age have this habit of giving the person the complete report of what happened in the day. They do not even give the person a chance to relax or even eat!

There is no doubt that the behaviour of Sayyidah Umme Sulaim *Radi Allahu 'Anha* must have certainly created respect in the heart of her husband. There is no doubt that when there is support from both sides of the marriage, then there is always a sense of admiration and love between people. At the same time, it also teaches us one of the methods of conveying bad and tragic news. In fact, it should be conveyed in a kind and gentle manner so that it does not send the person into a state of shock.

In fact, we should also learn the lesson that when we convey a message, we should display tact and wisdom and present something which would make the news which one is about to reveal as palatable as possible. This also proves the noble habit of protecting the husband from sudden news of tragedy and sadness and to display patience is such a difficult moment is also one of the ways of achieving Jannah.

Our advice to our Muslims sisters is to practise upon the Sunnah of Sayyidah Umme Sulaim *Radi Allahu 'Anha* and they will see for themselves the immense benefit that one achieves in this world and the next, In Sha Allah. Aameen.