



REVEALING
THE TRUTH

Burning the house of Fatima binte Mohammad [saww]

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Introduction

This topic has been the subject of intense debate in the world of Sunni / Shi'a polemics since the death of Rasulullah (s). Discussions in connection with the attack on the house of Sayyida Fatima always generate huge emotions, so intense that they in effect force people to think about which side of the Sunni / Shi'a divide they choose to remain on. This tragic episode in effect explains why it is that Shi'a Muslims bear enmity to some of those individuals that Sunni Muslims deem to be their heroes.

The anger of Sayyida Fatima (as)

We read in Sahih al Bukhari Volume 5 hadith 61

"Allah's Apostle said, "Fatima is a part of me, and he who makes her angry, makes me angry."

This hadith makes it clear that Sayyida Fatima (as)'s anger is on par with the anger of Rasulullah (s). This is all the more significant when we recognize that one who incurs the wrath of Rasulullah (s) also incurs the wrath of Allah (swt), and Allah (swt) makes it clear in Surah Fateha that we should steer clear of those that incur the wrath of Allah (swt).

Analysing the event from classical Sunni sources

There are many authentic Sunni sources where this incident has been recorded but for the sake of brevity, we shall cite some of them in this flyer.

First Reference - al Imama wa al Siyasa

Let us begin with Abu Muhammad Abdullah bin Muslim bin Qutaybah (d. 276 Hijri) who in his famous book al Imama wa al Siyasa pages 18-28 states as follows:

"When news reached Abu Bakr that the people had gathered in the house of 'Ali and were refusing to give bayya, he sent Hadrath Umar in their direction. Umar called out to Akraan who was in the house of 'Ali, but he refused to come out. Umar then said: 'I swear by He who controls the life of Umar, if you people do not come out of the house I shall set fire to it, and everyone inside shall perish. The people said 'Abu'l Hafs (Umar), Fatima (daughter of Rasulullah (s)) is also in this house'. Umar replied, 'I do not care about this, people should leave the house of 'Ali and give bayya'. 'Ali replied I have sworn that I shall not set foot outside my home until I have completed compiling the Qur'an.

[Al-Imama Walsiyasa Page 12]

Second Reference - Tareekh Abul Fida

Sunni historian Abul Fida in his discussion on the attack on the house of Fatima (as) recorded the event, in a very low

key / cautious tone, but as a scholar of integrity and honesty he has refused to cover up history and has still acknowledged that the event did indeed take place and Umar threatened to burn Fatima (sa) alive: **"Then Abu Bakr sent Umar bin Khattab with the objective that those 'people gathered in the house of Fatima and Ali come out, and that if anyone objects to coming out then you should fight them'. Hadrath Umar approached with fire in his hands to set the house ablaze. At this point Hadrath Fatima approached and said 'Would do you dare, Ibn Khattab? Do you wish to set my home on fire? Umar said 'Give bayya to 'Abu Bakr and enter into that which the majority of the Ummah has agreed to.'**

Tareekh Abul Fida Urdu translation by Maulana Karrem'ud Deen al Hanafi pages 177-179

Third Reference - Iqd al Fareed

Ibn Abd Rabbah al-Malik in his book Iqd al Fareed Volume 3 page 283 states: **"Those that were opposed to the bayya of Abu Bakr were 'Ali, Abbas, Zubayr and Sa'd bin Ubada, amongst whom 'Ali and Abbas were sitting in the house of Fatima. At that time Abu Bakr sent Umar with the order 'that you remove those gathered in the house of Fatima, and if they refuse to come out then kill them'. Umar brought fire to the door and Fatima said 'Ibn Khattab have you arrived in order to set my home on fire?'. Umar replied 'I have come with the intention that you people give bayya to Abu Bakr as others have done'".**

Fourth Reference - Tareekh Tabari

The most renowned Sunni historian Ibn Jareer al Tabari also recorded this event. We read in al Tabari (English translation) Volume 9 page 187: **Ibn Humayd - Jarir - Mughirah - Ziyad b. Kulayb: Umar Ibn al-Khattab came to the house of Ali. Talha and Zubair and some of the immigrants were also in the house. Umar cried out: "By God, either you come out to render the oath of allegiance, or I will set the house on fire."** al-Zubair came out with his sword drawn. As he stumbled (upon something), the sword fell from his hand so they jumped over him and seized him."

Sayyida Fatima (as) suffered a miscarriage on account of Umar's actions

We read in Ahl'ul Sunnah's authoritative work Sharh Kushaiji page 407 under the chapter Mubais Imamate as follows: **"Abu Bakr sent Umar when Ali had refused to give bayya to Abu Bakr. Umar went with fire and this caused Fatima distress as a result of which she suffered a miscarriage".**

What is this "distress" that led to Fatima (as) miscarrying her child so that the infant was stillborn? If it was Santa beating up a woman then Santa must surely also be a murderer. Sunni scholar Salahuddin Khalil al-Safadi in his book 'Waafi al-Wafiyaaat' under the letter 'A' cited the view of Ibrahim Ibn Sayyar Ibn Hani al-Basri, well-known as Nidhaam:

"On the day of 'Bay'aat' (paying allegiance), Umar hit Fatimah (AS) on the stomach such that child in her womb died."

Hanafi scholar al Muhaddith Shah Abdul Haqq Dehlavi in Murujj al Nubuwwa "Chapter 4, the events of 2 Hijri 'Tajweez Fatima'": **"Allah (swt) gave Fatima and 'Ali the following five children, Hasan, Husayn, Zeyneb, Umme Kalthum and Muhsin, who was martyred following the Ummah's oppression, this illness and pain led to the death of Fatima".**

The Islamic penalty for one guilty of causing Sayyida Fatima (as) to have a miscarriage

We read in Sharh Ibn al Hadeed page 531 "Dhikr Badr" as follows: **"Naqeeb Abu Jafer states that when Jabir bin Asood who frightened Zeyneb causing her to suffer a miscarriage, Rasulallah (s) deemed it permissible (mubah) shed his blood. Had Rasulallah (s) been alive he would have likewise deemed it permissible to shed the blood of the individual that frightened Fatima, to the extent that she had a miscarriage".**

The respect afforded to house of Sayyida Fatima (as) by Rasulallah (s)

The exalted rank and respect afforded to the house of Fatima (as)

Ahl'ul Sunnah's leading Sunni scholar of Tafseer Durre Manthur Volume 5 page 51, al Hafidh Jalaladeen Suyuti in Tafseer Durre Manthur, narrates from Ibn Marwaya - Uns bin Malik - Burhaida:

"Rasulallah (s) recited this verse 'and amongst houses is a house that Allah has ordered to be exalted'. A Sahaba asked 'O Prophet of Allah whose house is being referred to here?' He (s) said this refers to the houses of Prophets. At this point Abu Bakr pointed in the direction of the house of Ali and Fatima and asked is the house of 'Ali and Fatima included amongst the homes of the Prophets?' Rasulallah (s) replied 'Yes their home is superior to their homes'.

It is tragic that a house that Rasulallah (s) had testified to having such a rank, where guidance shone out from in Paradise, was attacked with Umar threatening to set it on fire! We ask those with open minds, can there be a more heinous act than that? The devil had taken hold of Umar's mind. The sheer impudence in his personality, the arrogance with which he treated the Holy Prophet (saws), cannot be forgiven.

Did Umar not think about the consequences of his actions? He knew Sayyida Fatima (as) was in the house, if there was any doubt that her (as) remonstrating with him, confirmed this. Despite this he arrogantly replied to her and made his intention clear that he was willing to kill her and those in the house if bayya was not given to Abu Bakr. Just imagine a madman like that in your neighbourhood-you would warn your wife and kids not to go anywhere near him...his actions would make the national news headlines... "PSYCHO TRIES TO BURN PREGNANT WOMAN AND HER CHILDREN TO DEATH"... indeed it is so shocking it made the Islamic headlines also... all the great SUNNI men of letters we quoted noted it...it's preserved there over a thousand years later. Note that even in jihad, it is forbidden to terrorise women and children...so what was this man doing?

The reaction of Sayyida Fatima(as)

The fact of the matter was that it was so serious that Sayyida Fatima despised Abu Bakr to the degree that she did not even want him to participate in her funeral prayers or attend her funeral. Sayyida Fatima (as) stipulated that no one attends her funeral, who she was upset with, and this testimony has been vouched for in the following books of Ahl'ul Sunnah:

- *Tabaqat ibn Sa'd, Dhikr Fatima page 19*
- *Mustadrak al Hakim Dhikr Fatima page 192*
- *Hilayath al Auliya page 43*

Sayyida Fatima (as)'s eulogy of her suffering

Hadrath 'Ali stated 'following the death of Rasulallah (s), Fatima (s) went to the grave of the Prophet (s) and recited these words:

"O my beloved father, since your death I have faced such troubles that had these fallen on the day it would have turned into night"

[Tarikh Khamees p173, Murujh al Nubuwwath page 443 Dhikr Dufun Rasulallah (s) ...]

These words have entered the Arabic language as a mournful expression in prose, so powerful are they. These words, used by countless Arab women ever since down to the present, including the daughters of martyred fathers falling at the hands of injustice, originate from those of Sayyida Fatima (as) all those years ago and stand as proof that she had suffered immense torment following the death of her father - it is clear evidence that she was persecuted and was so hurt by her treatment that she complained to Rasulallah (s) after his passing.

The haunting memory of Fatima (as)'s pain is testified to also in the fact that uniquely amongst those that died during that period, her grave in Madina is unknown. She was also buried at night. Why? Because the Umar and his Cronies could not force themselves onto her funeral procession.