



Islamic
Information
Center

In the name of the Most High

Lady Fatima Zahra, Daughter of Muhammad



Lady Fatima

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**The Ahlul Bayt
Muhammad
Fatima
Ali
Hasan
Husain**

Prophet Muhammad and his immediate family members are referred to as the "Ahlul Bayt" and hold a special place in the hearts of all Muslims. Their role in Islamic history is remembered with great pride.

At the epicenter of controversies in the eyes of the modern world is the role of women and their rights according to Islam. What are their rights? Are they respected? How do Muslim women relate to Muslim men, and vice versa?

The answer to these questions lies in Islam's very history, with Fatima Zahra, the esteemed daughter of Prophet Muhammad (A.S.)* himself. In her own short lifetime, she emerged as a community leader, mentor, role model, and major pillar of Islam. She has been revered as the greatest Muslim woman of all time, and even today, she is still viewed as the pinnacle of piety and honor.

* AS - "Alayhis Salaam" or "Peace be Upon Them"

The Islamic Information Center is a grass-roots organization that was established to inform the public about the true image of Islam and Muslims through mass media.

Who runs the IIC?

The IIC is run by our chairman, Imam Syed Naqvi, and our committees, and is supported by our volunteers. The IIC currently has 50-75 people actively working in these committees.

Inside:

Read quotes by Lady Fatima Zahra regarding Islam, life, and her attitude towards worship.

Read more about why 1.2 billion Muslims regard Lady Fatima as the most influential woman in history.



Lady Fatima Zahra's gravesite is a historical mystery, as she had requested a secret funeral, but many academics believe she is buried in Jannatul Baqi, a graveyard in Medina, Saudi Arabia. Next to Jannatul Baqi is the Mosque of the Prophet, where Prophet Muhammad himself is buried.

How important is Lady Fatima Zahra to Muslims?

Today, most Muslims regard Prophet Muhammad as the most important figure in their daily lives. He was the messenger of Islam who taught the world about praying, fasting, giving charity, helping the poor, and treating others with dignity and respect. His teachings profoundly impact on the daily activities of all Muslims.

Prophet Muhammad, however, regarded his daughter, Fatima Zahra, as the most important person in his own life. Although there are a large number of recorded instances where he spoke highly about how people should treat their daughters in general, Prophet Muhammad referenced his Fatima in a unique and special manner.

As father and daughter, their bond was especially close and warm. He was often noted for saying, "Fatima is her father's mother." In the context of Islam, a mother's role

cannot be overlooked or taken lightly. Mothers are viewed as prime exemplars of love and nurturing. Children are advised that the gates of heaven lie beneath their mother's feet. By exalting Fatima to the esteemed status of his own mother, the Prophet expressed his love and respect for his daughter, as well as the love and respect his daughter reciprocated by nurturing and caring for him above all others.

From the time of her birth, Fatima's life was intertwined with every aspect of the Prophet's mission. She was only two years old when her father and his followers were forced into poverty after being barred from economic transactions by the powerful tribal chiefs in Mecca. Fatima survived three years of starvation with her fellow Muslims in the Abu Talib Valley in modern day Saudi Arabia, where they experienced limited public interaction,

scarce quantities of food, and constant threats of violence and intimidation.

Sadly, her own mother, the Lady Khadija binte Khawlid, did not survive the strife. She was exhausted after ten years of tireless struggle alongside the Prophet and the other Muslims. Lady Khadija had stood by the Prophet from the day Islam was revealed, and Fatima soon took her mother's place as the prime female supporter of Prophet Muhammad.

Fatima moved to Medina as a young child with her father and endured the trials and tribulations he faced there. Early on, tribal Arabs attacked Medina, hoping to destroy the entire Muslim population. In the initial attacks, they wounded Prophet Muhammad. When she heard about her father's injuries, Fatima Zahra insisted that she would be the one to nurse him, and braved the dangers of the attack to be by his side.

The Secret of why Muslims Revere Lady Fatima

We, as Muslims, have an intense attachment to Lady Fatima Zahra because she is remembered for her exemplary role in the foundation of Islam. Fatima was a central figure of many dynamic issues and challenges faced by Islam. Muslims believe that she takes on the concerns of mankind, and for this reason, we feel like she is very much alive amongst us. Most people die when they breathe

their last breath, and their existence is limited to their lifespan. However, there are others who remain alive as long as life exists, who survive as long as their message survives, and will continue to love as long as there are people who

follow their message. Lady Fatima has been placed at the pinnacle of such people, since it is impossible to mention the Messenger of God without mentioning her. Any discussion of Islam in daily life, in one way or another, tacitly mandates the name of Lady Fatima Zahra.

This is the secret of Lady Fatima that obliges us to keep her in our minds and our hearts. We cannot help but open up to her with our tears. More importantly, we open ourselves to her message because she lived every moment of her life in dedication to the Message of Islam, and never once lived it for herself. This is the secret of all the members of Ahlul Bayt (as): they lived for Islam, and wholly devoted their lives to spread its message of peace.

Talking about Lady Fatima requires no exaggeration of history. With her pious virtues, she represents the living present and a bright future. We have

seen her in her motherhood as the greatest of mothers, and we have seen the difficulties imposed by that role on her weak body, but she withstood all this with an open mind and with patience. Then we saw her fulfilling her different missionary responsibilities when she stirred up the conscience of the nation, and presented the greatest lesson in how to deal with the circumstances fol-



lowing the death of the Prophet (A.S.). She held that stance which has proved itself over time and stayed valid to the present, and will forever remain. Studying the experience of Lady Fatima is not a reversion to the past, and hence a diminution of ourselves within those limitations, but rather a question of trying to draw lessons from a pioneering experience by an infallible personality - an experience which has never been confined to the past but one which shall always be current and self-renewing.

When we present Lady Fatima as a role model, we are not talking about women only. We present her as a role model for both men and women alike because she is a constituent element of Islam and the Muslim people as a whole - even if her role as a woman was the greatest role of her life.

Muslims can learn many lessons from Lady Fatima. They can learn how to spend their time valuably and how to wholeheartedly open themselves to the attainment of knowledge, spirituality, and a dynamic attitude.

**Mohamad
Mohammad
Mohammed
Muhammad
Muhamad
Mohamed
Mohamet
Mehmet**

**Ali
Aly
Aley**

**Fatima
Fatimah
Fatema**

**Hasan
Hassan**

**Husain
Hussain
Husein
Hosein
Hussein
Hosain
Hosayn
Hossain**

Why are there so many ways to spell the same name?

In the Arabic language, the spelling and pronunciation of these names is quite clear; however, when transliterated into English, a variety of spellings may result depending upon the conversion method used.

What was Lady Fatima's Life Like?

Lady Fatima was born to Prophet Muhammad and Lady Khadija binte Khawlid in the earliest days of Islam. Lady Khadija, was renowned in the Arabian Peninsula as an influential entrepreneur and as an outstanding personality. She readily sacrificed her wealth in order to promote Islam. Much like her mother, Fatima was a manifestation of the new generation of Muslims putting into practice what the Prophet brought, guiding others with her life, and bringing his mission to fruition. She nurtured Islam with unyielding love, meeting and exceeding the standards that the Prophet himself had set.



Fatima Zahra was known for being an agent of change. In an era of Ignorance, when the harsh Arabs were burying their daughters alive, she stood up against all odds and challenged their customs. Fatima was nurtured in the heart of Islam's campaign, in the center of revelation and the ardent struggle against ignorance and oppression. As a child, she witnessed the Prophet's tireless efforts to awaken and enlighten the masses. She observed how early converts to Islam were persecuted and tortured for their newfound beliefs. She grieved the loss of her once-wealthy mother who had chosen to live in poverty and starvation beside the Prophet when the powerful Quraish tribe imposed economic sanctions on the Muslims. Fatima endured the same poverty and deprivation, and she lived to see the aggression and oppression against the Messenger of God. This prepared her for a role that

would become a cornerstone in the history of human justice.

As Islam spread and intensified in the hearts of people, the great migration from Mecca to Medina marked a new chapter of Islam. Fatima witnessed the peaceful conversion of Mecca, but she also endured the most difficult of situations as an adult. Her patient approach to adversity made her one of the most learned, knowledgeable, and elevated personalities of her era, and essentially all of time.

Even although she was the Prophet's daughter when he ruled Mecca, Fatima did not live the easy life of a princess. Instead, she achieved outstanding long-term accomplishments founding the concept of Islamic Feminism. Faith and dedication to her father's mission endeared her to the heart of the Muslim community as a whole.

With her character, broad vision, and genuine multi-dimensional excellence, Fatima transcended the boundaries of time. She grew closer to God through faith and knowledge, and ultimately became a haven of purity, perfection, and love in a world mired in the excesses of greed and corruption.

Lady Fatima's belief and trust in God against all odds raised the quality of life for Muslims, thereby exalting the role and status of Muslim women through her example. Her legacy lives on, demonstrating to the community how a person can live a faith-centered life. She made her own decisions, and she chose to live within the parameters of Islam. Through her pious life, she became a pillar of the light of God.

Fatima Zahra As An Agent Of Change: *Feminism, Hijab, Worship, and Living*

Fatima Zahra has been a significant focus as a role model of Islam for historians, scholars and believers. Her unique characteristics and the influence that she had on the socio-political events of her time endeared her in the hearts of Muslims. By espousing the virtues of love, patience, perseverance and sacrifice, Fatima's home became the very center of the Islamic movement.

Islamic Feminism

Fatima left a legacy of strong, pious, and independent behavior. She was Islam's first feminist, showcasing the rights and privileges accorded to Muslim women in Islam, while encouraging other women to better their own lives.

A woman is often viewed through the lens of her prescribed roles, such as a daughter, mother, and wife. Fatima was the greatest example of how to

fulfill those roles, but even more importantly, she was a model of how to engage in society made of men and women alike. Fatima was tested in many gained much knowledge, education, and training through those circumstances, and learned the concepts of politics and government, helping the deprived and poor, dealing with friends and enemies, enduring times of poverty and prosperity, and maintaining dignity and authority in times of great duress.

Islamic Hijab: "The Flag of Fatima"

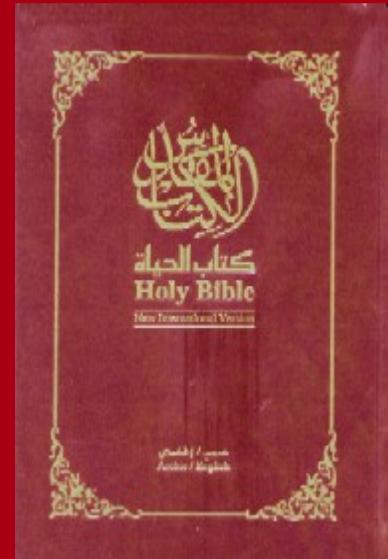
In her short lifespan of 18 years, Fatima experienced incredibly difficult circumstances. Instead of succumbing to those trials, Fatima overcame them and became one of the most learned, knowledgeable, and elevated personalities in history. She interacted with society through the fun-

damentals of *hijab*. *Hijab* is a combination of internal modesty as well as modest form of clothing that set structure between men and women in public. The purpose of *hijab* is to empower women to enter society as human beings and not be seen just as women; otherwise, men will view their equal counterparts as women first, instead of *humans*. To the same extent that she manifested beauty at home for her husband, Fatima practiced modesty in the society.

The women of Medina were also drawn to Fatima's teachings, and often gathered around her to learn about the profound values which were transforming their lives.

Fatima imparted her vast knowledge to male students as well, such as Salman Farsi. Fatima welcomed the opportunity to educate others and took time to answer their questions.

**"Allah"
and the word
"God"**



In the Arabic language, "God" is simply translated as "Allah". In fact, the Arabic version of the Bible uses "Allah" as the word for God. It is simply a difference in language, not a difference in belief. Countless Christians and Jews worship "Allah" just as their counterparts in other countries worship the same God.

Imam Hasan (A.S.) said: 'One a particular friday night I saw my mother (Fatima Zahra) standing in prayer. She was continuously kneeling and performing prostration till the dawn broke. [When I listened], I would hear her pray for the faithful men and women, but she did not at all pray for herself. I said, 'Oh mother why did you not pray for yourself like you prayed for others?' so she replied, 'Oh my son, first [pray for] thy neighbour and there after your own house.'

Lady Fatima's Honorariums

Aabida (Devout)

*Aadila (Lady who Judges
Fairly)*

Aalia (Lady of High Rank)

Aalima (The Intelligent Lady)

Adil (Beloved)

Afzal al-Nisa (The Most Supreme of the Women)

Azhra (The Chaste)

Aziza (Respected Lady)

Basita (Given of Prosperity)

Batina (Intrinsic)

Batool (The Pure One)

Daniya (Liberal Lady)

Durra An-noor (Path of light)

*Fakhr-e-Hajra (Pride of Lady
Hajra)*

Habiba (Beloved)

*Hajiya (Pilgrim who has
performed Hajj)*

Hakima (Philosopher)

Halima (Gentle Lady)

Hazira (Ready, Present)

*Iftikhar-e-Hawwa (Pride of
Lady Eve, the First Woman)*



Worship and Contemplating God's Beauty

During the quiet moments of the night, after prayers Fatima would raise her hands in supplication seeking forgiveness and blessings on behalf of a number of people. She explained to her son Hasan, who sat in worship beside her, the importance of praying for others before praying for oneself.

During the day, Fatima would glorify God by means of reciting the *tasbeeh*. This was a prayer given to Fatima from her father to be said over prayer beads. Fatima soared above all

others on her journey towards Almighty God through her worship and her dedication to helping others. "I need nothing except contemplating Almighty God; the beauty of the Lord is enough for me," she said to the Prophet. This was her life's maxim.

Living a Simple Life and Helping the Poor

When the Prophet ruled over the Islamic state, Fatima lived without waste, in a humble and modest manner similar to that of the poor of Medina. On one occasion, Salman Farsi commented on her hand which had been injured from constantly

grinding flour. He contrasted her simple way of life as the daughter of the ruler and Prophet to that of the daughters of Persian and Roman kings living in luxury.

To Fatima, her status meant living simply and not forgetting the poor in the society she was serving.

In the rare instances when she did acquire new jewelry, clothes or home furnishings, Fatima was quick to them away to those in need. She was given a date orchard by the Prophet, which yielded the income she used as welfare to provide help and to feed the poor.

How Fatima Balanced Family and Religion

As a daughter having full trust in the Prophet, Fatima would seek her father's approval because she was able to grasp and understand his message. Because she was next to the Prophet and her husband Imam Ali, like Mary next to Jesus, Fatima's role was not explicit, but she understood it nonetheless.

Fatima and Ali were husband and wife, as well as partners in upholding and bringing the message of Islam to light. This was not an easy task during the era of ignorance in which they lived.

Living in a blessed and humble home, she aided her husband in worldly and religious affairs. The harmony and internal tranquility in their life was a manifestation of their faith and their pure intentions. They were prime examples of

two individuals who became enjoined as a couple. They evolved together and manifested a monotheistic approach to family life. As the ancestral mother to the successors of Prophet Muhammad, Lady Fatima brought to fruition a system that leads humanity towards happiness and realization of God.

Imam Ali sold his shield for his wife's dowry, and in turn Fatima became his internal shield, diminishing the torment and hardships which he faced outside their home. Islam gives a great deal of importance to beauty and beautification in the private sphere of marriage. She was the epitome of beauty in her home, as well as in her respect towards her husband.

In addressing Fatima, Imam Ali would say, "I offer my life to you." The words she used to address him with were, "May my soul be offered to you." The Prophet advised them to divide the work between

them. The harmony in their life was a result of their faith and the high regard they had for each other.

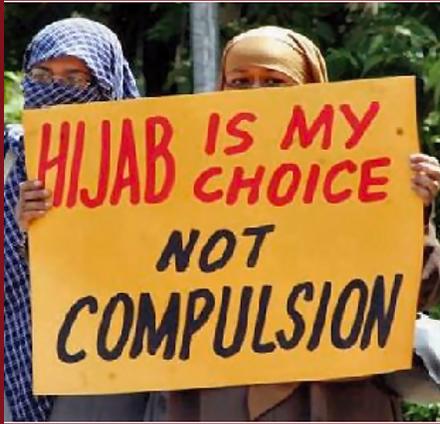
Guiding the Community After the Prophet

After Prophet Muhammad departed from this world, Fatima was filled with sorrow and exhaustion. Yet, she was determined to continue her father's message despite her grave loss, and she was able to do so by furthering her role in the home, engaging in spiritual devotion, founding educational and humane circles, and extending each of these realms to the heart of politics and government.

Fatima's father had prepared her for this new role, and she was confident and well-versed as she addressed the people of Mecca and Medina with a large cohort of women. Such a number of women entering into the front of the mosque by the pulpit, which was adjacent to the door of her home, drew attention to her sermon.

Her public sermons and speeches, as well as her defense before rulers when the property she had rightfully inherited had been confiscated, set examples of decency and justice for all women and mankind. This dispute over her inheritance was not only a symbol of her economic rights and the economic rights of women in Islam, but it was a symbol of something greater.

Fatima Zahra set a consistent example of the rights, roles, and status of Muslim women during her turbulent lifetime. Fatima's role continues to unfold in the future, and her impact upon the straight path can be seen today in towns and cities around the world.



*Lady Fatima's
Honorariums (cont.)
Jaleela (Great Woman)
Jamila (Beautiful Woman)
Khatoon-e-Junat (The Lady of
Paradise)
Mardhiah (The One Who
Pleases God)
Maryam-e-Kubra (Greater
Mary)
Masooma (Infallible)
Mastora (The Lady)
Mubarakah (The Blessed)
Nooriya (The Light)
Qaima (The Everlasting)
Radhiah (The Gratified)
Rafeea (Exalting)
Raghiba (Desirous)
Razia (Contented, Agreed)
Sadiqa (Faithful)
Sahiba (Lady, Mistress)
Sajida (Worshipper, Adorer)
Saleeha (Virtuous)
Saleema (Perfect)
Sayyeda-Tun-Nisa-el-Alameen
(Leader of All Women of the
Universe)
Shafeea (Advocate)
Shafeqa (Merciful)
Shafia (Healer)
Shahida (Evident)
Shahzadi-e-Kaunain (Princess
of the Universe)
Siddiqa (The Truthful)
Tahira (The Virtuous)
Tehama (Pillar, Prop)
Wali-e-Khuda (Friend of God)
Zahida (A Devout Lady)
Zahira (Visible Lady)
Zahra (The Lady of light)
Zakiyah (The chaste)*

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Islamic Information Center (IIC) is a non-profit grass-roots organization formed for the purpose of informing the public, mainly through the media, about the true teachings of Islam and beliefs of Muslims.

The mission of Islamic Information Center is to provide an accurate source of Islamic Information and to correct misconceptions about Islam. The Islamic Information Center disseminates information about Islam in accordance with the Divine teachings of the Holy Quran.

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Frequently Asked Questions About Islam

What does Islam mean?

Islam means peace achieved through the submission to the Almighty God.

If Islam steps from peace and understanding, why are there certain so-called Muslims who do not believe in peace?

People are like that because of their ignorance. Islam believes in a philosophy of co-existence, live in peace, and let others live in peace. If one doesn't believe this, it is because of ignorance.

What is the Qur'an and what is it about?

The Qur'an is the last revelation of God among the divine revelations such as the Psalms, Torah, and the Bible. It is a comprehensive book that talks about every aspect of creation. Holy Qur'an "There is not a wet or dry thing on the earth that is not in the Qur'an."

What does Islam say about those who die who are not Muslims, but still possess good virtues, ie. Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, and so forth?

Islam is philosophically based on justice. Whoever does good, will be rewarded by God either in this life or in the next.

What is a 'Muslim'?

A Muslim is a person who submits to his Creator only.

How does someone become a Muslim?

A person must completely believe in the God, following the Prophet, and doing good deeds.

Why is Islam so demanding on rules and restrictions, like praying five times a day?

Islam wants followers to always have love and remembrance of God. In this way, we are continually reminded of His Mercy.

Do Islam, Judaism, and Christianity have different origins?

No, we believe Judaism, Christianity and Islam have the same origin, each believing in monotheism.

How did Muhammad become a Prophet and a Messenger of God?

Prophet Muhammad (saw) was the last Prophet in the chain of Prophets chosen by God.

Does Islam tolerate other beliefs?

Islam is the most tolerant philosophy as the Qur'an rightly says: "There is no compulsion in religion."

Why is the family structure so important to Muslims?

Family is the foundation of society, through which society may achieve tranquility.

What is the status of women in Islam?

Islam believes in the equal status of men and women. As mothers, women are given an even higher status. Our traditions say: "Paradise lies under the feet of your mother."

Your source for authentic information about Islam and Muslims.



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