Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra}

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FOREWORD

This book is a short biography of Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra}, one of the first cousins of our beloved Master, the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}. Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} was the daughter of Hazrat Abu Taalib and the sister of Hazrat Ali^{ra}. This means that she had the honour of being raised in the same household as the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}. In this way, she has a special place in the history of Islam. Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} was a humble and pious woman and possessed a high level of knowledge.

The book was written in Urdu by Naseera Syaal and translated by Hajra Ahmad. The team that worked in the preparation of this book includes Uzma Ahmad, Noma Samee, Hajra Ahmad, Ayesha Noor, and Naveed Ahmed Malik. We are also grateful to Haallah Ahmad (Shams) for preparing the Activities towards the end of the book. May Allah the Almighty reward them for their hard work and bless them in this world and in the hereafter. *Aameen*.

> **Munir-ud-Din Shams** Additional Wakeelut-Tasneef London, July 2016



HAZRAT UMME HAANI^{ra}

Family Background

Our Beloved Master, the Holy Prophet Muḥammad^{saw}, was of such a pure and holy nature that countless Arabs were drawn towards him, experiencing a spiritual rebirth at his hands. Among those righteous souls we find historical references to one influential person known as Umme Haani^{ra}. Her real name was Faakhtah, but some sources refer to her as Hind.

Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} was born to Hazrat Abu Taalib, son of Hazrat Abdul Muttalib, and Hazrat Faatimah^{ra}, daughter of Asad Bin Haashim.¹ She was privileged to be the first cousin of the Holy Prophet^{saw}. Her father, Hazrat Abu Taalib, was the paternal uncle of the Holy Prophet^{saw} and had raised him from the age of eight. Treating the Holy Prophet^{saw} with utmost kindness and love, Hazrat Abu Taalib kept his cherished nephew close to him. Hazrat Abu Taalib was there for Prophet Muhammad^{saw} in all circumstances. At the time of his declaration of prophethood,



while the righteous accepted the Holy Prophet^{saw} wholeheartedly, most of the Meccans forcefully opposed him. In these hard times, Hazrat Abu Taalib stood firm as the Holy Prophet's^{saw} protector against all enemies. Even though Hazrat Abu Taalib did not accept Islam openly, his actions showed that he believed in all of the virtues of Islam. His wife, Hazrat Faatimah^{ra}, and all his children gained spiritual fulfilment through Islam. In fact, his son Hazrat Ali^{ra} eventually became the fourth Khalifah of Islam.

Special Status of Hazrat Umme Haani's Mother

Hazrat Umme Haani's^{ra} mother, Faatimah^{ra}, was a very virtuous woman. She was the Holy Prophet's^{saw} aunt and had the honour of raising him as a child. The Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} had a loving and respectful relationship with Hazrat Faatimah^{ra}. Allah blessed Hazrat Faatimah^{ra} with such immense wisdom and intellect that she immediately accepted Islam when the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} announced his prophethood. Hazrat Faatimah's^{ra} heart was full of devotion for Almighty Allah. At the time of her death, the Holy Prophet^{saw} sat by her body and said in grief:

Oh my dear mother! May Allah shower you with His mercy. You were like a mother to me after my own. You let me eat to my heart's content while you yourself remained hungry. You dressed me in the finest of clothing but kept your attire ordinary. You refrained yourself from fine foods but served them to me. Without a doubt, you did this purely for the pleasure of Allah, aiming for prosperity in the hereafter.

Hazrat Faatimah^{ra} also attained a great honour from Allah that no other woman received. At the time of her funeral rites, the Holy Prophet^{saw} himself poured the camphor-infused water over her body. The Holy Prophet^{saw} handed over his own shirt to cover her body and provided the funeral shroud to wrap over her. When the grave was ready, the Holy Prophet^{saw} prepared the grave and scooped the dirt out from the ground with his own blessed hands. After the Holy Prophet^{saw} prepared the grave, he laid her down in the grave, and prayed for her to be forgiven of all her sins and shown mercy by Allah the Almighty. Finally, the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} led her funeral prayers and lowered her body into the ground.²

Hazrat Faatimah^{ra} had four sons and three daughters. Her sons were named Hazrat 'Aqeel^{ra}, Hazrat Ja'far^{ra}, Hazrat Ali^{ra} and Hazrat Taalib^{ra}. Besides Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra}, her other daughters were Hazrat Jamaanah^{ra} and Hazrat Rabtah^{ra}. Her children inherited their parents' good qualities.³

Marriage & Children

Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} was married to Hubairah Bin Makhzam, who was a renowned poet among the Quraish. He never embraced Islam, and at the time of Makkah's conquest, he fled to Najran and remained a non-believer.⁴ Almighty Allah gifted Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} with four sons: Hazrat Haani^{ra}, Hazrat Amr^{ra}, Hazrat Ja'dah^{ra}, and Hazrat Yousuf^{ra}. As was common at the time, her name was connected to her eldest son (Mother of Haani^{ra}). All four accepted Islam and served their faith throughout their lives.⁵ Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} entered the fold of Islam at the time of Makkah's conquest. However, some sources suggest that she had accepted Islam earlier but did not let anyone know.

Love for the Holy Quran

When in Makkah, she would listen eagerly to the words of the Holy Quran. She once said, 'We used to hear the Holy Prophet^{saw} recite from the Holy Quran at night, from the rooftop of my home near the Ka'bah'.⁶ Her devotion to the Holy Prophet^{saw} is evident in an incident at the time of Makkah's conquest. The Holy Prophet^{saw} was paying her a visit and after drinking some juice, he offered the remainder to her. She said, 'I am fasting but I don't want to refuse you.' The Holy Prophet^{saw} replied, 'If you are making up a [missed] fast from Ramadan, you could make it up some other day, however, if it is merely a voluntary fast, then breaking it is up to you'.⁷ This narration not only proves her immense dedication and love for the Holy Prophet^{saw}, but also indicates that she fasted and had accepted Islam before the conquest of Makkah.

Steadfastness

Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} accepted Allah and His Messenger^{saw} wholeheartedly with pure intentions and remained steadfast.



Even though her husband deserted her for accepting Islam, no worldly force or relation could budge her from her beliefs. She was left with the sole responsibility of raising her four children and educating them. However, she handled the situation with unwavering courage and commitment, and held on to Almighty Allah. Hazrat Umme Haani's^{ra} husband, who was a distinguished poet, warned her through his poetry about the adversities that came with accepting Islam. He tried to convince her that following the religion of the Prophet^{saw} entailed merely a tough life of hunger and homelessness, but Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} truly believed that it was the right path.

Special Honours

At the time of Makkah's conquest, Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} had an honour that no other female companion of the Prophet^{saw} ever received. The Holy Prophet^{saw} went to Hazrat Umme Haani's^{ra} home and performed eight voluntary *rak'aat* of prayer in gratitude. It was the time of optional, late-morning prayers. Umme Haani^{ra} narrates, 'I had never seen the Holy Prophet perform such a short *salat*, however he performed his prayer and prostrations in a very peaceful and content manner'. Further, she also had the honour of the Holy Prophet^{saw} dining at her home and complimenting her cooking. The food he ate consisted of pieces of dry flat bread soaked in water and drizzled with vinegar instead of a sauce. The Holy Prophet^{saw} said, 'O Umme Haani, vinegar is the best sauce; the household that keeps vinegar, is never poor'.⁸

Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} also had the distinguished honour of

the Holy Prophet^{saw} resting at her home on the evening of his^{saw} Spiritual Night Journey, which is called *Israa*. Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} narrates:

That day after performing '*Ishaa* prayers, the Holy Prophet^{saw} slept in our home. After *Fajr* prayers, he said, 'Oh Umme Haani^{ra}, I went to *Baitul-Muqaddas* and prayed there, and afterwards I performed my morning prayers with you'.

Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} advised him, 'Do not tell people about this or they will call you a liar'. To this the Holy Prophet^{saw} replied, 'By God! I will tell people for sure.' Later, when the Holy Prophet^{saw} informed others about the Night Journey, they were amazed by it.⁹

The Night Journey of the Holy Prophet^{saw} was not a physical journey, but rather a spiritual journey in which Allah showed him things that no other human being had ever seen. This miracle is mentioned in the Holy Quran as followings:

سُبْحنَ الَّذِي أَسُرى بِعَبْدِم آيُبِلاً صِّن الْمُسْجِدِ الْحَرامِ إِلَى الْمُسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَالَّانِ مُ بركنا حَوْلَهُ ...

Glory be to Him who took His servant along by night from the Sacred Mosque to the Distant Mosque, the environs of which We have blessed... (*Surah Bani Israa'eel*, 17:2)

In this vision, the Archangel Jibraa'eel [Gabriel] brought a heavenly creature to the Holy Prophet^{saw} and told him to mount it. The creature looked like a beautiful white horse and it was called *al-Buraaq*. Once mounted, the creature took flight and carried the Holy Prophet^{saw} to the holy city of Jerusalem. In this sacred and holy place, the Holy Prophet^{saw} led congregational prayers in which all the other Prophets of God that had come before him stood in congregation behind him.

Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} also took part in the Battle of Khyber with the Holy Prophet^{saw}. He granted her foodgrains worth forty camel-loads from the bounty won in the battle.¹⁰

Honour & Respect Granted by the Holy Prophet^{saw}

Since the age of ignorance, women had the right to give shelter to the captive and the oppressed. Keeping that in mind, our beloved master, Prophet Muhammad^{saw}, guarded the status of Muslim women and their dignity, and gave them permission to harbour one or two men. Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} had a loving and respecting relationship with her in-laws. She gave asylum to two men, from her husband's family, who had been ordered for execution. The Holy Prophet^{saw} accepted her decision. Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} narrates this incident as follows:

When the Messenger^{saw} of Allah set his mobile military camp on the upper side of Makkah, two men from *Banu Makhzoom* ran towards me. My brother Ali^{ra} bin Abi Taalib entered right behind them and declared that he swore by God to kill them! I closed the front door and told him that I gave them my protection. Then I went

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to the Holy Prophet^{saw}, who said, 'O Umme Haani, welcome! What brings you here?' I told him about the incident of the two men and Ali entering my house. The Holy Prophet^{saw} said, 'Whosoever is under your asylum is protected by me; Ali^{ra} will not kill them'.

This episode made the companions of the Prophet^{saw} recognize Hazrat Umme Haani's^{ra} honour and prestige because the Holy Prophet^{saw} respected her and held her in high esteem. The Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} had a lot of affection for Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra}. He would console her, be aware of her circumstances and often showed her love and kindness by visiting her. Once he said to her, 'Umme Haani^{ra}! Take a goat; it is a blessed animal'.¹²

Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} was also blessed to have the youngest daughter of the Holy Prophet^{saw}, Hazrat Faatimah^{ra}, as her brother's Ali's^{ra} wife. This gave Hazrat Ali^{ra} the honour of becoming the son-in-law of the Holy Prophet^{saw}. Hazrat Umme Haani's^{ra} closeness to the Holy Prophet^{saw} increased even more. She took special care about the comfort of the Holy Prophet^{saw}. Some references suggest that when her children were younger, she did not visit the Holy Prophet^{saw} that often. Once, Hazrat Abbaas^{ra} [her Uncle] mentioned to her that the Holy Prophet^{saw} was inquiring about her. She said, 'My children are young; I don't want them to annoy or disturb him'.

Moral Qualities

Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} was a simple and good-natured woman. She inherited a gift for modesty and hospitality from her mother. She was captivated by her love for Allah and had an absolute God-consciousness and reliance on Allah. She faced countless hardships in her life with extreme patience and courage, never uttering a single word of complaint. She inherited her intellect and aptitude for literature from her father. She engaged in deep analyses of the Holy Quran, and had great interest in *Fiqh*, investigating numerous issues. Similarly, she directly inquired of the Holy Prophet^{saw} about the deeper meaning of some of the verses from Quran.

Wisdom & Knowledge

In Makkah, Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} had a reputation among the women of Quraish, but especially among the *Haashmi* women, of being a wise and intellectual woman, and a good counsellor. Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} had a high level of knowledge and narrated around forty-six *ahaadeeth*. Her narrated *ahaadeeth* are found in *Sihaah Sittah*, the six most authentic books of hadith.¹³ Her son, Hazrat Ja'dah^{ra} and grandson Haaroon^{ra} have also narrated *ahaadeeth* referencing her.¹⁴ One such lovely hadith is narrated by Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} in which there is a message and guidance for all Muslim women and girls in reference to Hazrat Ayesha^{ra}: عن أمّ هاني رضي الله عنها قالت: قال رسول الله ﷺ يَا عَائِشَةُ لِيَكُنْ شَعَارُكِ الْعِلْمَ وَالْقُرْانَ حاجاً له ماه محمد الله محمد الله محمد الله عنها له محمد الله متناه المحمد الله محمد الله

Translation: Umme Haani^{ra} narrates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said, 'O Ayesha^{ra}! The Holy Quran and knowledge should be your *Shi'aar*.'

Meaning, you should have such attachment with the Quran and knowledge that nothing else should be more precious or close to you'. (*Shi'aar* is the piece of garment that is close to the body.)

Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} was a humble and chaste woman. As she grew older and her body weakened, she was concerned that she was not able to do justice to worshipping Allah. She took her concern to the Holy Prophet^{saw} and asked him, 'I am old now and feel weak walking around; give me some prayers that I could recite when seated.' The Holy Prophet^{saw} replied, 'Recite *subhaan-Allah* 100 times, *alhamdulillah* 100 times, *Allahu Akbar* 100 times, and *Laa Ilaaha Illallaahu* 100 times.'¹⁶ In this way, she kept busy in the remembrance of Allah.

Demise of Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra}

By the grace of Almighty Allah, Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} lived a long life and witnessed the blessed terms of all four *Khulafaa-e-Raashideen*. The four *Khulafaa-e-Raashideen*, Companions of the Prophet^{saw}, and other scholars held her in high esteem. They respected her because she was respected by the Holy Prophet^{saw}. Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} held this honour till her last breath.

Whosoever enters this finite world, has to depart one day or







another, whether it is a prophet or a righteous person, blessed and beloved. Death is a law of nature. Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} lived even after the demise of her brother Hazrat Ali's^{ra}. In the year 50 Hijrah, during the reign of Ameer Mu'aawiyah^{ra}, Umme Haani^{ra} met her Maker. May Allah be pleased with her and may He grant her a place among the righteous. May He give us the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of blessed personalities such as Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra}. *Aameen*.¹⁷



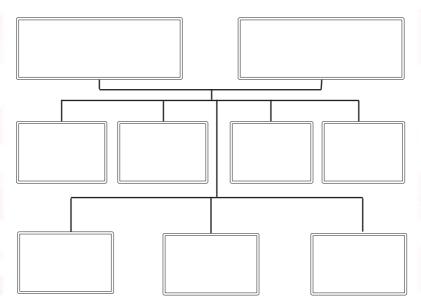
ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY NUMBER ONE

Complete the Family Tree below by filling in the correct names of the parents and siblings of Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra}.

Father

Mother



Children

ACTIVITY NUMBER TWO

As you have read, the Holy Prophet^{saw} was looked after very well by Hazrat Umme Haani's^{ra} parents. Fill in the heart below with designs or colours that depict the treatment of the Holy Prophet^{saw} by Hazrat Abu Taalib and his wife. Surround it with words describing how it makes you feel knowing that the Holy Prophet^{saw} was well looked after as an orphan.



EXTENSION—Research what Islam says about orphans, then write down your findings:









U	0	Y	F	Ν	Н	С	Α	х	S	М	Y	L	A	
F	М	S	E	A	0	В	Y	S	х	Т	С	U	Ι	
v	x	М	В	N	U	Ι	E	Т	Ι	U	М	F	F	ſ
Κ	Ι	Α	E	Т	R	Ν	Т	L	U	0	F	E	A	ĺ
Р	K	Ν	Α	Н	D	U	Α	0	D	D	К	С	A	
G	D	L	E	Ν	A	Т	0	E	V	S	М	Α	K	
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М	0	D	S	Ι	W	Н	0	L	Y	Q	R	V	L	ſ



F 0

J D E R U Т A Ν D 0 0 G

GOOD LUCK finding the words in the word search puzzle!

Umme Haani Faakhtah Abu Talib Faatimah wisdom devotion Quran

Kabah dedication peaceful content vinegar Night Journey Gabriel

kindness simple good natured modesty hospitality

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ACTIVITY NUMBER FOUR

Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} and all her children accepted Islam, however her husband Hubairah Bin Makhzam, a renowned poet, refused to accept Islam and fled to Najran. Write a poem in reply to the warnings given by Hubairah Bin Makhzam to his wife, proving that Islam is the right choice!



ACTIVITY NUMBER FIVE

Israa' translates to _____

in English.

It is mentioned in the Holy Quran in Surah____ Chapter ____, Verse ____.

Some people believe that this 'physically' happened. Using the information in this book, write what really happened in your own words.

ACTIVITY NUMBER SIX

When Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} reached old age, she asked the Holy Prophet^{saw} for some prayers that she could recite while seated. The Holy Prophet^{saw} told her to recite the following short prayers 100 times each. Match each prayer to the correct English translation. The first one has been done for you as an example.

Subhaan-Allah

Allah is the Greatest

Alhamdulillah

Allahu Akbar

Laa Ilaaha Illallaah

There is none worthy of worship except Allah

All Praise belongs to Allah

Holy is Allah

Next time you are bored, maybe you could recite these too in order to turn that boredom in to remembrance of our Creator.



R



ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY NUMBER THREE

U	0	Y	F	N	Н	С	A	X	S	М	Y	L	A	F
F	М	S	E	Α	0	В	Y	S	х	Т	С	U	Ι	0
v	х	М	В	N	U	Ι	E	Т	Ι	U	М	F	F	J
K	Ι	A	E	Т	R	Ν	Т	L	U	0	F	E	Α	D
Р	K	Ν	Α	Н	D	U	Α	0	D	D	К	С	A	E
G	D	L	E	Ν	A	Т	0	E	v	S	М	Α	K	R
Α	Ι	U	Ι	G	Ι	Α	S	J	L	E	E	E	Н	U
В	Q	K	Y	Р	A	Т	N	Q	Т	Р	D	Р	Т	Т
R	В	W	S	х	Y	R	F	Ι	D	Н	М	D	A	Α
Ι	М	0	С	0	N	Т	E	N	Т	N	G	Ι	Н	Ν
E	Н	К	Y	Н	Α	М	Ι	Т	Α	Α	F	Ι	S	D
L	Z	W	D	Т	Z	0	W	Α	V	R	J	U	N	0
D	E	D	Ι	С	A	Т	Ι	0	N	U	М	A	D	0
М	0	D	S	Ι	W	Н	0	L	Y	Q	R	V	L	G

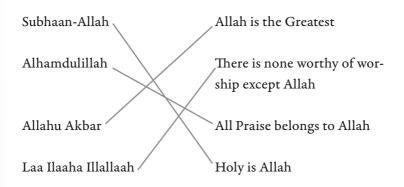
ACTIVITY NUMBER FIVE

Israa' translates to Spiritual Night Journey in English.

It is mentioned in the Holy Quran in Surah *Bani Israa'eel* Chapter 17, Verse 2.

ACTIVITY NUMBER SIX

When Hazrat Umme Haani^{ra} reached old age, she asked the Holy Prophet^{saw} for some prayers that she could recite while seated. The Holy Prophet^{saw} told her to recite the following short prayers 100 times each. Match each prayer to the correct English translation. The first one has been done for you as an example.



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GLOSSARY

Allah—Allah is the personal name of God in Islam. To show proper reverence to Him, Muslims often add Ta'aalaa, 'the Most High', when saying His Holy name.

Ahaadeeth—Plural of hadith, See Hadith.

Aameen—May Allah make it so..

- Fajr—Short for Salaatul-Fajr, i.e. the first of the five daily prayers, offered any time during the period starting from dawn and ending prior to sunrise.
- Fiqh—Arabic term used for Islamic Jurisprudence.
- **Hadith**—A saying of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}. The plural is Ahaadeeth.

- **Hazrat**—A term of respect used for a person of established righteousness and piety.
- Holy Prophet^{saw}—A term used exclusively for Hazrat Muhammad^{saw}, the Prophet of Islam.
- Holy Qur'an—The Book sent by Allah for the guidance of mankind. It was revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} over a period of twenty-three years.
- Ishaa—Short for Salaatul-Ishaa, i.e. the fifth and last of the five daily prayers, offered any time between nightfall and midnight, or before going to bed.
- **Israa'**—The spiritual Night Journey of the Holy Prophet^{saw} to Jerusalem in which he led all past Prophets^{as} in congrgetional prayers.

Khalifah—'Successor', which herein means the person who continues the mission of a Prophet. Caliph is derived from this Arabic word.

Khulafaa-e-Raashideen—Applied to first four khulafaa' who continued the mission of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}: Hazrat Abu Bakr^{ra}, Hazrat 'Umar^{ra}, Hazrat Uthmaan^{ra}, and Hazrat 'Ali^{ra}.

Rak'at—One unit of formal worship prescribed in Islam. Plural is *rak'aat*.

Ramadan-It is the ninth month

of the Islamic calendar in which able-bodied Muslims are directed to fast.

Salat—Five daily prayers that are obligatory for Muslims.

Surah—A term in Arabic referring to a chapter of the Holy Qur'an.

Umme—From the Arabc Umm, which means 'mother'; When coupled with a child's name, it is known as the *kunyat* of a mother (e.g. Umme Haani, or Mother of Haani^{ra})

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Salutations are recited out of respect when mentioning the names of Prophets and holy personages. These salutations have been abbreviated and inserted into the text where applicable. Readers are urged to recite the full salutations for the following abbreviations:

- saw
- *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam,* meaning 'peace and blessings of Allah be upon him', is written after the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}.
- as *'alaihis-salaam,* meaning 'peace be on him', is written after the names of Prophets other than the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}.
- ra *raziyallaahu 'anhu/'anhaa/'anhum,* meaning 'Allah be pleased with him/her/them', is written after the names of the Companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} or of the Promised Messiah^{as}.



rta

rahmatullaah 'alaihi/'alaihaa/'alaihim, meaning 'Allah shower His mercy upon him/her/them', is written after the names of those deceased pious Muslims who are not Companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} or of the Promised Messiah^{as}.





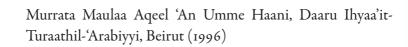
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