



The Persecution of the Quraysh

Once Prophet Muhammad ﷺ started giving the message of Islam openly things changed very rapidly. The Prophet, his family, and the few new Muslims suffered greatly at the hands of the Quraish. Zainab and her younger sisters, Ruqayyah, Umm Kulsum and Fatima were not spared of these hardships.



The Quraish used all sorts of tactics to hurt and torture the Muslims. They did this to discourage others from accepting Islam. Eventually, after seven years, the Muslims and some non-Muslim supporters were forced to leave Makkah and live in the valley of Abu Talib. Here, the group faced intolerable conditions for a long time.



Abu al 'Aas Accepts Islam

Zainab went to the masjid to pray '*fajr*'. Right after the prayers, from the back of the masjid where rest of the women were, she called out loudly, "Hear me, O people, I am Zainab, daughter of Muhammad, I have granted my protection to Abu al 'Aas ibn al-Rabi' and I ask you to do the same."





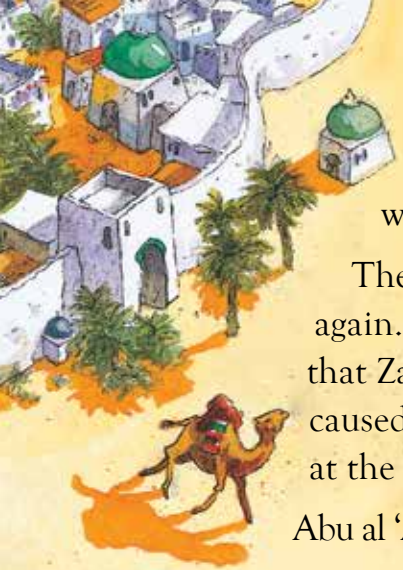
Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was taken aback and addressed the people and asked, “Did you hear what Zainab said?” All those who were present replied, “Yes, we have heard it.”

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ continued, “I swear by Allah Who holds my soul in His hand, I knew nothing about this until I heard what you heard from Zainab that Abu al ‘Aas is in Madinah. Zainab has given him protection and you know, if any Muslim gives asylum to a person it is bound upon everyone that they should honour it.”

He then went straight to Zainab and told her, “My dear daughter, you should look after Abu al ‘Aas in the best manner and be kind. However, you must know that you are no longer his wife, as he has not yet accepted Islam.”

Zainab pleaded, “Father, he has come to take his merchandise, can you give it back?” The Prophet gathered the people who had fought Abu al ‘Aas and said, “You have seized his merchandise and you do know the relationship of Abu al ‘Aas with me. All that you have seized from his caravan is a blessing to you from Allah as it is the wealth you received after a war. But I wish that you do him a favour and return what was taken from him. If you don’t want to return it I shall not compel you to do so.”





was done in accordance with the Islamic Laws.

The couple was extremely happy to be together again. Alas, their happiness was short lived. The wound that Zainab had received at the time of migration caused her death a year after her re-marriage. She died at the age of 31 in 8 A.H.

Abu al 'Aas wept bitterly and caused others around him to weep as well. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was also grief stricken.

With tears in his eyes he advised Umm Atiyah ؓ, Umm Aiman ؓ and other lady companions to bathe her 3 or 5 times, and to use camphor in the last wash and then shroud Zainab in his shawl.

After leading the funeral prayers Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Abu al 'Aas got down into the grave to lay her body to rest in Jannat ul Baqi. When he came out, he tearfully said, "Zainab was very weak and frail. Allah in his mercy has saved her from the torments of the grave."

May Allah be pleased with her and grant the highest place in Paradise for her patience, sufferings and struggle, *ameen*.

After Zainab's death Abu al 'Aas would cry so profusely that the people saw Prophet Muhammad ﷺ himself weeping and calming him down. Abu al 'Aas would say, "By Allah, I can't stand life without Zainab anymore." He died just a few years after her death.

May Allah be pleased with him and grant him the highest place in Paradise, *ameen*.

