

رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

LOWER YOUR WING

The Mothers of the Believers





In the Name of Allah,
The Compassionate, The Merciful



LOWER
YOUR
WING

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صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ



Birds, soaring and diving, must end their flight slowly. Landing and lowering their wings is harder than taking off and stretching their wings.

Like a bird coming down from sky to earth that slows its wing beats and lowers them to gently touch land so was the Command of **ALLAH** (Glorified be He) to His Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) regarding believers:

(And lower your wing to those of the believers who follow you)⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Translated meanings of Ash-Shu'ara' 26: 215.

Lower your wing
Lay down your pride
Let go of your own life
Adopt patience
Give and care for people
Relieve their burdens
Remove their ignorance
Let not your eyes overlook them
Man or woman, young or old, rich or poor,
strong or weak, enslaved or free
Humble yourself to them, O Muhammad
(peace and blessings be upon him)
And turn the darkness into light



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“The Year of Sorrow” in the life of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was the year Lady Khadijah died. After her death, he (peace and blessings be upon him) lived alone with his daughters for two years.

All his subsequent marriages were the prophet rather than the man in him marrying, as obvious from his choice of his second wife, Sawdah bint Zam‘ah, who was old, widowed, with five children, of no wealth, beauty, or high birth, but was the first widow in Islam. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) committed her to his protection and care, lifting himself up as the example towards women who had lost their husbands in Jihad for the sake of Islam.

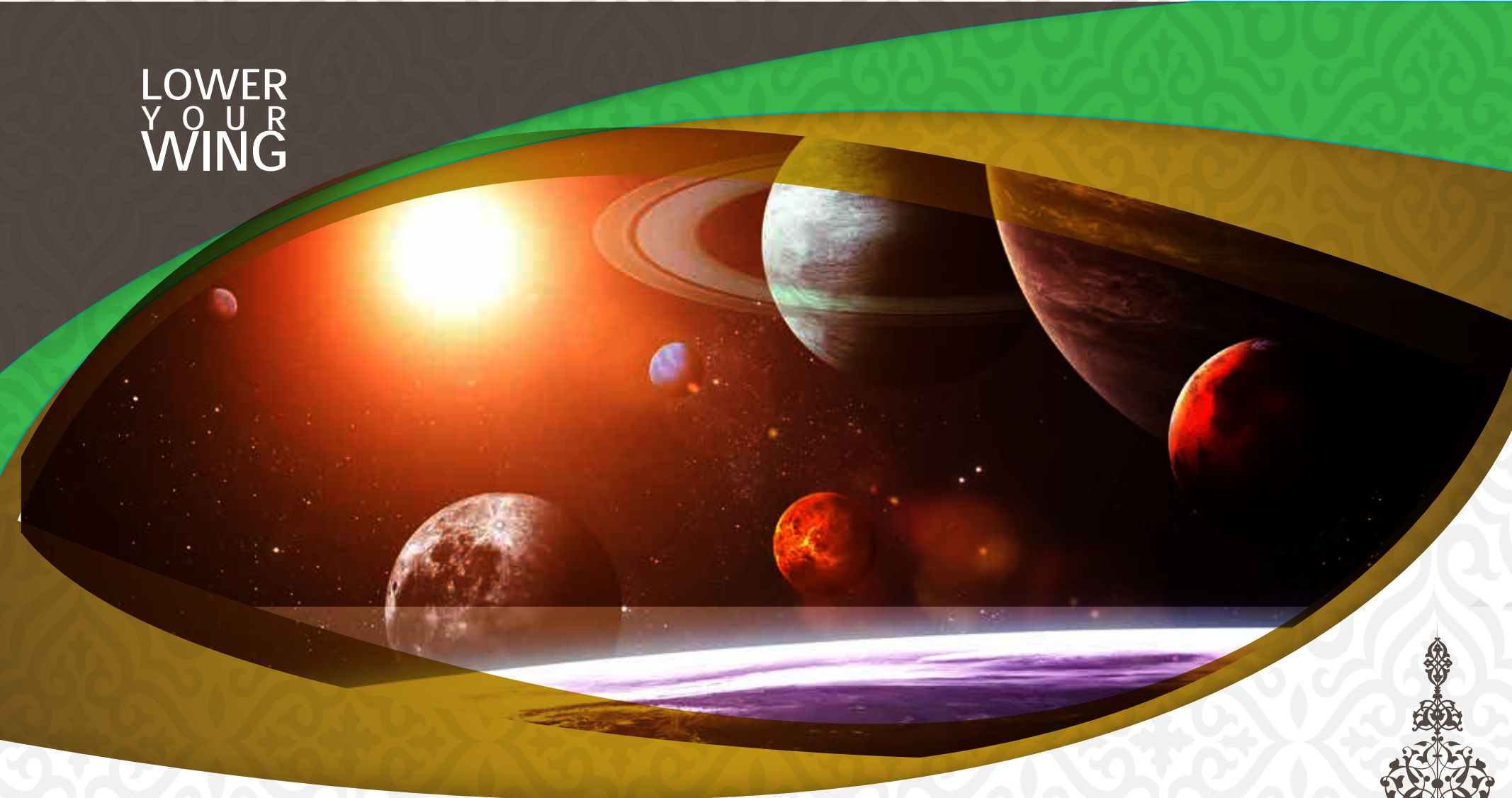




He (peace and blessings be upon him) married 'Aishah bint Abu Bakr and Hafsa bint 'Umar bin Al-Khattab, the daughters of his closest companions, to strengthen the brotherhood of faith with the ties of marriage. And he (peace and blessings be upon him) married Umm Habibah and Juwayriah bint Al-Harith, the daughters of his foes, to soften their hearts towards Islam.

He (peace and blessings be upon him) married Zainab bint Jahsh, the divorced wife of his adopted freedman, Zaid bin Harithah, by a Divine Command to abolish kinship by adoption and the consequent illegality of marriage in which the Arabs believed. **(So when Zaid no longer had any need for her, We married her to you, so**





that there may be no blame on the believers in respect of the wives of their adopted sons when they no longer have need of them. And the Command of Allah must be fulfilled.)⁽¹⁾

He (peace and blessings be upon him) married Maymunah bint Al-Harith, a believing woman who wished to be the wife of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) allowed her, saying: (... and a believing woman if she offers herself to the Prophet, if the Prophet wishes to marry her; (this is) only for you, not for the (rest of) the believers.)⁽²⁾



⁽¹⁾ Translated meanings of Al-ʿAhzab 33: 37.

⁽²⁾ Translated meanings of Al-ʿAhzab 33: 50.



He (peace and blessings be upon him) freed Safiyah bint Huyay and married her with her consent to urge other men to treat captive women in the same manner. He (peace and blessings be upon him) gave her a choice: either to be emancipated and become his wife or to join her family. She chose to be his wife.⁽¹⁾ Their marriage established a link with the Jews and fulfilled the vision that Lady Safiyah once saw.

“I saw the moon come from Yathrib and fall into my lap. When I related that dream to my cousin (who she was going to marry), he slapped me and said: Do you wish that the king of Yathrib would marry you?”⁽²⁾



(1) *Al-Salhi Al-Shami, Subl A-Huda wa Ar-Rashad Fi Sirah Khairul-'Abad, vol. 11.*

(2) *Ibn Kathir, Al-Bidaya wa Al-Nihaya, vol. 8.*



He (peace and blessings be upon him) elevated the status of slave women through Maria the Copt, who was offered to him as a gift of goodwill by Al-Muqawqis, the Christian governor of Egypt, in reply to his envoys inviting him to Islam. He (peace and blessings be upon him) kindly settled Lady Maria in a house of her own at Al-'Awaali (a place at Al-Madinah on a raised ground) and she bore the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) a son, Ibrahim (may Allah be pleased with him), who died when he was a little child.

Through Lady Maria and his son Ibrahim, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) set a rule for masters who did not voluntarily choose to free their slave women. He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“Any slave woman who bears a child from her master is manumitted, by his**





promise of manumitting her after his death or (he said) after him.”⁽¹⁾ Thus, Lady Maria was manumitted. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Her son manumitted her.”⁽²⁾

Each of the Prophet’s marriages contributed to Islam. Each established laws for women. Each was a pattern of successful family life. Each wife was a faithful eyewitness conveying the Sunnah (way of life, acts, sayings, or approvals of the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him). Each was a school teaching the world about their Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). Each was a mother to all the believers, and in worth and status unlike any other woman. (O wives of the Prophet! You are not like any other women.)⁽³⁾



⁽¹⁾ Ibn ‘Abbas, *Musnad Ahmad, Book of Banu Hashim, Hadith no. 2760.*

⁽²⁾ Ibn ‘Abbas, *Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of Al-Ahkam, Hadith no. 2507.*

⁽³⁾ *Translated meanings of Al-Ahzab 33: 32.*

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