

رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

LOWER
YOUR
WING

Daughter





In the Name of Allah,
The Compassionate, The Merciful



LOWER
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WING

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WING



صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ



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



LOWER
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Daughter



رسول الله



People of Jahiliyyah saw daughters as a burden, an ill omen, or a shame whom they buried alive without pity or remorse, in wildness and ignorance. About killing daughters, Allah (Exalted be He) says: **(Indeed lost are they who have killed their children, from folly, without knowledge, and have forbidden that which Allah has provided for them, inventing a lie against Allah. They have indeed gone astray and were not guided.)⁽¹⁾**

The Qur'an delves deeper and offers a vivid portrayal of the birth of girls, how fathers receive such news, and their inward feelings before committing such a cruel crime, saying:

⁽¹⁾ *Translated meanings of Al-An'am 6: 140.*





(And when one of them is informed of (the birth of) a female, his face becomes dark, and he suppresses grief. He hides himself from the people because of the ill of which he has been informed. Should he keep it in humiliation or bury it in the ground? Unquestionably, evil is what they decide.) ⁽¹⁾

It then asks in accusation:

(For what sin she was killed?) ⁽²⁾

A man once came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, “O Messenger of Allah, we were people of Jahiliyyah (people living in a pre-Islamic time of ignorance) and

⁽¹⁾ Translated meanings of An-Nahl 16: 5859-.

⁽²⁾ Translated meanings of At-Takwir 81: 9.





idolism. We used to kill our children. I had a daughter who, when she started to perceive, I called to me one day. She always became happy when I called her to me. She followed me. I walked until I came to a well not far from my people. I took hold of her hand and threw her into the well. The last thing I heard her saying was, ‘O my father! O my father!’”

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) cried until his tears trickled heavily down. A man among those who were sitting with him (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “**You have grieved the Messenger of Allah.**” The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon





him) said to him, **“Stop, he is asking about what distresses him.”** He (peace and blessings be upon him) then said, **“Repeat to me your story.”** The man repeated it, and the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) cried again until his tears trickled down his eyes over his beard. He (peace and blessings be upon him) then said, **“Allah has forgiven the people of Jahiliyyah for whatever they committed (before becoming Muslims); continue working (righteously).”** ⁽¹⁾

Islam wipes out whatever sins were committed in a pre-Islamic time of ignorance in man’s life, even the burial of a living baby girl, and lays down Allah’s merciful Law that protects daughters and forbids the killing of children.

⁽¹⁾ *Al-Wadin, Sunan Ad-Darmy, Book of Al-Muqadimah (Beginning), Hadith no.*





(And kill not your children for fear of poverty. We provide for them and for you. Surely, the killing of them is a great sin.) ⁽¹⁾

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) forbiddingly said, “Verily, Allah has forbidden you impiety towards mothers, burial of girls alive, withholding (what you should give) and demanding (what you do not deserve), and hates for you idle talk, asking many questions, and wasting of wealth.” ⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ Translated meanings of Al-An‘am 6: 140.

⁽²⁾ Al-Mughirah bin Shu‘bah, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Istiqrar, Ada’ Ad-Duyun, Al-Hajr wa At-Taflis (Loans, Payment of Debts, Freezing of Property and Bankruptcy), Hadith no. 2231.





‘Abdullah bin Mas‘ud (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated, “I asked the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), ‘Which sin is the gravest in the Sight of Allah?’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘That you set up a rival to Allah although He Alone created you.’ I said, ‘That is indeed grave.’ I asked, ‘Which is next?’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘To kill your child lest he should share your food with you.’ I asked, ‘Which is next?’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘To commit sexual intercourse with your neighbor’s wife.’” (1)

(1) Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Tafsir Al-Qur’an (Interpretation of the Qur’an), Hadith no. 4117.





The Blessing of Daughters

(To Allah belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. He creates what He wills. He bestows female offspring upon whom He wills, and bestows male offspring upon whom He wills. Or He bestows both males and females, and He renders barren whomever He wills. Verily, He is the All-Knower and is Able (to do all things).) ⁽¹⁾

The blessing of having children, male or female, is from Allah Alone. He (Glorified be He) gives daughters to whom He wills and sons to whom He wills. Parents should be thankful to Allah for whatever He (Exalted be He) bestows.



⁽¹⁾ *Translated meanings of Ash-Shura 42: 4950-*



The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) exhorts fathers to be thankful for having daughters as much as sons and, even more, to show the merit of this gift bestowed by Allah upon fathers, who are promised Paradise in return for the love, kindness, and good upbringing they grant their daughters. The promise is repeated, with no mention of a similar reward for the upbringing of sons. It seems to be Islam's special gift to the father of girls.

- “Whoever has a daughter born to him and does not bury her alive, humiliate her, or favor his son over her, Allah will admit him into Paradise.”⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Ibn ‘Abbas, *Musnad Ahmad*, *Book of Banu Hisham*, *Hadith no. 1856*.





- “Whoever is in charge of any of these daughters and treats them kindly, they will be a shield for him against Hellfire.” ⁽¹⁾

- “Whosoever supports two daughters until they mature, he and I will come on the day of Resurrection as this (and he (peace and blessings be upon him) pointed with his two fingers held together).” ⁽²⁾

- “Whoever has three daughters or sisters, or two daughters or sisters, and he lives with them in kindness, and fears Allah with regard to them, shall have Paradise.” ⁽³⁾



⁽¹⁾ Lady ‘Aishah, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 5536.

⁽²⁾ Anas bin Malik, Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Birr Waslah Waladab, Hadith no. 4765.

⁽³⁾ Abu Sa‘id Al-Khudri, Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Birr Waslah, Hadith no. 1839.



- “Whoever has three daughters whom he shelters, has mercy on and looks after, Paradise is definite for him.” ⁽¹⁾

- “Whoever maintains three daughters, and he educates them, has mercy on them, and is kind to them, shall have Paradise.” ⁽²⁾

- “Whoever has three daughters and he patiently bears their troubles, their sorrows and joys, Allah will admit him to Paradise by his mercy towards them.” A man asked, “Or two (daughters), O Messenger of Allah?” The Prophet (peace



⁽¹⁾ Jabir bin ‘Abdullah, Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Mukthrin, Hadith no. 13729.

⁽²⁾ Abu Sa‘id Al-Khudri, Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Mukthrin, Hadith no. 11488.



and blessings be upon him) said, “Or two.” Another man asked, “Or one (daughter), O Messenger of Allah?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Or one.” ⁽¹⁾

- “Shall I guide you to the best of charity? Your daughter returned to you (divorced), having no breadwinner except you.” ⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ Abu Hurairah, Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Mukthrin, Hadith no. 8071.

⁽²⁾ Suraqah bin Malik bin Ju'sham, Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 3657.





- Lady 'Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) narrated, "A poor woman came to my door carrying her two daughters. I offered her three dates. She gave each of them a date, and lifted to her mouth a date. But her two daughters asked her to feed it to them, so she divided the date she wanted to eat between them. I admired what she did and related it to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), who said, **'Verily, Allah has decreed Paradise for her because of it – or freed her from Hellfire because of it.'**" ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Birr Waslah Waladab, Hadith no. 4764.*





Daughters' Rights

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), through the aforementioned Hadiths, maintains the following rights of daughters as natural entitlements from Allah, not a gift:

1. **The right to life.**
2. **The right to freedom.**
3. **The right to protection.**
4. **The right to maintenance.**
5. **The right to identity.**
6. **The right to a good upbringing.**
7. **The right to education.**
8. **The right to kind treatment.**
9. **The right to non-discrimination and equality.**





The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) also restores and protects other essential, long-trampled, long-usurped, long-denied rights of daughters.

01 The right to accept or reject the man asking for her hand in marriage.

- “A matron should not be given in marriage until her command is sought, whereas a virgin until her permission is sought.” The people asked, “O Messenger of Allah, how does she give her permission?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “When she keeps silent.” ⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ Abu Hurairah, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of An-Nikah, Hadith no. 4741.



Lady ‘Aishah said, “O Messenger of Allah, a virgin feels shy.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Her consent is (expressed by) her silence.” ⁽¹⁾

- Lady ‘Aishah narrated, “If the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) wanted to give one of his daughters in marriage he (peace and blessings be upon him) would sit close to her screen and say, ‘So-and-so mentions so-and-so.’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) would name her and name the man who mentioned her. If she kept silent, he (peace and blessings be upon him) gave

⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of An-Nikah, Hadith no. 4742.





her in marriage. If she disliked (the proposal), she would tap on the screen. If she tapped on it, he (peace and blessings be upon him) would not give her in marriage.”⁽¹⁾

02 The right not to be forced to marry.

- Lady ‘Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) said, “A young woman came to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, ‘O Messenger of Allah, my father married me to his nephew to elevate by me his lowliness.’”

⁽¹⁾ *Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Ansar, Hadith no. 23354.*





The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) left the matter for her to decide (either to approve the marriage or reject it). She said, ‘I approve what my father did. I just wanted women to know that fathers have no say in this matter.’”⁽¹⁾

03 The right to inheritance.

- Sa’d bin Abu Waqqas (may Allah be pleased with him) said, “O Messenger of Allah, I own a large property and I have only one daughter as my heir. Should I will the whole of my property



⁽¹⁾ *Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Ansar, Hadith no. 23892.*



(to be given in charity)? ” The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “No.” He said, “Two-thirds?” The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “No.” He said, “One half (of my property)?” The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “No.” He said, “One-third?” The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “One-third, still one-third is much. Truly, giving in charity from your property is charity, spending on your children is charity, and what your wife eats from your property is charity, and that you leave your heirs well-off (or he (peace and





blessings be upon him) said: prosperous) is better than to leave them begging from people.” And he (peace and blessings be upon him) gestured this with his hand.”⁽¹⁾

The Prophet, the Father

Daughters were not only recognized by the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) as members of the family, but also valued as **“The amiable, dear companions.”**⁽²⁾ He (peace and blessings be upon him) elevated them to a special place in the family and embraced them into its safe haven of care and love, seizing every chance to show that daughters were especially dear to him.



⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Wasiyah (Testament), Hadith no. 3079.*

⁽²⁾ *Musnad Ahmad, Book of Ash-Shamyin, Hadith no. 16733.*



Anas bin Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that Al-Ukaidar presented the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) with a jar of manna. After having finished Salah, he (peace and blessings be upon him) passed by the people and started giving each man a piece. He (peace and blessings be upon him) gave Jabir (bin ‘Abdullah) a piece, and then he (peace and blessings be upon him) returned to him and gave him another piece. Jabir said, **“You gave me a piece.”** He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“This is for the daughters of ‘Abdullah.”**⁽¹⁾

Zainab, Ruqayyah, Umm Kulthum, and Fatimah (may Allah be pleased with them) were the four daughters whom Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) was blessed with from his



⁽¹⁾ *Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Mukthrin, Hadith no. 11777.*



wife Khadijah (may Allah be pleased with her). Through his love and kindness towards them, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) will remain the epitome of what a father of daughters should be.

“Fatimah is part of me, and anyone who makes her angry, makes me angry.”⁽¹⁾ This was how deep his love for his daughter Fatimah was, which he (peace and blessings be upon him) expressed in many kind acts. Lady ‘Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) narrated, **“Whenever she (Fatimah) came to visit him (the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him), he (peace and blessings be upon him) would get up to welcome her, take her by the hand, kiss her,**

⁽¹⁾ *Al-Miswar bin Makhramah: Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Manaqib, Hadith no. 3437 Muslim also reported in Book of Fada’il Al-Shabah, Hadith no. 4483 that the Prophet said: “Fatimah is part of me, it harms me what harms her.”*



and make her sit where he was sitting. And whenever he (peace and blessings be upon him) went to visit her, she would get up to welcome him, take him by the hand, kiss him, and make him sit where she was sitting.”⁽¹⁾

It was a huge uplift for daughters from burial alive to active participation right from the dawn of the Islamic Call. Although a little girl, Lady Fatimah (may Allah be pleased with her) was the one who came to the aid of her father when Islam was still a stranger. She stood alone in the face of the persecution of Quraish and defended her father (peace and blessings be upon him).

⁽¹⁾ Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 4540.



‘Abdullah bin Mas‘ud (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated, “The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was standing in prayer near the Ka‘bah. A group of Quraish was sitting there in a gathering, one of whom said, ‘Do you not see this show-off? Who among you will go and bring the dung, blood, and entrails of the slaughtered camels of the family of so-and-so, and then wait until he prostrates and put that in between his shoulders?’ The most wretched among them (‘Uqbah bin Abu Mu‘ait) went (and brought them), and when the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) prostrated himself, he placed them (on his back)





between his shoulders. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) remained in prostration while they laughed until they fell over one another laughing. Someone hurried to Fatimah, who was still a little girl, and she came running. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) remained in prostration until she threw it away from him. Then she turned to them and cursed them.”⁽¹⁾

She patiently shared the suffering of her father from the moment he was made a Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) until his death. She was by his side, comforting him and dressing his wounds. On the Battle of Uhud, Sahl bin Sa’d (may



⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of As-Salah, Hadith no. 490.*



Allah be pleased with him) narrated, “The face of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was wounded, one of his front teeth was broken, and the helmet over his head was smashed. Fatimah was washing off the blood (from his head) while ‘Ali held water (in his shield). When she saw that the bleeding only increased, she took a mat, burnt it until it turned into ashes, and placed it securely (over the wound). Thus the bleeding ceased.”⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Jihad wa Al-Siyar, Hadith no. 2695



During his last illness, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) called his daughter Fatimah, but this time he (peace and blessings be upon him) did not rise to take her by the hand and welcome her with a kiss as he (peace and blessings be upon him) usually did.

His illness aggravated him and started to make him faint. Fatimah said, **“What great distress my father is in!”** He (peace and blessings be upon him) comforted her, saying, **“Your father will have no more distress after today.”** ⁽¹⁾

He (peace and blessings be upon him) then asked his daughter Fatimah to draw near him and whispered to her something that made her cry.

⁽¹⁾ Anas bin Malik, *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Magazi, Hadith no. 4103.*





Then he (peace and blessings be upon him) asked her to draw near him again and whispered to her something that made her laugh.

Lady ‘Aishah narrated that when she asked Fatimah about that, she replied, “**The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) confided to me that he would die during this last illness, and so I wept; but then he (peace and blessings be upon him) confided to me that I would be the first from among his family to join him, and so I laughed.**”⁽¹⁾ Fatimah died six months after her beloved father (peace and blessings be upon him).

⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Manaqib, Hadith no. 3354.*





To the End of the Road

All the sons and daughters of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) died during his lifetime – his two sons and four daughters from Lady Khadijah (may Allah be pleased with her) and his son Ibrahim from Lady Maria, the Copt (may Allah be pleased with her) – except Lady Fatimah. About loss of children, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

When the child of a servant dies, Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) says to His angels, “Did you take away the soul of My servant’s child?” They say, “Yes.” He (Glorified and Exalted be He) says, “Did you take away the fruit of his heart?” They say,





“Yes.” He (Glorified and Exalted be He) says, “What did My servant say?” They say, “He thanked You and said: Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we shall return.” Allah says, “Build a house for My servant in Paradise and call it ‘The House of Thankfulness.’”⁽¹⁾

At the death of his daughters, the merciful father (peace and blessings be upon him) sat at the door holding their shroud, handing the women preparing them for burial one piece after another. Laila, the daughter of Qanif Ath-Thaqafiyyah, said: **I was one of those who washed Umm Kulthum, the daughter of the Messenger of**



⁽¹⁾ Abu Musa Al-Ash'ary, Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Jana'iz, Hadith no. 942.



Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), when she died. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) first gave us the lower garment, then the shirt, then the head-cover, then the (whole body) wrap. Then she was shrouded in another garment. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was sitting at the door, holding her shroud, giving us the garments one by one. ⁽¹⁾

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) then gave them his own garment to shroud his daughter in and told them to make it the cloth next to her body. Umm 'Atiyah said:

⁽¹⁾ Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Al-Jana'iz, Hadith no. 2745.





When Zainab, the daughter of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) died, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said to us, “Wash her an odd number of times, three or five times, and put camphor on the fifth time, and after you have washed her notify me.” We notified him and he (peace and blessings be upon him) gave us his waist-sheet and said, “Make it the cloth next to her body.” ⁽¹⁾

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) accompanied his daughters with kindness to the end of the road. Anas bin Malik said:

We witnessed the funeral of one of the daughters of the Messenger of Allah (peace



⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Jana'iz, Hadith no. 1559.*



and blessings be upon him). He (peace and blessings be upon him) was sitting at the grave. I saw his eyes shedding tears. ⁽¹⁾

True that his eye shed tears, “Which is mercy that Allah places in the hearts of whomever He wishes of His servants,” and his heart sorrowed, but he (peace and blessings be upon him) only said what pleased his Lord, “Verily, to Allah belongs whatever He takes and whatever He gives, and everything with Him is determined.”

⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Jana'iz, Hadith no. 1205.*





Anas bin Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated, “We entered Abu Saif’s house when Ibrahim was dying. The eyes of Allah’s Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) started shedding tears, so ‘Abdur-Rahman bin ‘Awf exclaimed, ‘O Messenger of Allah, even you!’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘O Ibn ‘Awf, this is mercy.’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) then shed more and said, ‘Truly, the eye sheds tears and the heart sorrows, but we do not say except what pleases our Lord. Truly we, for parting with you, O Ibrahim, are grieved.’” (1)



(1) *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Jana'iz, Hadith no. 1220.*



Having lived the experience himself many times, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) offers consolation, advises patience, and conveys glad tidings to those who lose their children. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) reported that Almighty Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) says:

My believing servant shall have no other reward from Me when I take his bosom companion from the people of this world, and he bears it with patience, hoping for reward, except Paradise. ⁽¹⁾

Qurah bin Iyas bin Hilal (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated, “There was a man who always used to come to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) along with his son. The

⁽¹⁾ Abu Hurairah, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Ar-Riqaq, Hadith no. 5944.





Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) once asked him, ‘Do you love him?’ He said, ‘O Messenger of Allah, may Allah love you as much as I love him.’ The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) then noticed his absence and asked me, ‘What did the son of so-and-so do?’ They said, ‘O Messenger of Allah, he died.’ The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said to the boy’s father, ‘Would it not please you that not a single gate of the gates of Paradise you come to but you will find him there waiting for you?’ A man asked, ‘O Messenger of Allah, is this (compensation) only for him or for us all?’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘It is for you all.’” (1)

(1) *Musnad Ahmad, Book of The Makkans, Hadith no. 15042.*

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