

Lessons From The Biography Of The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله وعلى آهله وصحبه أجمعين

Class 07

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Class 07: The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) Was Breastfed In The Countryside Of Banī Sa‘d.

The prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was breastfed in a place in the area of banī Sa‘d which is close to Makkah. It was a tradition of the people of Makkah to send their children to breastfeed in the desert areas. They believed this practice would give the child a much clearer mind and the child will also have a stronger will and greater patience. The people of Makkah were diligent to entrust their children to trustworthy individuals. The mother of the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) Āminah, gave the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) to some people she trusted. Ḥalīmah Al-Sa‘dīyah was the breastfeeding nanny of the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

Allāh (سبحانه و تعالی) Increased The Barakah In Ḥalīmah’s Household Because Of The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

Ever since Ḥalīmah was entrusted with the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم), her blessings and provisions increased from Allāh (سبحانه و تعالی), and so much good happened to her and her family. The prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) completed two years at the hands of Ḥalīmah,

and she brought him back to his mother in Makkah. Ḥalīmah convinced the prophet's (صلى الله عليه وسلم) mother Āminah to let him stay longer with her people because Ḥalīmah saw how much blessings had come to her and her family.

The prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) spent a few years with Ḥalīmah and her family and grew up to have good characteristics like many prophets before him. The prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) did not have any deficiencies or injuries that would take away from his status as a prophet during that time in the desert.

The Angel Jibrīl (عليه السلام) Opened The Chest Of The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

It is narrated that two angels (maybe more) came to the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم), and opened up his chest. This happened after Ḥalīmah took him back to his mother Āminah after he completed two years with Ḥalīmah. The prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was a young child past the age of breastfeeding. The most correct opinion is that the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was four years old at the time of the opening of his chest.

The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) Became A Shepherd At The Age Of Four.

This incident of opening the chest happened when the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) became a shepherd taking care of sheep as the Bedouin Arabs usually became shepherds at the age of four. Jibrīl (عليه السلام) took the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and laid him on the ground. Then Jibrīl opened up the prophet's (صلى الله عليه وسلم) chest and took out his heart and removed a clot of blood from his heart. Jibrīl (عليه السلام) then said to the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) about the blood clot,

هَذَا حَظُّ الشَّيْطَانِ مِنْكَ

“That was the portion of shayṭān from you.”

Then Jibrīl (عليه السلام) washed the prophet's (صلى الله عليه وسلم) heart with zamzam water in a vessel made of gold. Jibrīl put the heart of the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) back in his chest and sewed his chest.

Upon seeing this, the children ran back to Ḥalīmah Al-Sa'diyah and said, 'you better come see your son because he has been killed.' When they came, they found the

prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was pale and yellowish out of fear. Anas Ibn Mālik (رضى الله عنه) said, 'I could see the traces of the stitches on the chest of the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم).'

The Age Of The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) During The Opening Of His Chest.

The scholars differ regarding when the chest of the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was opened. Did it happen at age two or four? A group of scholars have agreed that it happened when the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was four. Among these scholars is Ibn Kathīr (رحمه الله) in his book on sīrah called Al-Fuṣūl, as well as Ibn Abī Al-‘Izz (رحمه الله) in his book Al-Mī‘iyah.

The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) Had His Heart Opened Two Times.

Some scholars said the prophet's (صلى الله عليه وسلم) heart was only opened once, while other said it happened twice or more. The correct answer is that it happened twice.

- 1) The first time was when he (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was living with Ḥalīmah Al-Sa‘diyah
- 2) The second time was during the night of Al-Isrā' wa Al-Mi'raj right before the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) went to Jerusalem.

The people of Sunnah believe and submit to all these narrations because they were mentioned in ṣaḥīḥ Muslim and ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī, and we refute anyone that negates such narrations. We also believe that Allāh (سبحانه و تعالی) is capable of doing anything. Allāh is able to send Jibrīl (عليه السلام) to open the chest of the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) to take out a clot of blood. This is very easy for Allāh the Almighty who has the utmost power and strength.

The Orientalist and those Muslims who have been affected by the Orientalist like Maḥmūd Abū Rayyah who mentioned in one of his books that he negated such narrations and was refuted by the scholar ‘Abdurraḥmān Ibn Yaḥyá Al-Mu‘allamī (رحمه الله) in his book ‘The Light that Exposes What Abū Rayyah Wrote In His Book ‘Adwá that Went Into Oppression.’ Shaykh Muḥammad Abū Shuhbah (رحمه الله) wrote in his book, ‘Al-Sīrah Al-Nabawiyah Fī Ḍaw’ Al-Qur’ān Wa Al-Sunnah,’ The Prophetic History Within The Light Of The Qur’ān And Sunnah.’

The methodology amongst the people of knowledge is that if a ḥadīth is deemed to be correct, then it is not appropriate for the believer to rely on the people of innovation in refuting that narration.

وصلى الله على نبينا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه وسلم

