

# UNIT

# D

## CHAPTER

## THREE

# Ummu Salamah: A Role Model in Patience and Wisdom

### CHAPTER OUTLINE

- 1 Who was Ummu Salamah?
- 2 Ummu Salamah embraces Islam
- 3 The Hijrah to Abyssinia
- 4 Ummu Salamah's heartbreaking story of her Hijrah to Madinah
- 5 The death of Abu Salamah
- 6 Ummu Salamah marries Rasoolullah

## Who was Ummu Salamah?

Her real name was Hind Bint Abi Umayyah Al-Makhzoomy. Her father was known for his generosity and kind heart. Her mother was 'Aatikah Bint Abdul-Muttalib, and she was a cousin of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Ummu Salamah's husband was Abdullah ibn Abdulasad, who is known by his nickname, Abu Salamah – father of Salamah, their son.

## Becoming a Muslim

Both Abu Salamah and Ummu Salamah were among the first persons to accept Islam. As soon as the news of their becoming Muslims spread, the Quraysh reacted with frenzied anger. They began hounding and persecuting Ummu Salamah and her husband, but the couple did not waver and remained steadfast in their new faith.



## The Migration to Abyssinia

Life in Makkah became unbearable for many of the new Muslims. The Prophet ﷺ recognized the oppression that they were enduring and gave permission for them to emigrate to Abyssinia. For Ummu Salamah, it meant abandoning her spacious home and giving up the traditional ties of lineage and honor for something new, hoping for the pleasure and reward of Allah.

Ummu Salamah and her companions received great hospitality and protection from the Abyssinian ruler, King Negus. However, their desire to return to Makkah, to be near their beloved Prophet ﷺ, and the source of revelation and guidance, persisted.

News eventually reached that the number of Muslims in Makkah had increased. Among them were Hamzah ibn Abdulmuttalib and Omar ibn-ul-Khattab. Their faith had greatly strengthened the community and they heard that the Quraysh had eased the persecution somewhat. Thus a group of the immigrants, including Abu Salamah and Ummu Salamah, decided to return to Makkah.

## Heartbreaking Story

However, contrary to what they had hoped for, the situation had not really improved in Makkah. There was still a great deal of oppression towards the Muslims. Therefore, the Prophet ﷺ gave permission to his companions to emigrate to Madinah. Ummu Salamah and her husband were among the first to leave.

Let us allow Ummu Salamah to tell us her story of immigration:

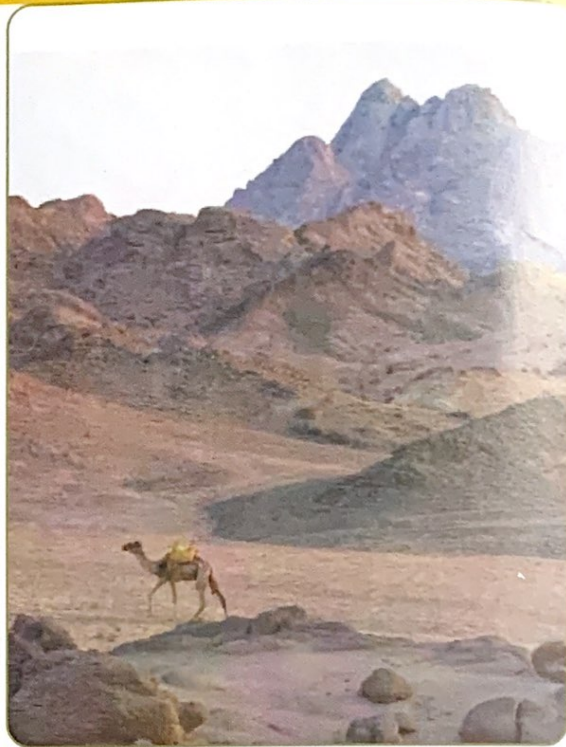
*"When Abu Salamah (my husband) decided to leave for Madinah, he prepared a camel for me, hoisted me on it and placed our son Salamah on my lap. My husband then took the lead and went on without stopping or waiting for anything. Before we were out of Makkah, however, some men from my clan stopped us and said to my husband:*

*"Though you are free to do what you like with yourself, you have no power over your wife. She is our daughter. Do you expect us to allow you to take her away from us?"*

*They then pounced on him and snatched me away from him. My husband's clan, Banu Abdulasad, saw them taking both me and my child. They became hot with rage.*

*"No! By Allah," they shouted, "we shall not abandon the boy. He is our son and we have a first claim over him."*

*They took him by the hand and pulled him away from me. Suddenly in the space of a few moments, I found myself alone and lonely. My husband headed for Madinah by*



*himself and his clan had snatched my son away from me. My own clan, Banu Makhzoom, overpowered me and forced me to stay with them.*

*From the day when my husband and my son were separated from me, I went out at noon every day to that valley and sat at the spot where this tragedy occurred. I would recall those terrible moments and weep until night fell on me.*

*I continued like this for a year or so until one day, a man from the Banu Umayyah passed by and saw my condition. He went back to my clan and said:*

*"Why don't you free this poor woman? You have caused her husband and her son to be taken away from her."*

*He went on trying to soften their hearts and play on their emotions. At last they said to me, "Go and join your husband if you wish."*

*But how could I join my husband in*

Madinah and leave my son, a piece of my own flesh and blood, in Makkah among the Banu Abdulasad? How could I be free from anguish and my eyes be free from tears, were I to reach the place of Hijrah, not knowing anything of my little son left behind in Makkah?

Some realized what I was going through and their hearts went out to me. They petitioned the Banu Abdulasad on my behalf and moved them to return my son.

I did not want to linger in Makkah until I found someone to travel with me. I was afraid something might happen that would delay or prevent me from reaching my husband. So I promptly got my camel ready, placed my son on my lap and left in the direction of Madinah.

I had just about reached Tan'eem (about three miles from Makkah) when I met Uthman ibn Talhah. (He was a keeper of the Ka'bah in pre-Islamic times and was not yet a Muslim.)

"Where are you going, Bint Zad ar-Rakib?" he asked.

"I am going to my husband in Madinah."

"And there isn't anyone with you?"

"No, by Allah. Except Allah and my little boy here."

"By Allah, I shall never abandon you until you reach Madinah," he vowed.

He then took the reins of my camel and led us on. I have, by Allah, never met an Arab more generous and noble than he. When we reached a resting place, he would make my camel kneel down, wait until I dismounted, lead the camel to a tree and tether it. He would then go to the shade of another tree. When we had rested, he would get the camel ready and lead us on.

This he did every day until we reached Madinah. When we got to a village near Quba (about two miles from Madinah), he said, "Your husband is in this village. Enter it with the blessings of God." He turned back and headed for mMakkah".



#### Du'aa'

“حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ”

Whenever you are in trouble say:

“Allah is enough for me. He is the best to rely on.”

## The New Life in Madinah

Their roads finally met after the long separation. Ummu Salamah was overjoyed to see her husband, and he was delighted to see his wife and son.

Great and momentous events followed, one after the other. There was the Battle of Badr, in which Abu Salamah fought. The Muslims returned victorious and strengthened. Then there was the Battle of Uhud, in which the Muslims were sorely tested. Abu Salamah came out of this wounded very badly. He appeared at first to respond well to treatment, but his wounds never healed completely and he remained bedridden.

### Abu Salamah Passes Away

Once while Ummu Salamah was nursing her husband, he said to her:

"I heard the Messenger of God saying, 'Whenever a calamity hits anyone, he should say,

إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون ، اللهم أجزني في مصيبتني  
وأخلف لي خيراً منها

'Surely from Allah we are, and to Him we shall certainly return.' And he would pray, 'Oh Allah, reward me for my plight and give me in return something better than what I lost.'

Abu Salamah remained sick in bed for several days. One morning the Prophet ﷺ came to see him. The visit was longer

than usual. While the Prophet ﷺ was still at his bedside, Abu Salamah passed away. With his blessed hands, the Prophet ﷺ closed the eyes of his dead companion. He then raised these hands to the Heavens and prayed:

"O Lord, grant forgiveness to Abu Salamah. Elevate him among those who are near to You. Take charge of his family at all times. Forgive us and him, O Lord of the Worlds. Widen his grave and make it light for him."

Ummu Salamah remembered the prayer her husband had quoted on his deathbed from the Prophet and began repeating it, "O Lord, reward me for my plight . . ." But she could not bring herself to continue . . . "O Lord give me something better than what I lost," because she kept asking herself, "Who could be better than Abu Salamah?" But it did not take long before she completed the supplication.

### The New

### Umm-ul-Mu'mineen

Both the Muhajiroon and Ansar felt they had a duty to Ummu Salamah. When she had completed the iddah (four months and ten days after the passing of the husband), Abu Bakr proposed marriage to her, but she declined. Then Omar asked to marry her, but she also declined his proposal. The Prophet ﷺ then approached her, and she agreed: "O Messenger of Allah, I have three

characteristics. I am a woman who is extremely jealous, and I am afraid that you will see in me something that will anger you and cause Allah to punish me. I am a woman who is already advanced in age and I am a woman who has a young family."

The Prophet ﷺ replied:

"Regarding the jealousy you mentioned, I pray to Allah, the Almighty, to let it go away from you. Regarding the question of age you have mentioned, I am afflicted with the same problem as you. Regarding the dependent family you have mentioned, your family is my family."

They were married, and so it was that Allah answered the prayer of Ummu Salamah and gave her better

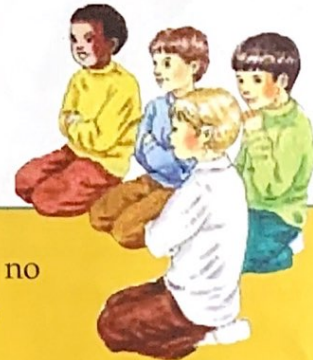
than Abu Salamah. From that day on, Hind al Makhzumiyah was no longer the mother of Salamah alone, but became the Mother of all Believers; "Ummu al-Mu'mineen."

This story is full of lessons, but one that stands out is that it shows the great sacrifices the early Muslims like 'Ummu Salamah made for Islam. Although these sacrifices were heavy and painful at the time, they would bring them great success, blessings, the pleasure of Allah, a sense of achievement and, eventually, a high level in Jannah inshaAllah.

*Source: "Companions of the Prophet", Vol. 1, By: Abdul Wahid Hamid. A few modifications applied.*



## FAITH IN ACTION



- ★ Always remain steadfast in your faith no matter what difficulties you may face.
- ★ Always trust that Allah will help you out when you face tragedies, sooner or later.
- ★ Whenever you are tested with a tragedy or difficulty say the du'aa':

إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون ، اللهم أجِرْني في مصيبتِي وأخْلِلفْ لي خيراً منها

"Surely from Allah we are and to Him we shall certainly return. Oh Allah, reward me for my plight and give me in return something better than what I lost."

## CHAPTER REVIEW

### Projects and Activities

1. Write an essay about facing tragedies. Use the story of Ummu Salamah to give your essay a human dimension.
2. Create a poster for the du'aa' to say when a calamity hits. Artistically display the du'aa' in Arabic and English.
3. 'Uthman Ibn Talhah, who helped Ummu Salamah reunite with her husband in Madinah, was not a Muslim. Research his story and figure out what happened to him afterward.



### Stretch Your Mind

1. What makes the pagans of Makkah treat Ummu Salamah in that harsh way? Relate that to what happens to Muslims in some prejudiced communities around the world.
2. If you are to choose one word as a title for the story of Ummu Salamah, what would that word be?



### Study Questions

- 1 What was the real name of Ummu Salamah? And who was her mother?
- 2 Who was Ummu Salamah's husband? Indicate his real name.
- 3 Where was the first trip of Ummu Salamah to? Why did she travel?
- 4 What lessons can one learn from the story of Ummu Salamah's hijrah to Madinah?
- 5 Describe the efforts Abu Salamah did for Islam in Madinah.
- 6 What was the du'aa' Ummu Salamah learned when her husband was about to die?
- 7 What did Ummu Salamah say to the Prophet ﷺ when he wanted to marry her? And what was his response?