

With Infallibles

The Other Prayer

Mostafa Rahmandooost^{*}

Learning about the life of the holy Prophet and Infallible Imams (p.b.u.t), regardless of familiarizing us with their high status, can also teach us very constructive lessons. In this part through recouring to literature, a piece of the life history of the holy Prophet is dedicated under the title of "Another Prayer".

^{*} Author and Researcher

^{**}Translator: Maryam Akhond Ali

It was three months that "Salimah" had not gone to the mosque. She thought about the mosque especially when she heard the sound of "Azān". It was three months now that she had become a mother. She had no one to look after her baby so she could attend the mosque for praying. Her husband was a peddler date-seller who walked through the alleys of Medina, from morning to night, in order to run his family.

He neither had time to take care of his baby, nor money to pay someone to look after it. Salimah was content with her life, but she always had a strange feeling when she heard the Azan. She was reminded of the pleasant and warm voice of the Prophet in the mosque. How she longed to go to the mosque as before, when she heard the sound of the Azan and attend the mass prayer.

Her first baby was born three months ago. It was a crying baby and did not keep quiet. Most of the time, Salimah was tired and sleepy. She knew that going to the mosque and praying behind the prophet would make her fresh and happy. But there was no one to leave her child with.

That day, like every other day, was ending when once again the sound of Azān echoed through the sky of Medina..."Allaho-Akbar"

Salimah felt deeply sad at heart. She stared at her child, listening to the Azān. The baby was asleep and breathed quietly. Salimah could not take it anymore. She got up and put on her clothes. She performed ablution and slowly took her child in her arms. She went out of the house in a hurry, to get to the mosque in time for mass prayer. She looked straight ahead of herself and not paying attention to her surrounding

strode quickly towards the mosque to be in time for the prayer. Her feet moved involuntary towards the mosque.

She became calm when she arrived at the mosque. The prayer had not started yet. She was joyful for being at the mosque in time. She slowly entered the mosque. Salimah looked at her child. The baby had woken with a sweet smile on its lips. Salimah thought, "Why did I trouble myself all this time? I could've brought my child to the mosque like now. It's a pity to pray alone at home and not attend the mass prayer. It's a blessing, even if I pray just one "Rak'a" with the prophet." Salimah had not yet stood in the rows of prayer, when she heard the Muazzin crying, "Ajjeloo be salah," meaning, hurry up to prayer. Salimah quickly stood in one of the rows. She was looking around for a suitable place to put her child, when she heard the voice of the Prophet saying, "Allaho-Akbar".

The praying started. Salimah laid her child on the straw mat, which covered the floor of the mosque. Her child was quiet. Salimah glanced at its face and wished that the baby would keep quiet until the end of the prayer, so she could perform a peaceful prayer after three months. Salimah prepared herself quickly and stood to prayer...

The pleasant voice of the Prophet was heard. Apart from his voice, nothing else could be heard. It seemed that the mosque, the birds, and the sky were all silent and still, to listen to the voice of the Prophet, praying. Salimah listened to the Prophet reciting the surah, Al-Fatihah, with all her heart. For three months, she had missed listening to the recitation of this surah in the Prophet's voice. Salimah's heart was filled with happiness and serenity.

With the hearing of "Allaho-Akbar," all prayers prostrated, "Sobhana rabi-al-Azime va behamdeh...Allaho-Akbar" And suddenly Salimah's baby started to cry.

Salimah's heart sank. In the pleasant silence of the mosque, the sound of her child seemed very loud. The baby was crying continuously. Salimah was not aware of the way she finished that Rak'a. She blamed herself, for disturbing others by bringing her baby to the mosque. She wished to finish her prayer as fast as possible, to take her child away.

"Allaho-Akbar"...all prayers stood up. So did Salimah. The baby continued to cry.

The Messenger of God recited the words of the prayer hurriedly. He performed the prostrations very quickly. The second Rak'a was done very fast. The third Rak'a was also done a lot faster than the other evenings.

Salimah's child was still crying. Salimah was so anxious that she did not realize that the Prophet had ended the prayer sooner than before. Salimah was sad at heart and ashamed that she had disturbed the peace of other prayers. She was about to take her child and go, when she confronted with the smiling face of the Prophet. The Prophet had kneeled next to the baby and he was smiling at it. The baby became quiet when it saw the smiling face of the Prophet.

The prayers were surprised of the quick prayer of that evening. They were even more surprised when they saw the Prophet getting up straight after the prayer. When the Prophet returned they all went towards him and asked the reason for what he had done.

The Prophet answered, "Didn't you all hear a baby weeping and crying?"

40. *Safinah*

Everyone understood that the Prophet had finished the prayer sooner, to quiet the child. Salimah too, heard what the Prophet said. She knew that the Prophet had finished the prayer sooner so she could care her baby. She was not embarrassed anymore. She turned to the baby and said, "You naughty child, you cried so much, that you attracted the attention of the Prophet to yourself. When you grow up, I shall tell you how much the Prophet loved the children."