

# SEERAH (BIOGRAPHY) OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

## LESSON: 106 {IN ENGLISH}



Assalamu 'alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakaatuhu



SEERAH OF MUHAMMAD

(SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam)



LESSON 106



TOPIC:



The slander against 'Aishah, Mother of the believers.



THE SLANDER



AGAINST 'AISHAH



The journey back to Madinah was long, and after a halt, late one night, the Prophet (SallAllaahu 'alaihi Wa sallam) decided to break camp. 'Aishah (radhiAllahu 'anha) who realized she had lost her necklace, had gone off to look for it and returned to find the camp had moved on without her. Although her empty howdah (riding enclosure) seemed very light, the men who saddled it ascribed it to 'Aishah's diminutive frame.



She, on the other hand, fell asleep unafraid. Surely they would discover her absence and would return for her, she thought. She lay

sleeping until she was discovered by Safwan bin Mu'attal Salami a Companion of the Prophet (SallAllaahu 'alaihi Wa sallam). Safwan, who was a heavy sleeper and a late riser, had been assigned to retrieve anything inadvertently left behind by the troops.



His job was to follow the trail left by the marching troops. When he drew near, he recognized 'Aishah, whom he had seen in the days before veiling was enjoined upon Muslim women. He exclaimed, 'To Allah we belong and to Him we return!' in greeting, and these were the only words he spoke to her. 'Aishah covered her face instantly. Silently, out of reverence for the Prophet's wife, Safwan brought his camel for her to mount.



He held the camel's reins and walked ahead, and they traveled in this manner. It was noon by the time they caught up with the rest of the people, who had encamped shortly before. The sight of 'Aishah's camel being led by Safwan gladdened the malevolent heart of Abdullah bin Ubayy. Here at last was the perfect way to pierce the heart of the Prophet (SallAllaahu 'alaihi Wa sallam) and tarnish the reputation of his favorite wife. He would begin a lie about how 'Aishah and Safwan had deliberately stayed behind together.



Insinuations and malicious lies were woven and embroidered until they began to look like the fabric of truth. Abdullah's friends and allies gleefully repeated the lies not just among themselves but to the general body of credulous Muslims, who were blinded by the sandstorm of lies swirling around them. 'Aishah, on the other hand, fell ill after her return to Madinah and remained confined to bed for a month.



Although Madinah was buzzing with the scurrilous and false rumors of her clandestine meeting with Safwan, she was unaware of what was being said. The only hurt she felt was through an awareness that her husband was uncharacteristically cold and distant with her. Where was the tenderness he reserved for her? Why did he leave immediately after

inquiring about her health without even sitting by her side? Moreover, he had nothing to say to her after exchanging greetings.



The Prophet (SallAllaahu 'alaihi Wa sallam) himself was considerably hurt that the community was giving credence to what could only be a lie. His wives had to be beyond reproach, but since 'Aishah had unwittingly become a target of slander, he himself had to act to control the damage done to his household and the community at large. His anguish grew with the fact that he had not had a single revelation during this period. He consulted his Companions about how he should deal with the situation affecting his household and all of Madinah. Ali subtly advocated separation, but Usama and the others counseled otherwise.



Following this consultation, the Prophet (SallAllaahu 'alaihi Wa sallam) ascended the pulpit and declared that it was up to the people to seek redress from the one whose evil had touched even their Prophet's household. His words were taken to heart by the chieftain of the Aus tribe, who pronounced the death sentence on Abdullah bin Ubayy for beginning the scandal. Since Abdullah bin Ubayy belonged to the Khazraj tribe, their chieftain took the sentence as an affront to the entire tribe.



More disunity and ill will were bred until the Prophet (SallAllaahu 'alaihi Wa sallam) intervened to heal the breach. By then 'Aishah herself had recovered from her illness, and one night she went to relieve herself accompanied by Umm Mistah. In the darkness, Umm Mistah tripped over her sheet and then proceeded to curse her son. 'Aishah rebuked her for her imprecation, but the lady told 'Aishah she was justified in cursing him. After all, wasn't he also parroting the same lies about 'Aishah?



"What lies," asked 'Aishah? The whole story came rushing out, and 'Aishah listened silently. When she returned it was to ask the Prophet's (SallAllaahu 'alaihi Wa sallam) permission to go to her parents' house. Once she got there her parents sorrowfully confirmed that all of Madinah was whispering about 'Aishah and Safwan. The tears would not stop. Two



nights and a day went by, and 'Aishah cried while her parents watched and wept too.

To Be Continued...



