

Sacrifices of Sahabbiyats

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Abstract:

This article highlights the sacrificial lives of female companions of Prophet (SAW), How they lived their lives under persecutions and life threats in the early stages of Islam, yet they proved their intellect, bravery, leadership and many more notable qualities. It is an attempt to mention some of the great sacrifices of them for the sake of Allah (SWT) and his beloved Messenger (SAW). As stated in classical reflection:

*“These Exemplary Sacrifices will remain alive in the annals of Islam....
Examples to follow until day of qiyamah” .*

Keywords:

Sacrifices-Sahabiyyat-faith-leadership-martyr-Prophet Muhammed (pbuh)-
Unwavering faith- Persecutions- Torture- Muslim Ummah.

Introduction:

The Sahabiyyāt: The female Companions of Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ, stand as luminous pillars in Islamic history. These extraordinary women were more than witnesses to revelation; they were warriors, scholars, and trailblazers whose sacrifices shaped the early Muslim community. Despite a historical focus that often emphasized their male counterparts, the Sahabiyyāt played critical roles across religious, intellectual, social, and military spheres: teaching the budding ummah, preserving and transmitting Hadith, supporting the Prophet ﷺ in times of trial. Their stories serve as a tales of courage, wisdom, and selflessness and offer us profound lessons that resonate to this day. From the first martyrdom of Sumayyah (RA) to the battlefield courage of Nusaybah (RA), their unwavering faith, resilience, and leadership under adversity set enduring examples of devotion and sacrifice.

This article sheds a light on the sacrifices of these remarkable women, who they were, what they endured, and the legacy they left behind, for Muslim ummah.

Khadijah bint Khuwaylid (RA) - Pillar of Faith and Sacrifice:

The sacrifices of Khadijah bint Khuwaylid (رضي الله عنها), the beloved first wife of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, focusing on her unwavering support, generosity, and enduring legacy. Khadijah (RA) was the very first person to accept Islam after the Prophet ﷺ received revelation, offering heartfelt comfort and surety when he returned from Mount Hira trembling and fearful. She affirmed his prophethood and encouraged him to be steadfast, saying,

“Allah would never humiliate you... Stay firm... I testify that you are the awaited Prophet.”¹

A successful merchant, Khadijah (RA) invested her entire wealth in the early Muslim Ummah. During the Quraysh boycott of Banu Hashim, she used her wealth to:

- Provide basic needs like food, water and shelter to the oppressed Muslims in the valley of Abu Talib.
- Ransom enslaved believers, feed orphans, widows, and the poor.
- Host gatherings to Call people to Islam

¹ https://www.alsiraj.net/English/albayt/html/page02.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com

The Prophet ﷺ said,

“No wealth was profitable for me the way the wealth of Khadijah was.”

Despite her prior luxury, Khadijah willingly endured years of Misery:

- Lived through severe economic hardship during the social and trade boycott.
- Accompanied the Prophet ﷺ in exile-like conditions, lacking basic comforts, yet remaining steadfast and cheerful
- Spent all her assets supporting Islam—so much so that at her death she left nothing, not even enough to buy a shroud; **the Prophet ﷺ used his own cloak to wrap her for burial.**

Her death in 619 CE marked the beginning of the “Year of Sorrow” (Ām-ul-Ḥuzn). Khadijah (RA)’s emotional strength and unwavering belief sustained the Prophet ﷺ through the most tiring phases of his mission. Her calm presence and constant support helped him endure scorn, hostility, and isolation. Upon her death, the Prophet ﷺ expressed immense grief—saying even years later, *“Was there any other like her?” and declaring, “By Allah, Allah has not given me anyone as beneficent as she”*

Khadijah (RA) is remembered as one of the four greatest women in Islam—as praised by the Prophet ﷺ alongside Maryam, Fatimah, and Asiyah. Her life exemplifies steadfast faith, selfless service, and integrity, showing how spiritual commitment can coexist with worldly success and purposeful leadership. Khadijah (RA) did not just support Islam with words—she stood by the Prophet ﷺ with her faith, her fortune, and her very being. Her sacrifices laid the foundation for the early Muslim community to stand firm and grow

SUMAYYAH (RA), THE FIRST MARTYR OF ISLAM:

Sumayyah (RA) was an Abyssinian slave lived in Mecca, owned by Abu Hudhayfa al-Makhzumi. She later married Yasir ibn Amir (RA) and bore a son, Ammar (RA). As one of the first seven individuals to openly embrace Islam, alongside figures like Bilal and Khabbab. Sumayyah (RA)'s conversion marked her as a courageous pioneer of the new faith. Sumayyah, her husband, and son endured severe torture by the Qurayshites, forced to stand in scorching desert heat wearing mail-coats, whipped, buried in sand, and publicly humiliated. Even Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) could not intervene, but offered consolation, saying:

“Be patient, O family of Yasir! Your promised abode is Paradise.”¹

Abu Jahl, got furious by Sumayyah (RA)'s steadfast faith, reportedly after she spat at him—stabbed her with a spear, piercing her midsection or private parts, causing her martyrdom. She thus became the first person, and female, to be martyred in Islam. Shortly after, Yasir (RA) also died from the torture, becoming the second martyr.

Sumayyah (RA)'s fearless defiance transformed her into a symbol of courage and conviction, a woman from a vulnerable background who upheld her faith unto death. After Abu Jahl's demise at Badr, the Prophet ﷺ comforted her son Ammar, affirming Divine justice:

“Allah has killed your mother's killer”

The Prophet ﷺ honoured her memory by addressing Ammar as ibn Sumayyah (“son of Sumayyah”), thereby elevating her status. Sumayyah (RA) didn't just make history but she hammered out a timeless legacy. Her life and sacrifice exemplify profound lessons in patience, courage, and absolute trust in Allah. For today's Muslim Generation she remains as a profound example: faith is never determined by status or strength, but by the steadiness of one's heart.

Asma bint Abi Bakr (RA): Dhat al-Nitaqayn — her sacrificial Legacy

Asma (RA) embraced Islam very early, she was the 17th or 18th person to accept the faith in Mecca. From her adolescence, she courageously lived as a believer amid intense demur. During the Prophet ﷺ's secret migration, Asma (RA) carried provisions under great risk. She prepared food and water for Prophet ﷺ and her father Abu Bakr during their three-night stay

https://uswatulmuslimah.co.za/the-first-martyr-in-islam/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

in cave thawr. There was no rope available, so she tore her waist cloth into two pieces, one to secure the food bag and the other for the water, an innovative act leading the Prophet ﷺ to pray:

“May Allah replace your belt with two belts in Paradise”¹

Thereafter, she earned the honorific title **Dhat al-Nitaqayn (the One with Two Belts)**.

After the companions escaped, Abu Jahl attacked Asma demanding to reveal the Prophet’s hiding location. Despite being heavily pregnant and suffering a forceful slap that dislodged her earring, she refused to betray them and held her silence with great patience. She migrated while heavily pregnant, without hesitation. After reaching Quba she gave birth to her son ‘Abdullah ibn az-Zubayr (RA). Her newborn son was celebrated as the first child born to the Muhājirīn in Madīnah.

She was Married to al-Zubayr ibn al-Awwām, she helped sustain their household despite poverty, she baked bread, feeding the horse, fetching water, and grinding fodder for cattle, all with Her generosity was distinctive—unlike others who stored first and gave later, Asmā’ spent everything she had immediately on those in need.

Asmā’ bint Abī Bakr (RA), Dhat al-Niṭāqayn, embodied unwavering faith and remarkable sacrifice—resourceful, enduring, compassionate, and bold. Her life paints a timeless portrait: faith demands courage, service without limit, and resilience amid trials.

Umm Amarah (A) Nusaybah Bint Ka’b (RA): The Embodiment of sacrifice and The Shield of the Prophet ﷺ

Umm Amarah's full name was Nusaybah bint Ka’b al-Maziniyyah al-Ansariyyah. In the advent of Islam, when faith often came at the cost of life, wealth, or family, a few souls stood out not merely for their piety, but for their unwavering courage and sacrifices. Among them was Nusaybah (RA) , a woman who did not just support the cause of Islam from behind the scenes, but who fought on the battlefield, shed blood for the Prophet ﷺ, and endured great loss with firm faith. Her life is a glowing testimony to what it truly means to sacrifice for Allah and His Messenger. She belonged to the tribe of Banu Najjar in Medina. Before the rise of Islam in the city, she was known for her wisdom and leadership within her community. She embraced Islam

¹https://islamlegacy.com/asmaa-bint-ibi-bakr/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

in its early days and was one of the few women present during the Pledge of Aqabah, where the people of Medina swore allegiance to the Prophet ﷺ and committed to protecting him. Her journey of sacrifice did not begin on the battlefield rather it began with a conscious decision to devote herself, her family, and her future to the mission of Islam, no matter what the cost was. The most iconic episode in the life of Umm Amarah came during the Battle of Uhud. Initially, she joined the battlefield not as a fighter but to serve water to the wounded and support the Muslim army. But when the battle turned and the Muslims were caught off guard by a surprise attack, the tide changed dramatically. The Prophet ﷺ was left vulnerable, surrounded by only a handful of defenders. It was in that moment that Umm Amarah (RA) proved her valor. Without hesitation, she picked up a sword and a shield and ran to defend the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. Her husband and two sons joined her to defend the Prophet ﷺ, and together they formed a human shield around the Prophet ﷺ.

The Prophet ﷺ later said of her:

“Whenever I turned to my right or left on the Day of Uhud, I saw her fighting to protect me.”
(Ibn Hajar, *al-Isabah*)

She sustained multiple deep wounds, some reports say it was up to thirteen, while shielding him from enemy attacks. One of her sons was severely injured, and while bandaging him under fire, she urged him to return to the battlefield. When the Prophet pointed out the man who had wounded her son, she attacked him with such force that he fell.

The Prophet ﷺ was moved by her bravery and prayed,
“O Allah, make them my companions in Paradise.”

She replied: “I ask nothing else, O Messenger of Allah.”

Her sacrifices did not end at Uhud. Years later, during the Battle of Yammah against the false prophet Musaylamah, Umm Amarah, she was now over 60 years old. Once again, she picked up her arms. In the intense of battle, she was severely injured and lost one of her arms. Her son Habib ibn Zayd (RA) was captured and martyred by Musaylamah in a brutal manner, piece by piece, for refusing to renounce Islam or affirm Musaylamah's false prophethood.

Despite this heartbreak, Umm 'Amārah remained steadfast. She said, "For this I have prepared myself. I counted my son as a martyr in the path of Allah."

Umm Amarah (RA) stands out in Islamic history not just as a courageous woman, but as a symbol of what complete dedication to a cause looks like. She lived her life with one goal ,to support the truth, no matter the personal cost. She did not merely speak of loyalty; she demonstrated it with her sword, her body, and her heart. She was at the center of the battlefield, a literal shield of the Prophet ﷺ, and a witness to some of the most decisive moments in Islamic history. In a time when many chose comfort over conviction, Umm Amarah (RA) chose sacrifice. She represents an undying spirit of loyalty, courage, and submission to Allah's will. Her name continues to inspire generations of Muslim women and men alike : to live with honor, fight for justice, and stand firm in the face of adversity. As the Prophet ﷺ's dua for her echoes through time

"O Allah, make them my companions in Paradise"¹

Conclusion:

The companions of Prophet ﷺ stand as shining embodiments of Sacrifice, resilience, faith and service in the developing stages of Islam. Together, these remarkable women defied convention, endured persecutions and moulded the budding Islamic community by their exemplified art of leadership, scholarship and selfless service etc. They Sacrificed their loved ones and lives for the betterment of Muslim ummah. The lives of sahabiyyat reflects and reminds us that true sacrifice transcends gender. They show that women can be a scholar, leaders, martyrs in the pursuit of truth and justice.

May Allah (swt) be pleased with all the sahabas and sahabiyyat and elevate their ranks among the pious and enable us to carry forward their legacy in our own lives.

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