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An investigation of the life style of "Lady Khadijah"(pbuh)

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Abstract

The subject of this essay is an investigation of the life style of the Lady Khadijah; the wife of the great prophet of Islam, Muhammad (pbuh). The Islamic life style has a great role in the formation & consolidation of the beliefs, values, and social norms in the society. To actualize the above mentioned components in the society, it's very beneficial to introduce real samples and life styles which are exactly based on the Islamic rules and criterias. In this writing, we have investigated some of the most important dimenstions of the life of Lady Khadijah as one of the most complete examples of the Islamic life styles. Here, we have analyzed the three main dimenstions of the life style of Lady Khadijah under the titles of her beliefs, ethics, and practical life.

Key words: life style, Islamic life style, Lady Khadijah.
Introduction

Nowadays a variety of life styles are presented to the society through different cultures, beliefs, and point of views. Sorrily, none of them can guide the people to a beneficial life that guarantees their happiness. So, introducing examples of ideal life styles based on the human and Islamic values seems to be necessary especially for the youth. Since Lady Khadijah was an examplary woman in Islam who had adjusted all her life with the Islamic rules and criterias, we are going to discuss different aspects of her life in this writing. Her style of life is discussed in the three fields of beliefs, ethics, and activities. We hope that it can help the followers getting a happy and fruitful life in this world and the world hereafter.

Concepts:

What is "style"? "Style" is "a way of doing something, especially one that is typical of a person, group of people, place, or period." So the life style is the way that a person acts in his daily life that shows his character and personality.

The "life style" from the westerns' point of view is somehow different from the Islamic one. According to some theories by the westerns, life style is associated with the originality of individualism. In the style of western modernity, originality is with the individual, his interests and tastes. As one of the western psychologists says that in the definition of the life style, we are dealing with the words with a wide range of meanings including the individual's tastes and interests in relation to hairstyles and clothings, entertainments, literature, art, and other subjects like these. So, the word style associates fashion and the mode of a person.

On the other hand, "Islamic life style" is a collection of issues based on the Islamic doctrines. Islam has a transcendent view of the man and the existance. It considers man as a free and responsible creature who decides his own destiny, and the goal of an Islamic life style is achieving a good destiny and a pure life.

"Lady Khadijah" who was a woman from a noble family of the famous tribe of Quraish, had adjusted all her life with the values confirmed with the Islamic criterias. The holy prophet introduced her as one of the most complete women.

1. Cambridge Dictionary
of the world, and the best woman of her own time. So her life can be a suitable pattern to be followed by all who are seeking a pure life.

In this writing, we have investigated the pattern of the life of Lady Khadijah in three categories: beliefs, ethics, and practical life.

A. Her beliefs
Believing in the unity of God, prophethood of Muhammad (pbuh) as the messenger of God, and the resurrection are three major beliefs in Islam that Lady Khadijah was strongly committed to them.

A. 1. Believing in The One God
She was a monotheist even before she accepted Islam because she believed in the religion of Ibrahim that was based on monotheism. Ahmad-ibn-Wazeh Ya’ghubi, one of the Islamic narrators, writes:

"وكان أول من أسلم خديجة بنت خويلد(س) من النساء وعلى بن أبي طالب(ع) من الرجال"

(Khadijah was the first among the women who accepted Islam, and among the men Ali was the first.) Another narrator called Ibn-e-Abdolberr writes:

"اتفقوا على أن خديجة(س) أول من أسلم بإسم الله ورسوله وصدقه فيما جاء به ثم على(ع) بعدها".

(Lady Kadijah was the first who believed in God and the prophet and confirmed what he had brought and then Ali did.) One of the scholars of Shi’a, Majlesi using a narration from Imam Musa Ibn Ja’far and Imam Sadegh says:"The prophet of God invited both Khadijah and Ali to Islam and said:"Gabriel says there are some conditions and covenants that you should accept if you want to become muslims." They accepted and became muslims. Lady Khadijah said:"I believe and testify, I am submitted and pleasant with what you said." Ali said:"Me too believe in it.""

A. 2. Believing in the prophethood of the prophet of Islam.
She was the first lady who swore the conscious allegiance to the prophet to defend the truth. She bravely promised to defend the right of living, freedom, equality, and other natural rights for the prophet. She remained loyal and made a lot of sacrifices for him. Ghortoby says:"Khadijah was the first who believed in God and the prophet and accepted the program that he had
brought for the guidance of the mankind, with all her existance. She supported the prophet in delivering God's message and in creating the desired transformation in the society. "The importance of acknowledgement of the prophet by Khadijah in the difficult conditions of Mecca was so great that the holy prophet said: "where can one find a lady like Khadijah? She testified to my honesty while the others considered me a liar. She supported me in the way of God with all her wealth."

A great privilege that Lady Khadijah had, was her companionship with Ali in helping and defending the holy prophet of Islam. From the very beginning years of the mission of the holy prophet, she had known Ali and had been the evidence of the close relationship between the holy prophet and Ali. She had understood that the love of Ali was along the love of the prophet, and the love of the prophet was along the love of God. It is narrated in the historical documents that after the passing of some stages of the holy prophet's mission, some day he said to Khadijah while pointing at Ali:

"يا خديجة! هذا علی ومولی المؤمنین و آمامهم بعدی" (O Khadijah! This is Ali who is your Imam and Imam of all the believers after me.) She accepted and confirmed.


One of the most fundamental beliefs in Islam is believing in the life after death. Belief in the One God and the day of resurrection is rooted in the human nature, it's been one of the propaganda programs of the prophets. It had also had a special place in the propaganda program of the last prophet. The best witness for this claim is more than 1640 verses equal to almost 25% of verses in the holy Qur'an that explain and describe the day of resurrection and the happenings after death. Lady Khadijah was ahead of all the others in believing in resurrection. It's stated in the book of "Behar". "After accepting Islam, Khadijah said:

"امنتُ و صدقتُ و رضیتُ و سلمتُ" 

Meaning I believe in what God has sent, and confirm his religion, and pleasant with this new path, and obey God's order.

B. Her Ethics
A study in the history of the life of Lady Kadijah shows that virtues and spiritual perfection had a great role in her life style. Lady Khadijah, as the first and the most beloved wife of the holy prophet, the mother of Zahra (pbuh), one of the four outstanding women of the world, as a top female model has had a great effect in spreading the human and Islamic characteristics among her followers. One of the most important characteristics of Lady Khadijah was her chastity so that she was called:

"طاهره" which means the "purified". This title was given to her before Islam. "Zarghani", one of the Sunni scholars says:

"وکانت تدعی فی الجاهلیه بالطاهره لشده عفافها"

(She was called "taherah" before Islam, because of her great chastity). Nobility, self -purification, truthfulness, integrity, honesty, sincerity, piety, modesty, dignity, humility and humbleness, bravery and courage, knowledge, wisdom, loyalty, sacrifice, and donation are all the characteristics of the Great Lady that the history of Islam testifies. Dr. Ali Ibrahim Hasan, a muslim scholar says:

Whenever we want to show an example of a wife with sincerity and chastity, and a woman with dignity and wisdom, we can not find better than Khadijah. This wise lady lived in both period, pre-Islam (Jaheliat) and Islam, and enjoyed a privileged position in both periods.

3. Performing her practical duties

Beside her beliefs and moralities, the most important is the behavioral pattern of her life that was exactly adjusted with the Islamic values which all are in accord with human nature.

All her activities including her religious duties and worshipping, her relationship with her family and the others, her economical, political and social activities can be good samples for the followers:

3.1. Her prayers and worshipping God
When the holy prophet got the mission of inviting the people to Islam, this verse was sent to him:

وامر اهلک بالصلوه و ا صطبر عليها لا نسئلک رزقا نحن نرزقک و العاقبه للتقوی.1

(And order your family to prayers and be patient on it. We don't ask for any sustenance from you but we give you the sustenance, and the good ending is for the pious.)

Because of this order from God, the holy prophet called Ali and Khadijah and told them: "Gabriel is with me and tells you that Islam has some conditions and you have some duties, like ablution,..., O Khadijah did you hear the conditions?", and Khadijah confirmed and accepted all the conditions.

The Issue of the prayers of Khadijah and being the first lady who did the prayers is not denyable and it's mentioned by the narrators of Shi'a and Sunni. Ibn Abd-Al-Berr says:

صلی رسول الله(ص) یوم الاثنین و صلت خدیجه (س) آخر یوم الاثنین.2

(The prophet said his (first) prayers on Monday and Khadijah also said her prayers at the ending hours of the same day.)

She had also supplications with God and beside reciting daily prayers at days and nights, she kept some prayers with herself that gave her calmness and peace:

بِسمِ اللّهِ الَّرّحمنِ الَّرحیم، یا حی یا قیوم، برحمتک استغیث فاغثنی، و لا تکلنی الی نَفسِی طَرفَهِ عَینِ آباد، و اصلح لی شانی گَلَّه.3

(In the name of God, the beneficent, the merciful. O alive, O Qayyum, with your mercy I seek help, so help me, and do not leave me to myself for the blink of an eye, ever.)

It is also stated that she asked the prophet to teach her a prayers to recite at the "tawaf" of Ka'ba and he told her to say:"
(O God, forgive my sins, my faults, willful, extravagant behavior in my affairs.)

Her relationship with her family and the others

She was also a good sample in her behavior and relationship with her husband, children, and other people. Before she marries the prophet, she had known some of the characteristics of the holy prophet and that was why she loved him and accepted to marry him. At the beginning of their marriage, she had told him:

"أني قدرت غبت فيك لقربتك مني وشرفك في قومك وامانتك عندهم وحسن خلقك وصدق حديثك..."

According to this narration, she knew some of the characteristics of the holy prophet before her marriage. Besides, her criterias for accepting to marry him were first because he was from her relative’s family, meaning that they were in the same rank. Secondly, because he was a respected man in his family. Thirdly, because he was known and famous in his family for his being trustworthy, his truthfulness, and good temper.

Her behavior with her husband after their marriage was exemplary, so that with all her wealth, beauty, glory, and perfection, she behaved like a maid and a servant for her husband. She tried her best to act according to her husband's consent. She was aware of the interest of the holy prophet in the prayers and supplication to God, so she arranged everything so that no obstacle prevented him from worshipping. It is narrated in "Sehah Setteh" by sunni narrators that in the month of Ramadzan, at the beginning of his prophecy, the holy prophet was in the cave of Hara, and Khadijah and Ali and a servant were at his presence.

In all the situations, her assistance and consultation was efficient for the holy prophet. Sebt-Ibn-Jozy narrates that the prophet of God loved Khadijah and consulted with her in all the affairs.¹

She was always a sincere mate and a compassionate partner for the holy prophet. God solved a lot of the problems that made him sad through Khadijah. She relieved his grief and calmed him during all their common life.

¹. سیلاوری، ۱۴۲۱، ص۳۳.
². محلاتی، ۱۴۰۲، ج۱، ص۲۷۹.
³. مجلسی، ۱۴۰۳، ج۱۵، ص۳۲۳.
⁴. ابن الجوزی الحنفی، ۱۴۲۶، ص۳۱.
⁵. بن الجوزی الحنفی، ۱۴۲۶، ص۳۱.
⁶. بن الجوزی الحنفی، ۱۴۲۶، ص۳۱.
Omar Abu Nasr, the great Lebanese scholar, states that Khadijah always struggled for the prophet's comfort. She tolerated a lot of difficulties to make their life good and sweet. She always appreciated and admired his kind feelings toward her, and with all her existance, she felt that her husband was different from the others. She considered her husband to be the wisest, most powerful, purest and the most spiritual man. She knew that he was distinguished and privileged, and worthy of respect and reverence. On the other hand, the holy prophet had a well-deserved and indescribable respect for her. This respect and gratitude was not just because she was his smart, pure-character, and modern-thinking mate, but also because he considered her to be the most dignified among all the girls and women of her time. As he declared:

"أربعة نسوة نساء أثقلهنّ على أهلها: مریم بنت عمران، وآسیاء بنت موحمده، وخجیجه بنت خویلاء، وفاطمه."

Four women are the chief of all the women of their time: Mary, the daughter of Emran; Asiah, the daughter of Mozahem; Khadijah, the daughter of Khowailed, and Fatimah (the daughter of the holy prophet).

The role of the Lady Khadijah as a mother was effective and admirable. Beside getting the title of "Omm-Al-Mo'menin" by the holy Qur'an, and "the best mother of the mothers of the believers" by the holy prophet, as a competent and faithful mother, she trained a daughter like Zahra (pbuh), A daughter that was a perfect example and the best sample, not only for the women but for all people of the world. She trained a daughter that became the best wife and helpmate for Ali and leaders of Islam after the prophet and his successor "Ali" came from her generation.

"Her social and economical activities"

Lady Khadijah was also successful in the field of trading and social activities. In trading, she considered the benefit of all sides and didn't think of just her own profit. That was why she had attracted the trust of the traders not only inside her own region but also outside the Mecca. As her trading caravan was received by the bazaars of Egypt, Yemen, Syria, and Eutopia. She had got her wealth through the right and legitimate transactions, while it was customary that a lot of people obtained their wealth through usury or other illegal ways. She also spent her wealth to promote the society and for the progress of Islam. Her spiritual and material support for the prophet played an important role in the establishment and progress of Islam. Her blessed and fruitful
Wealth solved a lot of problems that the holy prophet faced. About the effect of her wealth, the holy prophet said:

"ما نفعني مال قط ما نفعني مال خدیجه".

(No wealth had profit for me as Khadijah’s wealth benefited me.) Her devotion and all-out effort comforted the prophet a lot, and had a lot of profits for the people.

**Conclusion**

Nowadays many different patterns of life styles are presented to the society through mass media or cyberspace by different groups, cultures, and personalities. But the truth is that few of them can help the people to find their way to a pure, beneficial, and fruitful life.

Therefore, introducing a real example of a life style that covers all the material and spiritual needs of the people especially the youth is very essential. Among the muslims’ personalities especially women, Lady Khadijah, the grand and dignified wife of the holy prophet of Islam is the one whose lifestyle can be a useful and practical pattern for all people, because she had adjusted all her beliefs, ethics, behavior, and practices with the pure Islamic rules.

At the end, we hope this writing can be beneficial to the followers and all the people who seek a pure, healthy, and happy life in this world and the world hereafter.

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