

# Sayyidatina Shifa (Radiyahallahu Anha)

Written and illustrated by  
**Ummu Abdullah**



Dandenong Madrasah online publication  
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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Final check: Sister Umm Sumayya

1st Edition- 2024

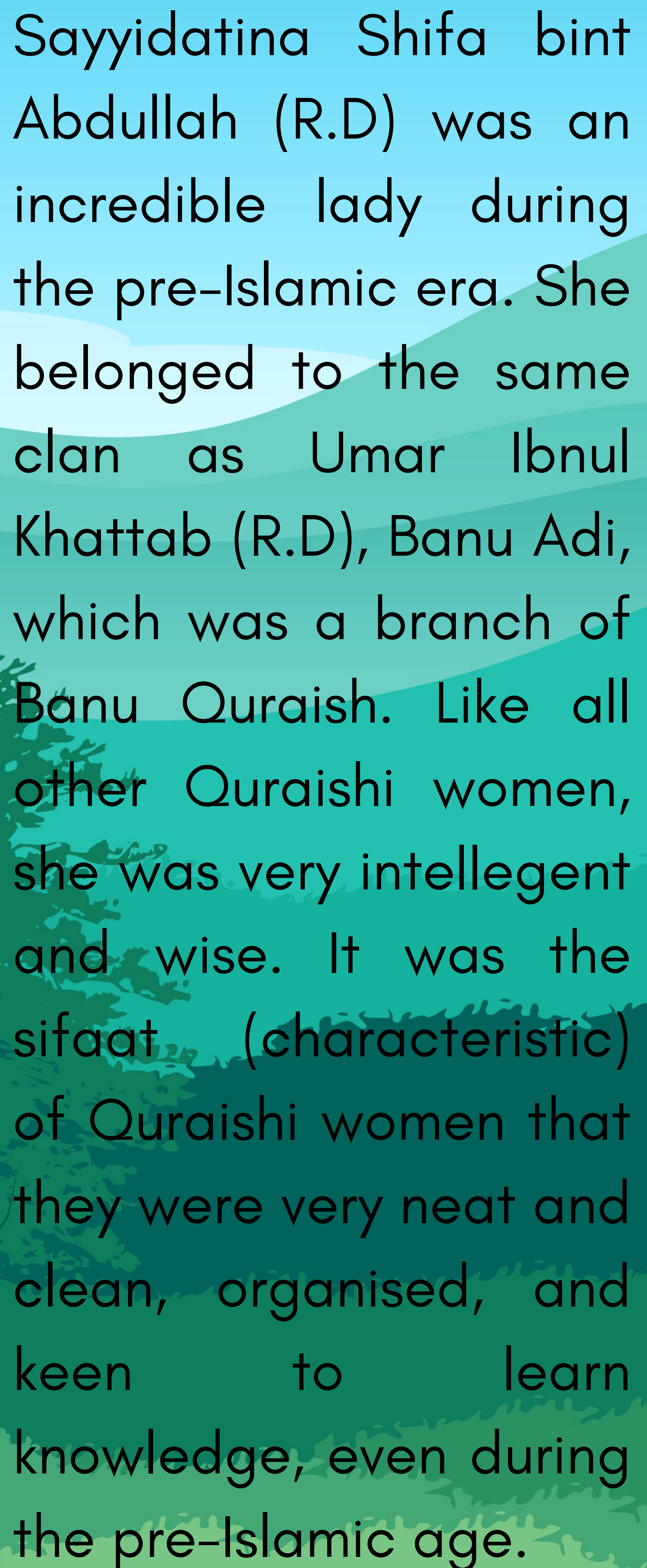
**Dandenong Madrasah Online Publication**

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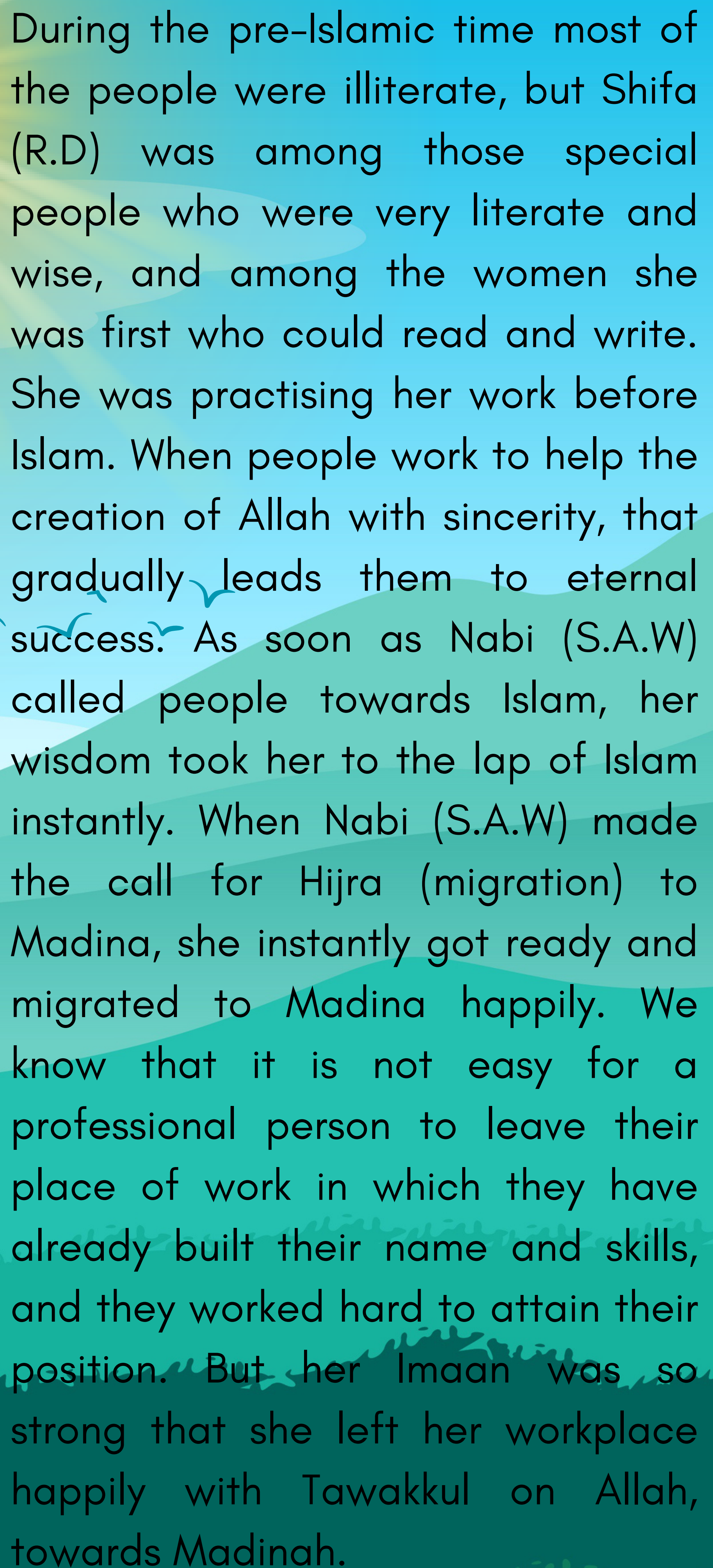


Sayyidatina Shifa bint Abdullah (R.D) was an incredible lady during the pre-Islamic era. She belonged to the same clan as Umar Ibnul Khattab (R.D), Banu Adi, which was a branch of Banu Quraish. Like all other Quraishi women, she was very intellegent and wise. It was the sifaat (characteristic) of Quraishi women that they were very neat and clean, organised, and keen to learn knowledge, even during the pre-Islamic age.



Shifa (R.D) was no different. Although her real name was Layla she was known as Shifa (healing) because of her work and effort in the medical field. During the pre-Islamic age she used to work with folk medicine (herbal medicine) and treat people suffering from ant bites. The ants of the desert land are not something simple like the ants we know, sometimes the ants are very large and venomous. In modern times people may be hospitalised for these ant bites. Sayyidatina Shifa (R.D) was the healer of ant bites, hence she has retained her name in modern times.





During the pre-Islamic time most of the people were illiterate, but Shifa (R.D) was among those special people who were very literate and wise, and among the women she was first who could read and write. She was practising her work before Islam. When people work to help the creation of Allah with sincerity, that gradually leads them to eternal success. As soon as Nabi (S.A.W) called people towards Islam, her wisdom took her to the lap of Islam instantly. When Nabi (S.A.W) made the call for Hijra (migration) to Madina, she instantly got ready and migrated to Madina happily. We know that it is not easy for a professional person to leave their place of work in which they have already built their name and skills, and they worked hard to attain their position. But her Imaan was so strong that she left her workplace happily with Tawakkul on Allah, towards Madinah.



When somebody leaves something for Allah, Allah gives them something better at a later time. Shifa (R.D) was an excellent writer, so Sayyidatina Hafsa (R.D) was learning reading and writing from her. One day Shifa (R.D) came to Nabi (S.A.W) and said "Ya Rasulallah (S.A.W) I used to heal people (i.e. work in the medical field) during the pre-Islamic age" and she showed her work to Nabi (S.A.W). He was pleased to see that and gave her permission to practice her profession again in Madinah. He also told her to teach this work to Hafsa (R.D). And that was how she returned to her profession again in Madinah. Allah made her a teacher and lady doctor in the first state of Islam, Al-Madinatul Munawwarah. We all know how readily the Sahaba (R.D) accepted orders from Nabi (S.A.W).

She left her workplace for Islam, and here in Madinah when she started again under the order of Nabi (S.A.W), she was understandably accepted by the people. SubhanAllah that's how Allah SWT honours the one who leaves the Dunya for Him and He gives the Dunya back underneath their feet.



She kept working for the people of Madina even after the demise of Nabi (S.A.W) and during the time of Abu Bakr (R.D), not only in the medical field but also as a Raqee (a person who does Ruqya). She also taught people this amazing, deep knowledge. After the sad demise of Nabi (S.A.W) she quoted many Ahadith as well. Her Tawakkul on Allah took her such a height that Allah SWT decided to honour her more. When the Khilafah of Ameerul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Umar (R.D) came, she was the first woman who was put in charge as an official worker.





Ameerul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Umar (R.D) put her in charge of market management. This is not simple work. Marketing management means the control and operations of various marketing activities as well as the people involved in those activities, setting goals, developing marketing strategies, and so on. Umar (R.D) always gave preference to Shifa (R.D)'s opinion.

All of this honour was given by Allah SWT because of her sacrifices in the initial age of Islam, and then later her effort for the Muslim Ummah.



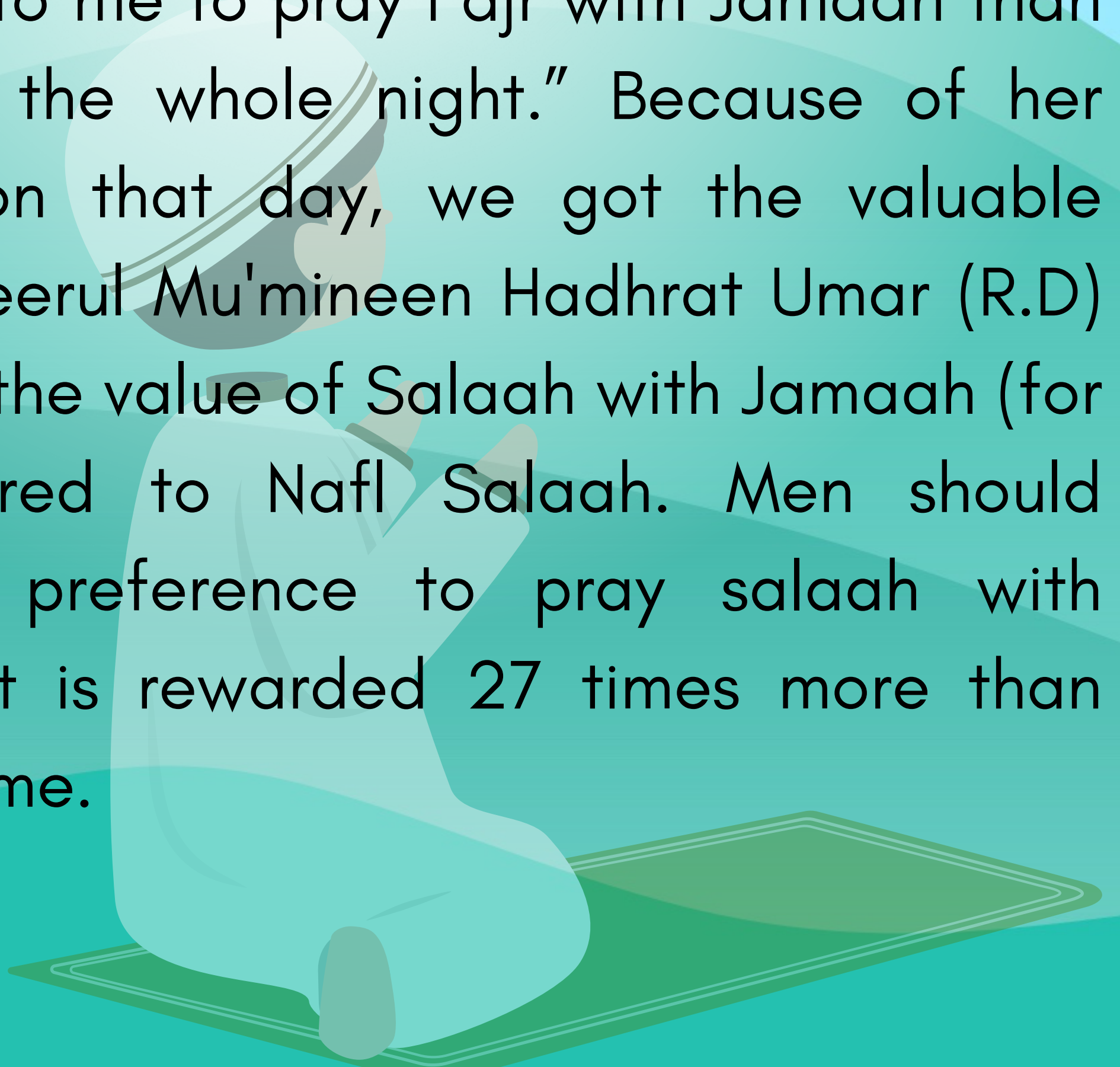


Nabi (S.A.W) once gave her a house to live in, so she had kept a specific place and bedding at home for Nabi (S.A.W) so that if he walks that way and he needs rest he may take rest there. Nabi (S.A.W) would visit the house and would take his afternoon nap there. She had such great respect for Nabi (S.A.W) that she kept that bed until her death and left that bed as a legacy for her children. People leave “valuable” things of the Dunya as their legacy for their children, but look how much she valued the bed where our beloved Nabi (S.A.W) used to sleep and she gave it to her children Subhanallah! Her children also coloured with the colour of their mother and protected that bed with great respect until it was taken away from them.



Among all her great works she was a great mother as well, and she made her children people of Amaal. The name of one of her children was Sulaiman, and he used to pray Salaah a lot. One night he was praying Salaah for the whole night such that he fell asleep and he missed Fajr Salaah with Jamaat (Congregation). Ameerul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Umar (R.D) went to her house after Fajr Salaah and asked why Sulaiman was not present in the congregational prayer. The mother was truthful and revealed that he was praying all night and missed the congregation.

Ameerul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Umar (R.D) replied "It is more dear to me to pray Fajr with Jamaah than to pray Nafl the whole night." Because of her truthfulness on that day, we got the valuable words of Ameerul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Umar (R.D) in regards to the value of Salaah with Jamaah (for men) compared to Nafl Salaah. Men should always give preference to pray salaah with Jamaah, as it is rewarded 27 times more than praying at home.





My dear little hearts, from the lifelong journey of Shifa (R.D) we learn to utilise our life for good causes such as to help the creation of Allah, and to be strong in our Imaan and Amaal. Allah SWT gave some special qualities to every single person. Whatever quality we have let's utilise it for the improvement and betterment of Islam and make our Islam strong InshaAllah. Our sincere effort will be valued by Allah with great honour on the Day of Judgment and in Jannah inshaAllah.





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