



When the Battle of the Trench broke out, the Banu Quraizah, a clan of Jews near Madeenah Munawwarah, broke their peace treaty with the Muslims. At this crucial juncture, they decided to oppose the Muslims and side with their enemy, the Quraish. After the Quraish returned to Makkah Mukarramah without victory, Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) was commanded by Allah Ta‘ala to march on the Banu Quraizah due to their betrayal and treachery.

It was during this expedition against the Banu Quraizah that a Jewess named Bunaanah flung a rock from a hilltop, striking Sayyiduna Khallaad bin Suwaid (radhiyallahu ‘anhu) and causing his martyrdom.

On their return to Madeenah Munawwarah, the mother of this Sahaabi, Sayyidah Ummu Khallaad (radhiyallahu ‘anha), came to Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) to enquire regarding her son’s reward and status in the Hereafter. However, despite the tragedy of just losing her beloved son, she was not unmindful of her modesty and thus ensured that she kept her niqaab on, concealing her face.

Noticing her commitment to niqaab, even in these moments, a Sahaabi exclaimed, “You have come to enquire about your son (who was martyred) yet you have still covered your face (in this tragic moment)?” She replied, “I may have lost my son, but I have not lost my hayaa (modesty).”

(Sunan Abi Dawood #2488, Bazlul Majhood vol. 4, pg. 197 and Tabaqaat Ibni Sa’d vol. 3, pg. 530)

Lesson:

The words of Sayyidah Ummu Khallaad (radhiyallahu ‘anha) are indeed worthy of being engraved into the heart of every Muslim. The essence of her response was that no matter

where she was, or what happened to her, she would not, under any condition, lose her hayaa (modesty), as her hayaa was an inseparable part of her identity.

