## The sermon of Fadak

It is quoted in the book al-Ihtijaj of Shaykh al-Tabarsi from 'Abdullah b. Hasan who relates from his fore-fathers that when Sayyidah Zahra was informed that Abū Bakr had confiscated Fadak, she put on her veil and cloak, and accompanied by some servants and women of the Bani Hashim, came to the Masjid and facing Abū Bakr and the Muslims who were present, recited a powerful sermon.

Sayyidah Zahra had worn a long dress (and was thus placing her feet upon her dress) and her way of walking was similar to that of the Prophet. When she entered the Masjid, Abū Bakr was seated with a group of the Muhajirin, Anṣar and others and a curtain was put up for her and she sat behind it.

Praise be to Allah for His bounties (upon us)

and thanks be to Him for all that He inspired;

and commended is His name for all the bounties He created before our own creation,

for all the common bounties that He bestowed (upon us) from His Ownself without even (our) asking for it,

abundant and complete bounties.

such plenteous and unlimited bounties whose numbers cannot be computed,

and thanks cannot be offered for their duration and commencement

bounties, whose perpetuity is beyond comprehension.

He invited (His servants) to offer praise, thus resulting in an increase and perpetuity (in their blessings),

and in lieu of this abundance (of bounties), Allah desired that His creatures praise Him.

Again, He invited you (to perform good deeds) resulting in bounties of this world as well as for the hereafter.

I bear witness that there is no other deity (worthy of worship) except Allah

He is Unique and Unparalleled.

Certainly interpretation (and result) of this witness (of monotheism) is sincerity,

and it's comprehension has been placed in the hearts,

and the mind is illuminated by its (profound) understanding.

He (Allah) cannot be seen with the eyes,

nor can He be described with the tongues,

and His state cannot be perceived.

He is the One Who created all things without any past prototype,

and originated them without having any past image and equals.

Rather He created them with His Might and dispersed them according to His Will,

He did not create them for a need,

nor did He shape them for a benefit (for Himself),

but rather (He did all of this) to establish His Wisdom

and to bring their (the creature's) attention to His obedience,

and manifest His Might

and by dispatching His prophets and friends.

he strengthened His invitation

Thus He provided recompense for His obedience

and granted punishment for His disobedience,

(He informed) His slaves from performing such acts that invite His wrath,

and thus would gather them in His Paradise.

And I bear witness that my father Muhammad, is His slave and His Messenger,

Allah the Almighty chose him and selected him before bestowing prophethood upon him,

and named him before selecting him,

and chose him before sending him (for the mission of Islam),

when the whole of creation was concealed in the hidden world,

and they were in awe,

and were in the extinction of nothingness.

Almighty Allah was certainly aware of the consequences of all the tasks,

and was acquainted with the occurrences of the ages,

and conscious of the position of the destined.

Allah sent His Prophet so as to complete His commands,

to execute His rulings,

and to deliver His decisive ordinances.

He saw the nation divided into various religions,

addicted to their places of worship,

worshipping their idols,

denying Allah despite their knowledge of Him.

Then through the medium of my father Muhammad, Allah illuminated their darkness (misguidance)

and lifted the veils of obscurity from their hearts,

and removed ignorance from their eyes.

He (the Prophet) stood up among them for their guidance;

delivered them from misguidance,

enlightened their eyes from blindness,

guided them towards the 'Straight Religion'

and invited them towards 'the Right Path'.

Then, Allah took away his soul with affection and by his choice,

willingness and submission.

Thus, Muhammad, peace be upon him and his progeny

was relieved of the toils of this world and entered (the world of) comfort.

There, he lives in ease among the righteous angels,

and in the Paradise of the forgiving Lord,

and in the neighborhood of the Mighty King.

May Allah's mercy be upon my father, His messenger

and the trustworthy one, the best among His creations, His chosen one

and peace upon him and Allah's Mercy and Blessings.

Then she turned to the people and said:

A pledge had been taken from you in advance by Allah

and there is among you His remembrance

and that is the book of Allah, the speaking one.

Qur'an, the book of complete truthfulness

and a bright light, the brilliant light.

Its imminence is evident, its secrets are revealed,

its apparent aspects are clear, its adherents become reasons for others to envy,

it leads its adherents to the status of paradise (or the pleasure of Allah),

its listeners are guided towards salvation

and through it are gained the illuminated evidences of Allah.

It determines the ordinances and prohibitions (of Allah),

its evidences are illuminated and its proofs are sufficient,

it contains the virtues of the recommendable acts (mustahabbat),

freedom with regards to performing the lawful things (mubah),

and in it are written down other legal laws (of Islam).

Faith has been set so as to cleanse you of polytheism;

salat (prayers) are prescribed to keep you away from pride,

zakat (charity) has been prescribed to purify ones' self

and results in the increase of sustenance

fasting has been prescribed so that genuineness may be reinforced;

hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca) has been prescribed to establish the religion

justice is prescribed to establish proper harmony in the hearts

the obligation to obey us (the Ahlul Bayt) has been prescribed to set up order in the community,

and our authority (imamah) has been prescribed to save the people from differences.

Jihad (struggle) is the honour of Islam and a humiliation for the people of polytheism and hypocrisy;

patience has been made a medium for recompense to be bestowed;

enjoining good has been prescribed for the general welfare (of the society);

righteousness with one's parents is a safeguard against His (Allah's) wrath;

kindness with one's relatives is a medium of increasing one's age and results in an increase of friends and relations;

retribution has been prescribed so that people's lives may be safe-guarded;

fulfillment of vows leads to forgiveness;

consideration of accuracy in measurement in weighing commodities saves one from loss.

You are the slaves of Allah and you are the establishers of His commands and prohibitions.

You are the possessors of His religion and His revelation,

the trustworthy ones with regards to yourselves

and you should propagate it (Islam) to other nations,

do you deem yourselves worthy of all this?

Prohibition of intoxicants has been prescribed so that humanity may remain away from filth;

the prohibition of defaming (of adultery) has been prescribed so as to keep oneself away from the curse of Allah;

robbery has been prohibited so that the hands may be pure;

and polytheism has been prohibited so that sincerity may be established in Allah's Divinity.

Thus fear Allah as you should, and (see that) you die not but as Muslims.

Obey Allah with regards to His orders and prohibitions

for surely only those of His servants are conscious of Allah who are endowed with knowledge.

Then she said

O people! Know that I am Fatima and my father was Muhammad.

I say and I will repeat this again and again

and I do not utter any falsehood,

and whatever I do shall not be wrong.

Indeed an Apostle from among yourselves has come to you,

grievous to him is your falling into distress, (he is) solicitous regarding your welfare,

towards the faithful (he is) compassionate, (and) merciful.

If you look and understand, you will find

that this Apostle is my father and not the father of any one of your women;

he is the brother of my cousin (Ali) and not the brother of any one of your men

and how fortunate is the one related to him (the Prophet).

The Prophet proclaimed the message and warned the people

from ignorance and polytheism and worked at opposing the customs of the polytheists

He broke their backs while their breath was entrapped in their chests.

He called to the way of his Lord with wisdom and kind exhortation.

He broke the idols and crushed the heads (of rebellion)

of the polytheists until they were eradicated and took to flight.

Then, the darkness of the night passed and it dawned

and the truth became manifest in its true form.

When the leader of the religion (the Prophet) spoke,

foam gushed forth from the mouths of the polytheists and they became silent

the degraded group of the hypocrites was annihilated

and pledges between disbelief and animosity broke.

You all started uttering words of sincerity (Monotheism)

amongst a band of starved ones

Indeed, you were on the brink of the pit of the hell-fire.

(you were) the drink of the thirsty one;

the opportunity of the desiring one;

the fire brand of him who passes in haste;

the step for feet;

you used to drink from the water gathered on roads;

eat jerked meat.

You were despised outcasts

always in fear of abduction from those around you.

Then Allah, the Blessed, the Sublime, delivered you

through the medium of my father Muhammad,

you attained this deliverance after he (the Prophet) had to face numerous difficulties

and fight with the stubborn polytheists,

the beasts among the 'Arabs

and after that with the People of the Book.

Whenever the polytheists kindled the fire of wars, Allah would put it out;

and when the adherents of Satan would manifest themselves

or the beastly ones among the polytheists opened their mouths of envy,

he (the Prophet) would dispatch his brother (Imam 'Ali) towards them.

He (Ali) would crush them and extinguish

the blaze of their fire with his sword

and he (Ali) bore extreme brutality in the way of Allah

and strove to obey the commands of Allah.

He was the nearest to the Prophet of Allah

and the master of the friends of Allah.

He was always ready to serve the creations (of Allah), looking over the welfare of the people,

endeavoring and toiling (in this way) and he was not affected with the censure of any censurer;

while you were living a life of pleasure and peace,

and were far away from the severity of battle, (you were in) enjoyment and security.

waiting for us to meet disasters,

awaiting the spread of news,

you fell back during every battle,

and took to your heels at times of fighting.

Thus when Allah the Almighty exalted his Prophet

(from this world) towards the abode of His prophets and His chosen ones,

the thorns of hypocrisy became manifest in you

and the mantle of your religion gave,

and the astray ones, who were silent until yesterday, suddenly started shrieking;

the degraded and mean ones came out of their burrows into the open ground,

and the valiant ones of the polytheists of falsehood started roaring.

Now, these very people have taken the reins of authority into their hands

and Satan has raised his head from the place of his concealment,

inviting you towards evil - thus he found you to be among those accepting his invitation

and you held him (in esteem) with the intention of securing position or being deceived.

Satan invited you to rebel and found you to be (among the) basest and meanest of people

and he incited your rage and thus you became enraged.

Then you started to snatch the rights of others

and entered the spring that did not belong to you

and you did all of this when not much time had passed since the passing of the Prophet

and the wound (of his death) was deep

and our hearts had not yet healed,

and the corpse of the Prophet was not even laid to rest in the grave!

You acted very swiftly claiming to dread the outbreak of an agitation

Surely into trial have you already fallen,

and verily hell encompasses the infidels.

Far be it away from you! What has happened to you?

Where are you wandering

while the book of Allah (The Qur'an) is amongst you;

whose orders are apparent and judgements are illuminated;

its emblems dazzling and whose enjoinments

and prohibitions are straightforward.

Did you not leave it behind your backs and then

turned your faces away from it in disgust?

and turned to something else for judgement?

Evil for the unjust will be the exchange;

and whoever seeks a religion other than Islam,

it will never be accepted from him,

and in the next world he will be among the losers.

You did not even wait that the tempest may calm down!

Rather, you hastened to take the reins (of the caliphate) into your hands.

After having acquired it (the caliphate), you started to ignite the fire of mutiny

and you became engrossed in inciting the fire.

You responded to the call of Satan, the seducer,

and you intended to put out the light of the glorious religion.

You started to destroy the practices of the chosen Prophet,

then you delighted in suckling the delicacies of the caliphate

and opposed the Ahlul Bayt in secret and in the open.

We have no choice but to bear the cuts of your daggers

and the piercing of your spears into the body.

Now you presume that we do not have any inheritance from the Prophet.

Is it the judgement of (the days of) ignorance (the Pagan era) that they desire?

Who (else) can be better than Allah to judge for the people of assured faith.

Indeed, it is as bright as the sun that

I am the daughter of the Prophet of Allah.

O Muslims!

Is it befitting that I am deprived of my inheritance?

O son of Abū Quhafah (Abu Bakr)!

Is it contained in the Glorious Qur'an that one should inherit from their father;

while in your opinion, I should not inherit from my father?

Indeed you have come with an unusual thing (attributed upon Allah and His Prophet)

Did you then intentionally forsake the Book of Allah

and leave it behind your backs?

Allah says:

And Sulayman inherited Dawūd

in regards to the life of Zakariyyah, He says:

So grant me from Yourself an heir who shall inherit from me and inherit from the family of Ya'qūb

وَ قالَ:

Allah also says:

And the blood relations are nearer to each other in the Book of Allah;

وَ قالَ:

Allah says:

Allah enjoins upon you about your children - the male shall have the equal of the shares of two females

و قال:

and He also says:

If he (the believer) leaves behind any goods that he makes a bequest for parents and (the nearest) kinsmen in goodness

(this is) a duty upon the pious ones.

You assume that I do not have a share and allowance (in the inheritance)

and that I should not inherit from my father

and that there is no relation between us?

Has Allah in His verses (of the Qur'an) not taken into consideration everyone in general and are not all (of the) classes of men included in these verses?

Is my father discharged from the applicability of this verse

or do you say that

two people of the same community do not inherit from one another?

Are my father and I not a part and parcel of one community?

Then, are you more cognizant of understanding the general and particular verses of the Qur'an

than my father and my cousin (Ali)?

Then take it (Fadak) until we meet you on the Day of Judgement

where Allah will be the Best Judge,

and Muhammad will be the claimant on that day,

and our destined time of meeting will be the Resurrection

and on that promised day, the fallacious ones will be engulfed in deep loss

and their regret (on that day) will be of no use to them!

For every prophesy, there is a (prefixed) time

and you will soon realize

upon whom a torment (of tribulations) will descend which will disgrace him,

and on who falls this lasting punishment."

Then Sayyidah Fatima turned towards the Anṣar and said,

O group of valorous men!

The aides of the nation!

The helpers of Islam!

What is this slackness (that you display)

in regards to me while you are witnessing the oppression, but you still lie in a deep sleep!

Did my father not say that

the rights of a father for his children must be considered?

How soon have you changed tracks,

even though you possess the strength to stand up for my rights

and are capable of supporting me regarding my claim!

Do you then say that Muhammad has passed away (and there remains no responsibility upon us)?

His loss is great and the crack that has appeared (in Islam) is severe

and the division is immense, Unity has been shattered,

the Earth is engulfed in darkness due to his concealment,

the sun and the moon are eclipsed,

and the stars have scattered away!

Hopes have broken,

mountains have crumbled,

the family of the Prophet has been lost

and their sanctity has been dishonored after his death!

This is, by Allah, a great calamity and a grand adversity,

while this calamity is incomparable

and there is no other greater calamity than the death of the Prophet!

This (the death of the Prophet) had already been conveyed to you in the Book of Allah, may He be glorified.

that you were reading day and night

in a loud voice, lamenting,

in a normal tone and in a pleasant voice.

As for what happened in the past to Allah's prophets and apostles

- the command is decisive and destiny enjoined:

And Muhammad is not but an apostle,

(other) apostles have already passed away prior to him,

therefore if he dies or is killed, will you turn upon your heels?

And he who turns upon his heels will by no means do harm to Allah in the least,

and soon shall We reward the grateful ones.

O you people of reflection!

will I be usurped the inheritance of my father

while you hear and see me?

(And while) You are sitting and gathered around me?

You hear my call, and are included in the (news of the) affair?

(But) You are numerous and well equipped!

(You have) the means and the power,

and the weapons and the shields.

Yet, the call reaches you but you do not answer;

the cry comes to you but you do not come to help?

(This) While you are characterized by struggle,

known for goodness and welfare,

the selected group (which was chosen),

and the best ones chosen by the Messenger for us, Ahlul-Bayt.

You fought the Arabs,

bore with pain and exhaustion,

struggled against the nations,

and resisted their heroes.

We were still, so were you in ordering you, and you in obeying us.

So that Islam became triumphant,

the accomplishment of the days came near,

the fort of polytheism was subjugated

the outburst of was subjugated,

the outburst of infidelity calmed down,

and the system of religion was well-ordered.

Thus, (why have you) become confused after clearness?

Conceal matters after announcing them?

Turned on your heels after daring?

Associated (others with Allah) after believing?

Will you not fight people who violated their oaths?

Plotted to expel the Apostle

and became aggressive by being the first (to assault) you?

Do ye fear them?

Nay, it is Allah Whom ye should more justly fear,

## if you believe!

اَلا، وَ قَدْ أَرِى اَنْ قَدْ اَخْلَدْتُمْ اِلَى الْخَفْضِ،

Nevertheless, I see that you are inclined to easy living;

وَ ٱبْعَدْتُمْ مَنْ هُوَ آحَقُ بِالْبَسْطِ وَ الْقَبْضِ،

dismissed he who is more worthy of guardianship (Ali);

وَ خَلَوْتُمْ بِالدَّعَةِ، وَ نَجَوْتُمْ بِالضّيقِ مِنَ السَّعَةِ،

You secluded yourselves with meekness

فَمَجَجْتُمْ مَا وَعَبْتُمْ، وَ دَسَعْتُمُ الَّذَى تَسَوَّغْتُمْ،

and dismissed that which you accepted.

فَاِنْ تَكْفُرُوا أَنْتُمْ

Yet, if you show ingratitude,

وَ مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ جَميعاً

ye and all on earth together,

فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَغَنِيٌّ حَميدٌ.

yet, Allah free of all wants, worthy of all praise.

الا، وَ قَدْ قُلْتُ ما قُلْتُ

Be aware! I have said what I wanted to say,

هذا عَلى مَعْرِفَةٍ مِنّى بِالْخِذْلَةِ الَّتِي خامَرْتُكُمْ،

even though I know that you will not assist me as this slackness

of yours to assist us has become a part of your heart (your practice).

But all of this complaint is the result of the grief of the heart

وَ نَفْتَةُ الْغَيْظِ،

and the internal rage (that I feel)

and (I know that) it is of no use, but I have said this

to manifest my internal sorrow and to complete my proof upon you.

Thus usurp it (Fadak) and fasten it firmly,

for it is weak and feeble,

while its shame and disgrace will always remain over you.

The sign of the rage of the Supreme Allah has been cast upon it,

and it will lead you to the fire of Allah which will engulf the heart.

and it will be an everlasting disgrace upon you

Thus Allah sees whatever you do,

'And soon shall those who deal unjustly know what an (evil) turning they will be turned into.'

I am the daughter of that Prophet who was sent to warn you against the severe wrath of Allah,

Act (you) whatever you can, and verily we (too) act, and wait, indeed we too are waiting."