



## Content for Essay Writing Competition for Class 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> students

# Social Life with the Noble Wives (Azwāj-e-Mutahharāt)

The number of the Noble Wives of the Prophet ﷺ reached nine. Among them, as is natural, were women of different temperaments and natures. There was sometimes rivalry and jealousy among them. Since the Prophet ﷺ always lived a life of simplicity and poverty, the provision of food and clothing could not always be adequate, and this gave rise to occasions of complaint. Yet, despite all these circumstances, no wrinkle of displeasure ever appeared on his blessed character.

The Prophet ﷺ had immense love for Hazrat Khadija (RA). When he married her, he was in the prime of youth while she was advanced in age. Yet, until her death, he did not marry another woman. Even after her passing, whenever her name was mentioned, the Prophet ﷺ would be overcome with emotion and affection. After Hazrat Khadija, Hazrat Aisha (RA) was the most beloved among his wives. However, the basis of this love was not the usual reasons found among ordinary people. In beauty, Hazrat Safiyya (RA) surpassed her, and in other external charms, the other wives were not inferior. But Hazrat Aisha's intellectual ability, sharpness of mind, power of reasoning, depth of understanding, and vast knowledge were the qualities that gave her precedence.

### Incidents of Domestic Life

Once, some of the wives of the Prophet ﷺ sent Hazrat Fatimah (RA) as their representative. She came to the Prophet ﷺ, as was customary, after asking permission. When allowed in, she said:

“The wives have sent me to ask why you give preference to the daughter of Abu Bakr (Aisha) over us?”

The Prophet ﷺ replied:

**“My dear daughter, do you not love the one whom I love?”**

That was enough for Fatimah (RA). She returned and told the wives: “I will not interfere in this matter.”

Later, Hazrat Zainab (RA) was chosen as the envoy, since she considered herself equal to Aisha and thus was deemed most suitable. She delivered her message boldly and argued strongly that Aisha did not deserve the high status given to her. Aisha (RA) remained silent, looking at the face of the Prophet ﷺ. When Zainab finished, Aisha sought permission to reply and spoke with such eloquence and force that Zainab was left speechless. The Prophet ﷺ then said:

**“Why wouldn't she speak so well? She is the daughter of Abu Bakr.”**

The Prophet ﷺ said:

**“A woman is married for four things – her wealth, her lineage, her beauty, and her religion. Choose the one who is religious.”**

Thus, in every matter, the Prophet ﷺ prioritized religion. Even among his wives, those who could serve the

cause of religion more were dearer to him. Since the wives had the opportunity of close companionship, they were in the best position to learn religious matters. But in addition to companionship, one needed deep understanding and intellectual capacity. Hazrat Aisha (RA), being blessed with a scholarly mind, benefitted the most, to the point that in many delicate issues she held opinions different from senior Companions, and her reasoning often prevailed.

The Prophet ﷺ would visit all his wives' houses (which were close to each other), spending a short while with each. At night, he stayed with the wife whose turn it was. (Narrated in Abu Dawood). According to Zarkashi, when he visited Hazrat Umm Salamah (RA), it would often be in the afternoon. Some reports mention that all the wives used to gather at the house of the wife whose turn it was, spending time together until late at night. This shows that, although there were occasional jealousies, the hearts were pure, and they enjoyed companionship together.

This became clear during the incident of *Ifk* (false accusation) when Aisha (RA) was slandered by hypocrites. Such an opportunity was ideal for rivals to exploit, yet the wives remained pure in their conduct. Zainab (RA), who was otherwise a rival of Aisha, when asked by the Prophet ﷺ, said:

**“I know nothing but good about her.”**

Aisha (RA) would later express gratitude for Zainab's integrity.

### Tolerance and Gentle Conduct

The Prophet ﷺ showed immense patience with the sensitivities of his wives.

Once, during a journey, the camel drivers hastened the camels on which the wives were seated. The Prophet ﷺ said:

**“Take care! These are delicate glass vessels.”**

Hazrat Safiyya (RA) was an excellent cook. One day she sent a dish to the Prophet ﷺ while he was in Aisha's house. Aisha (RA), upset, struck the servant's hand, and the dish fell and broke. The Prophet ﷺ calmly gathered the broken pieces, joined them, and sent another dish in its place.

Once, Aisha (RA) was speaking to the Prophet ﷺ in a raised tone. Just then, Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) entered and, angered, attempted to strike her, saying: *“You dare raise your voice to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ?”* The Prophet ﷺ intervened, shielding Aisha. Abu Bakr left in anger. The Prophet ﷺ then said to Aisha:

**“See how I protected you.”**

A few days later, when reconciliation had taken place, Abu Bakr returned and said:

*“Include me in your peace as you had included me in your quarrel.”*

The Prophet ﷺ once said to Aisha:

**“When you are pleased with me, I know it, and when you are upset, I also know it.”**

She asked: *“How do you know?”*

He replied:

**“When you are happy, you say: ‘By the Lord of Muhammad!’ And when you are upset, you say: ‘By the Lord of Ibrahim!’”**

She admitted: *“Yes, O Messenger of Allah ﷺ, I only leave out your name.”*

### Loving Playfulness

Aisha (RA) was young at marriage and used to play with girls. When the Prophet ﷺ would arrive, the girls would slip away, but he would call them back to play with her.

On an Eid day, Abyssinians were showing their spear-dancing game (*harba*) in the mosque. Aisha expressed a wish to watch. The Prophet ﷺ stood in front of her as a shield, and she placed her cheek on his shoulder,

watching for a long time. He asked:

**“Are you satisfied yet?”**

She replied: *“Not yet.”*

He remained silent until she herself withdrew when tired.

Once, Aisha (RA) was playing with dolls. Among them was a horse with wings. The Prophet ﷺ asked:

**“What is this?”**

She said: *“It is a horse with wings, like the horses of Hazrat Sulaiman (AS).”*

The Prophet ﷺ smiled.

Another time, he challenged Aisha (RA) to a race. She, being slender then, outran him. Later, when she had gained weight, they raced again, and this time the Prophet ﷺ won. He said:

**“This is in return for that day.”**