

Sayyidah Fatema (AS) described as “Kawthar”

Learning Objectives

- To provide an explanation of Surat al-Kawthar
- To memorise Surat al-Kawthar

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَاكَ الْكَوْثَرَ

“Surely, We have given you Abundance of good (Kawthar)”

The term Kawthar is derived from the word “Kathrah” which means “a lot of goodness, or blessing”. Sayyidah Fatema (AS) represents the “abundance” given to the Holy Prophet (SAW) and that is why she is called “Kawthar”.

What is the purpose of using the term “Kawthar” here?

A narration says that when the holy Prophet (SAW) sat on the pulpit and recited this surah, some of the companions asked him what was it that Allah (SWT) had given him and he answered: *“It is a stream in heaven, whiter than milk, more clear than a goblet (of crystal) with dome shaped ornaments from pearls and rubies...”*

Another tradition from Imam Sadiq (AS) says: *“Kawthar is a stream in Heaven that Allah granted His Messenger for his son (who died in his lifetime).”*

Some have also said the purpose of using the word Kawthar is for the pool of Abundance that belongs to the Prophet (SAW), where the believers quench their thirst when arriving in Paradise.

Some have commented on it as the “Abundance of descendants” all of whom came from his daughter Sayyidah Fatema (AS) and they multiplied to such an extent that it is impossible to count them. They are not only now, but until the advent of the Hereafter, the reminder of the Holy Prophet (SAW).

Sayyidah Fatema (AS) and Kawthar

Our scholars believe that one of the most clear examples of that word is the auspicious existence of Lady Fatema Zahra (AS), because the occasion of revelation of the verse says that the enemies of Islam accused the Prophet (SAW) of being without offspring, but the Qur’an says: *“Surely We have given you abundance of good (Kawthar).”*

From this meaning we understand that this “abundance of good” is the very Lady Fatema Zahra (AS) of whom the descendants of the Prophet (SAW) increased abundantly and thousands of them are scattered in the world preaching his religion and preserving it. It is a fact that no one can correctly count the number of descendants of Imam Ali (AS) and Sayyidah Fatema (AS) who are recognised as the descendants of the Holy Prophet (SAW), among whom so many great scholars, scientists, writers, commentators, jurists, traditionalists and leaders left some outstanding works and unmatched fame in this world, and tried to protect Islam with their donations and devotions.

فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَانْحَرْ

Therefore turn to your Lord in Prayer and Sacrifice

This great Blessing and “abundance of good” needs a lofty thankfulness, although creatures can never thank the Creator for His Blessings fully, because even the ability to be thankful is another blessing from Him, which in turn needs thankfulness.

The last verse of this short surah is regarding the taunts made by the chiefs of the Pagans to the Holy Prophet (SAW):

إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ

Surely your enemy is the one without offspring

The word “Shani” is derived from “Shana’anan” which means “enmity” or “spitefulness” and “Shani” is the one who possesses these characteristics.

“Abtar” originally means “the animal whose tail is cut off”. The enemies of Islam taunted the Holy Prophet (SAW) by saying this with the hope that after his departure from this world and having no son to inherit his position, the religion of Islam would come to an end. However, the Qur’an, consoling the Holy Prophet (SAW), tells him that it is not him but his enemy who will be without offspring.

Today, we see the great number of the children of the Prophet (SAW) around us. However, there is no sign of the descendants of the enemies of Islam.