



Sayyida Fāṭimah al-Zahrā' (‘a)



Her Wisdom Behind
Fadak Claim



While analyzing the case of Fadak from the history, one might wonder what were the reasons that caused Sayyida Fatimah (a) to stand up for her Fadak claim? After all, she was on the peaks of asceticism and piety. Did she really need the land of Fadak?



A quick glance over the life of the Lady of Light, illustrates her exalted status and lofty position in the sight of Allah (swt). She was also aware of her promised reward in the next worlds and while being the core member of Ahlul Bayt (a) the worldly possessions were 'more insignificant than the snort of a she-goat' and 'of less value than the wing of a gnat' to her.



Her claim for Fadak was inevitable in that situation and it carried the secrets of her wisdom. She valiantly went through all the gruesome circumstances to ensure that history would witness her brave actions and leave questions in the minds of future generations.

THE LAND OF FADAK

وَمَا أَفَاءَ اللَّهُ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ مِنْهُمْ فَمَا أَوْجَفْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ خَيْلٍ

وَلَا رِكَابٍ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يُسَلِّطُ رُسُلَهُ عَلَى مَنْ يَشَاءُ ۚ وَاللَّهُ عَلَى

كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿٦﴾

The spoils that Allah gave to His Apostle from them, you did not spur any horse for its sake, nor any riding camel, but Allah makes His apostles prevail over whomever He wishes, and Allah has power over all things.

Surah Al-Hashr (59:6)



Location: The Land of Fadak is located on north of Medina.

Significance: Fadak was a large farmland resource owned by local Jewish tribes who would earn their livelihood by growing date palm trees

A gift from Allah: After the success of Muslims in the Battle of Khaybar, the Jewish inhabitants of Fadak pleaded for a peace treaty in exchange for half of their properties. Unlike Khaybar, Fadak was acquired peacefully. It was thus considered **fay** and belonged to Prophet Muhammad (s) as revealed in line with aforementioned verse 59:6.

The Holy Prophet (s) distributed the spoils of Khaybar amongst all the Muslims but for the land of Fadak Allah (swt) instructed him in verse **"Give the relatives their [due] right"** (17:26) to gift it to Sayyida Fatimah (a) so it will be a source of income to her and her children. Rasulullah (s) gave Fadak to her beloved daughter, who maintained the land through her employees.

WHAT WERE THE REASONS TO MAKE THE FADAK CLAIM?

ECONOMIC STABILITY

With this claim Sayyida (a) wanted to protect the economic stability that was set during the time of Holy Prophet (s). Most of her employees who worked in Fadak were from Medina. Once this land was taken away, an economic turmoil unfolded in Medina.

STRENGTHENING THE OPPRESSED

Allah's mercy lies in the protection of the oppressed. Her claim sets the example for generations to stand up for their rights against all kind of injustices. She sets a standard for justice where rights are violated by the state.

BREAKING THE STEREOTYPE

While raising against the oppressors, Sayyida Fatimah (a) broke the general stereotype against asceticism or disinterest of the world. Her stand only proved that wealth in the hands of a divine authority is a means to restore balance and establish justice of Allah. Similar to how the Prophet (s) had utilized the wealth of her mother Khadijah (a).



ISLAMIC INHERITANCE LAWS

Her claim of Fadak was made to ensure the establishment of correct Islamic inheritance law which was in accordance with (4:11) **"Allah enjoins you about your children, the male shall have the equal of the shares of two females..."**

UNVEILING THE USURPERS

Being the model of truth and piety, the treatment of the government through confiscation of Fadak and fabrication of her father's word hurt Sayyida Fatimah (a) greatly. She took a very precise step with her irrefutable claim to unveil the usurpers and disclosed their mentality.

DEFENDING THE WILAYAH

With this claim she wanted to project everyone's attention towards the right of Imam Ali (a) over the leadership - the same general leadership and overall authority that her father, Prophet of Allah (s) had. Those who confiscated Fadak were undoubtedly rejected the words and authority of the divine leaders i.e [Rasulullah (s) and Imam Ali (a)].

