

Did Hadrat ʿUmar bury his daughter alive during Jāhiliyyah

Question: Is it true that Hadrat ʿUmar radiyallāhu ʿanhu buried his daughter alive during Jāhiliyyah and before embracing Islam?

Answer: Despite an intensive search in this regard, we did not find this incident in any Hadīth or history book. And this is what is expected of Hadrat ʿUmar's lofty character and virtuous deeds – that it is far-fetched for him to do this even before embracing Islam because he did not commit Jāhiliyyah actions even before embracing Islam. His family was considered to be a noble and honourable family. In fact, people from his family used to be selected as envoys. Thus, this action from him is not established.

However, certain books attribute an incident to Hadrat ʿUmar radiyallāhu ʿanhu without any chain of transmission. It is rejected on this basis.

ʿAbd as-Salām ibn Muhsin writes in Dirāsah Naqdīyyah (p. 163) :

It is a fabricated story from the Shī'ahs who want to criticize the personality of Hadrat ʿUmar radiyallāhu ʿanhu on account of it.

هذه القصة لا يمكن أن تكون صحيحة لأن عمر بن الخطاب رضي الله عنه لم يكن من المشركين ولا من الجاهليين بل كان من المسلمين الذين آمنوا به في مكة قبل الهجرة. ولا يمكن أن يكون قد دفن ابنته حية لأن هذا الفعل يتنافى مع أخلاقه العالية ودينه الجديد.

This story is laughable. You will not find it in any Hadīth collection – neither in the authentic ones nor in the weak ones. You will also not find it in history books – neither in the concise ones nor in the voluminous ones.