

Chapter 6: Naming Fatima az-Zahra (sa)

Naming newborn children is considered a principle divine rule. Allah Almighty named Adam, and Eve the first day He created them; He also taught Adam all names. Man, too, has followed this rule and practiced it ever since. Naming is an essential rule for civilized people.

People's names vary according to different times, generations, and languages. There may also be a relationship between the name and its meaning; although, this is not always true. Thus, some names can be derived from entities other than lingual material.

Nevertheless, advocates of Allah's religion give names special importance. This practice has a significant meaning, for a human being is called by his name; hence, a good or, bad name leaves its effect on the holder. Indeed, there is special importance in good names; it is noteworthy to mention that when Prophet Imran's (as) wife gave birth to a daughter she said:

"And I therefore call her Mariam".

Furthermore, Allah chose the name for His prophet Yahya (as) before he was conceived. Allah Almighty says that Zakariya, Yahya's Father, said:

"So give me an heir as from Thyself. "(One that) will (truly) represent me, and represent the posterity of Jacob; and make him, O my Lord! One with whom Thou art well pleased!"

(His prayer was answered):

"O Zakariya! We give thee good news of a son: His name shall be Yahya: On none by that name have we conferred distinction before." (19: 5-7)

It is also clear from His saying, "*On none by that name have we conferred distinction before;*" that Allah (Glory be to Him) assigns the names of His special worshippers, such as prophets and Imams, in place of their parents.

Let's take a look at a large group of narrations which discuss naming Fatima az-Zahra, plus the reason

for giving her this name; also, state that her name was given to her because of certain incitements, not offhand, nor, as a result of admiring or preferring such a name; rather, it is the relationship between the name, and the person which was considered.

Imam Sadiq (as) said:

"Fatima has nine names near Allah (Exalted be His Name), they are: Fatima, Siddiqah (the honest), Al-Mubarakah (the blessed one), At-Tahirah (virtuous), Az-Zakiyah (the chaste), Ar-Radhiatul Mardhiah (she who is gratified and who shall be satisfied), Al-Muhaddathah (a person, other than a prophet, that the angels speak to), and Az-Zahra (the splendid)."

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