

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Taken from the appendix of ‘*The Structure of the Muslim Family*,’ which will be reprinted by IIIN shortly – inshā Allāh.

Imām Al-Nasā’ī said:

“Chapter: The Woman praying and making Istikhārah to her Lord when she receives a marriage proposal.

Upon the authority of Anas that he said:

“When the ‘Iddah (prescribed waiting period) of Zainab had ended the Messenger of Allāh (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said to Zaid: ‘Propose to her for me.’ So I went to her and said: ‘O Zainab; I have good news for you. The Messenger of Allāh (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) sent me to you to propose on his behalf.’ She said: ‘I will not do anything until I entrust this affair to my Lord.’ So she went and prayed. (Verses) of the Qur’ān were revealed¹ and the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) married her without any interference from her.”

Shaykh Muḥammad Ibn Adam Al-Ithyūbī said in his explanation of Nasā’ī (27/167):

“This is pointing to the fact that Zainab obtained the right to boast due to her prayer and her making Istikhārah to her Lord. When she turned to Him, who is free of all imperfections, He married her to the

¹ [TN] This is referring to Surah Al-Aḥzāb verse 37.

*The woman praying and making Istikhārah to her Lord when she
receives a marriage proposal*

Messenger (ﷺ) and revealed (verses) of the Qur'ān that are recited about her. Therefore, it is highly recommended that all women imitate her so that they can experience a blessing similar to what she received.”

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