



In the Company of the Prophet

Peace & Blessings Be Upon Him

By
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Introduction

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds, and may prayers and peace be upon the most honorable of Messengers, our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his household and Companions!

In this book, I'd try to outline the biography of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him). Due to lack of space, I aim at presenting a prophetic biography, which is simple and informative.

By this work, I hope to gain, and so my family and the readers of this book, the *Shafa`ah*¹ of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him).

Though I see my shortcomings is so much that I cannot write about this ideal man, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), my efforts are motivated by



¹In the Islamic terminology, the term *Shafa`ah* signifies the intercession of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) on behalf of his followers on the Day of Judgment.

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the love of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), which obsesses my heart.

Almighty Allah says: **"Say: 'If you do love God, follow me: God will love you and forgive you your sins: For God is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.'"** (Al `Imran: 31)

Also, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **"None of you would have perfect faith until I become dearer to him than his father, his son and all mankind."**²

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²Agreed upon *hadith*.

The Prophecies of Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him)

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **"In *Umm Al-Kitab*, I was decreed by Allah to be the seal of Prophets. This was done when Adam was being created of dust. I will disclose this for you: (I am the response of Allah to) the call of Ibrahim; (I am) the good tidings that `Isa (peace and blessings be upon him) brought to his people; and (I am the interpretation of) the vision of my mother when she saw that a light emerged from her that shined the palaces of Syria and so the mothers of prophets (peace be upon them all) saw in visions."**³

In the Bible, we read, "O Prophet! We have sent you as a witness (for Allah's True religion) and a giver of glad tidings (to the faithful believers), and a warner (to the unbelievers) and guardian of the illiterates. You are My slave and My Messenger. I have named you '*Al-Mutawakkil*' (who depends upon Allah). You are neither discourteous, harsh, nor a noisemaker in the markets. And you do not do evil to those who do evil to you, but you deal with them with forgiveness and kindness. Allah will not let him (the Prophet) die until he makes straight the crooked people by making them say: 'None has the

³Reported by Ahmad.

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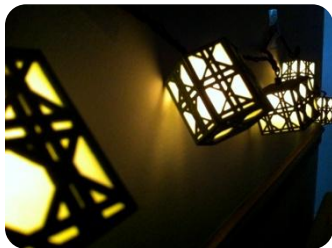
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right to be worshiped but Allah,' with which will be opened blind eyes and deaf ears and enveloped hearts."⁴

In the early ages, a lot of rabbis and monks gave glad tidings of what they had known in their Scriptures about the characteristics of the Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him); such as the rabbi who guided Tab' to believe the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), Bahira, Nasture, the rabbis whom Salman Al-Farisi studied at their hands (before his conversion to Islam), Hercules (who studied astronomy) and some monks who came to Makkah.⁵

Furthermore, all prophets have given glad tidings of the coming of the Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) to their people. In the Glorious Qur'an, Allah, the Almighty, discloses this fact, saying, **"Behold! Allah took the covenant of the prophets, saying: 'I give you a Book and Wisdom; then comes to you a Messenger, confirming what is with you; do you believe in him and render him help.' Allah said: 'Do you agree, and take this**



⁴Reported by Al-Bukhari.

⁵According to the scholars of Hadith, what some books relate of prophecies like the extinguishing of the fire in Persia and the collapse of the all idols on the Prophet's birthday are groundless.

My Covenant as binding on you?’ They said: ‘We agree.’ He said: ‘Then bear witness, and I am with you among the witnesses.’” (Al `Imran: 81)

The Prophet’s Birth and Rearing

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was born on Monday, the twelfth of Rabi` Al-Awal in the year of Al-Fil⁶ (the Elephant), 571 AC. He was brought up as an orphan, for his father died when his mother, Amenah bint Wahb, was pregnant. His mother suckled him for few days and then Thuyabah⁷, the slave girl of Abu Lahab suckled him. Then, Halimah bint Abi Dhu’aib⁸, from Bani Sa`d, suckled him and he stayed with her for five years and then returned back to

⁶ The year of Al-Fil refers to the event when the Abyssinian ruler, Abrahah Al-Ashram, came with his army, supported with a lot of elephants, with the intention of destroying the Ka`bah. However, he was fought by flocks of birds sent by Allah to prevent and punish him and this army. Consequently, he failed to inflict any harm upon the Ka`bah. This story, however, is mentioned in the Glorious Qur`an in *Surat Al-Fil*. This event took place in the year of the Prophet’s birth, say about 570 A.C. (Editor)

⁷ From her side, the Prophet’s foster brothers are his uncle, Hamzah, Abu Salamah, and her son, Masruh.

⁸ The Prophet’s foster brothers from her side are `Abdullah Ibn Al-Harith, Anisah bint Al-Harith, Khudhamah (Ash-Shayma’), and the son of his uncle – Abu Sufyan Ibn Al-Harith. However, according to the majority of scholars, Halimah Al-Sa`diyyah embraced Islam.

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his mother. When he was six, his mother took him to Madinah to visit his uncles. In their way back to Madinah, she died at Al-Abwa⁹. Then, his grandfather `Abdul-Muttalib took care of him. `Abdul-Muttalib died when Muhammad was eight years old. Then, his Uncle Abu Talib took care of him. Barakah Al-Habashiah whose nickname is Umm Ayman also nursed him during his childhood.

The Ripping of the Prophet's Chest

Almighty Allah says: **"Have We not expanded you your chest?"** (Al-Inshirah: 1)

It is reported that the Prophet's chest was ripped four times:

First, when he was a baby staying with Bani Sa`d. Two angels came to him and ripped open his chest. They extracted a black clot out and washed it with water of Zamzam. After that they restored it to its place. Then, they stamped the Messenger with the Prophetic Seal.¹⁰

Second, when he was ten years old.¹¹

⁹A place located between Makkah and Madinah.

¹⁰Reported by Ahmad.

¹¹Reported by Ahmad and Al-Hakim.



Third, when Gabriel came to him with the Revelation in the cave of Hira¹².

Fourth, this was during the journey of Al-Isra' and Al-Mi'raj.¹³

Some Muslim scholars draw the attention to the fact that if the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was created perfect, people would not know what Allah has granted the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) of care and purification.

Anas said, "I noticed the trace of the needle on his (the Prophet's) chest."

However, *Khatam An-Nubuwwah* (the prophetic seal) is a projective piece of meat with some hair on the left shoulder.

The Prophet's Names

In this context, Almighty Allah says: **"Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."** (Al-Fath: 29) **"... and giving Glad Tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad."** (As-Saff: 6)

¹²According to Abu Na'im and Al-Baihaqi.

¹³Agreed upon.

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The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“I have five names: I am Muhammad and Ahmad; I am Al-Mahi through whom Allah will eliminate infidelity; I am Al-Hashir who will be the first to be resurrected, the people will be resurrected thereafter; and I am also Al-`Aqib (i.e., there will be no prophet after me).”**¹⁴

He (peace and blessings be upon him) is the Prophet of mercy and repentance, the one whom Allah loves, and the one who will carry the standard of Praise on the Day of Judgment. In the sight of Allah, he is the most honored of the early and late people. On the Day Judgment, he is the first one who will do *Shafa`ah*, the first one whose *Shafa`ah* will be responded to, the first who will move rings of Paradise, the master of Adam’s sons on the Day of judgment, the witness, the bearer of glad tidings and the warner, the one who calls to Allah, the lamp spreading light, the mercy, the blessing, the guide, the trustworthy, the one folded in garments, the one wrapped up in the mantle, the selected, Al-Mukhtar (the chosen), the faithful and the seal of Prophets.

¹⁴ Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.

Allah's Care about the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him)

From his childhood, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was supported by Allah's care. He, Most High, says: **"Did He not find you an orphan and give you shelter (and care)? And He found you wandering, and He gave you guidance. And He found you in need, and made you independent."** (Ad-Dhuha: 6-8)

Almighty Allah kept him away from the evil practices of the *Jahiliyyah* (the pre-Islamic period). He made him hate idols. He kept him away from wine and other abhorred things. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) reported that he never intended to do a practice of the *Jahiliyyah* except for two times. The first was when he heard music of a wedding party and wanted to go to it but he fell into a deep sleep. After a period of time, the heat of the sun awakened him. The second time was when he participated with Quraish in rebuilding the Ka`bah. His uncle, Al-`Abbas, advised him to put the tip of his loincloth round his shoulder to protect him against the stones. As he did that the Prophet fell to the ground on his face. Then, he was called to cover his private parts.

Amongst the people of Quraish, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was known as the trustworthy. They accepted his judgment regarding the

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Black Stone.¹⁵ He laid it with his honorable hands and spared the blood of the people of Quraish.

The Period of the Prophet's Growing up until his Mission

In addition to the above-mentioned characteristics of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) before his mission, we can add the following,

- 1- He was the best of his people in morals, in faithfulness, in trustworthiness, in hospitality, and in benevolence to the poor.
- 2- He worked as a shepherd so he was accustomed to patience.



¹⁵ In the books of *Siyrah*, it is reported that during the rebuilding of the Ka`bah the men of Quraish were about to fall in struggle because of disputing over the one who would put the Black Stone in its place, since it was considered a great honor. However, the Prophet (PBUH) could settle their dispute. (Translator)



- 3- He worked as a merchant and traveled with his uncle, Abu Talib. He also engaged in trade with the property of Khadijah. He also used to send his money in trade with caravans.
- 4- There appeared some miracles that proved the virtue of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). Below are some of these miracles:
 - a) The sheep of Bani Sa`d started to give abundant milk with the coming of the Prophet while he was a baby after they had experienced mass drought.
 - b) The appearance of a cloud, which gave him shade during his traveling.
- 5- He participated in the war of Al-Fijar with his people and because of him Allah brought victory to them after defeat.
- 6- He also participated in rebuilding the Ka`bah.
- 7- He witnessed the alliance of Al-Fudul in the house of Ibn Jada`an in which they agreed on helping the oppressed and the weak.



- 8- When he was twenty-five years old, he married Khadijah bint Khuwaylid whose age was twenty-eight¹⁶. She was born in 568 AC. She was a widow and had been married twice before the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). She gave birth to all his sons and daughters except Ibrahim. Allah promised her that she would have a house in Paradise where there is neither noise nor toil, and she received the greetings of Allah through the Archangel Gabriel (peace and blessings be upon him).
- 9- The Prophet liked seclusion in the Cave of Hira'. He used to go to Khadijah to get provisions and return back to the cave.
- 10-He worshiped Allah, in accordance with the way of Ibrahim, the true believer.
- 11-In the last days before receiving the revelation, he used to see a Light. Moreover, he (peace and blessings be upon him) used to say that he knew stones and trees in Makkah that said to him, "May peace be upon you, O Messenger of Allah."

¹⁶According to the majority of scholars, she was forty years old when she married the Prophet (PBUH), but what is mentioned above seems to be the superior opinion.

The Revelation

When he was forty, Allah sent Gabriel to him with the Divine revelation. The first revelation was *Surat Al-`Alaq*. After this experience, the Prophet trembled and came back to Khadijah who took him to Waraqah Ibn Nawfal who said, "This is 'An-Namus' (i.e., the angel) whom Allah sent to [prophet] Musa. I wish I were younger. I wish I could live up to the time when your people would drive you out." The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) wondered, "Would they drive me out!" He answered, "Yes, anyone who came with something similar to what you have brought was treated with hostility." Then, the Revelation stopped for forty days.¹⁷ Afterwards, Almighty Allah revealed the following Qur'anic verses:



¹⁷ According to the famous opinion, the revelation had stopped for three years. But, what is mentioned above is the superior view as I think.

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"O you wrapped up (in the mantle)!" (Al-Muddaththir: 1)

"O you folded in garments!" (Al-Muzzammil: 1)

"By the Glorious Morning Light, and by the Night when it is still, your Guardian-Lord has not forsaken you, nor is He displeased." (Ad-Dhuha: 1-3)

Then, the revelation was sent down regularly. It is worthy mentioning that the first three people who embraced Islam were Khadijah, `Ali Ibn Abi Talib, and Abu Bakr As-Sidiq who called people whom he trusted to Islam. His call was accepted by `Uthman, Az-Zubayr, `Abd-ur Rahman Ibn `Awf, Sa'd Ibn Abi Waqqas, Talhah Ibn `Ubayd Allah. Suhayb and Ammar are also among the first group of Muslims.

Da`wah to Allah

Allah revealed to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him): **"Arise and deliver your warning! And your Lord do you magnify!"** (Al-Muddaththir: 2-3)

On the spot, the Messenger of Allah (peace and



blessings be upon him) called his wife, Khadijah, saying, **"Oh Khadijah! From now then, there is no time for sleep."** He then started to announce his call to monotheism. As a response to what Allah, the Exalted, revealed to him, **"And admonish your nearest kinsmen,"**¹⁸ the Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) ascended the mount of As-Safa and started to call his people. He called them to accept Islam and then he said to his daughter, **"Oh Fatimah! Exert yourself in doing good, for I have no power to save you (from Hell-fire) on the Day of Judgment."** Then, Allah, the Almighty, revealed,

"Therefore expound openly what you are commanded, and turn away from those who join false gods with Allah." (Al-Hijr: 94)

"And keep yourself content with those who call on their Lord morning and evening." (Al-Kahf: 28)

Afterwards, He, Most High, revealed, **"Say: 'O men! I am sent unto you all, as the Messenger of Allah, to Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth: there is no god but He: it is He That gives both life and death. So believe in Allah and His Messenger, the unlettered Prophet, who believes in Allah and His Words: follow him that (so) you may be guided.'"** (Al-A`raf: 158)

¹⁸Surat Ash-Shu`ra': 214.

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Like all the previous Prophets, the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) tried to found a believing nation from amongst the disbelieving society whose people worshiped idols instead of Allah. He followed the way that Almighty Allah made clear to him as follows:

- 1- The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) assured them that what he was calling to was only the truth and what others called to was falsehood and that the Qur'an is an all-embracing law. Almighty Allah says: **"So put your trust in Allah: for you are on (the path of) manifest Truth."** (An-Naml: 79)
- 2- He also taught them that as long as they are adherents of the truth and bearer of the Divine guidance, they must guide mankind to this way. In the Glorious Qur'an, Almighty Allah says: **"And strive in His cause as you ought to strive, (with sincerity and under discipline). He has chosen you, and has imposed no difficulties on you in religion."** (Al-Hajj: 78) **"You are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind."** (Al `Imran: 110)
- 3- He, moreover, stressed that as long as they follow the truth; Allah will always help them, guide them and bring victory to them and support them especially when people forsake them. Almighty Allah says: **"Allah will certainly aid those who aid His**



(cause); for verily Allah is full of Strength, Exalted in Might, (Able to enforce His Will)."
(Al-Hajj: 40) **"Allah has decreed: 'It is I and My Messengers who must prevail': for Allah is Strong, Mighty."** (Al-Mujadilah: 21)

As a result, people understood Islam as a creed, *Shari`ah* and divine message sent down to save all humanity. It is a universal religion that contains matters of creed, morals, worship and transactions. It frees people from slavery to others than Allah, disciplines their souls and reminds humanity with the Day of Judgment.

The Immigration to Abyssinia

When the persecution of the Quraish to Muslims started to intensify, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) ordered them to migrate to Abyssinia. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) knew that the king of Abyssinia was a just ruler. So, `Uthman Ibn `Afan and his wife Ruqayah, the daughter of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), migrated to



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Abyssinia along with a group of twelve men and five women. They did not like to live there. After they were informed that most of the Quraish had embraced Islam, they decided to return to Makkah but this news turned out to be false.

The persecution of the Quraish against Muslims was intensified. Among those who persecuted Muslims were Abu Jahl, `Amr Ibn Hisham Ibn Al-Mughirah, Abu Lahab Ibn `Abdul Muttalib and his wife Umm Jamil, `Uqbah Ibn Abi Ma`it, Al-`As Ibn Wa'il As-Sahmi and Al-Walid Ibn Al-Mughirah.

Then, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) permitted his Companions to migrate to Abyssinia for a second time. Consequently, eighty-three men and nineteen women migrated to Abyssinia headed by Ja`far Ibn Abi Talib and his wife Asma' bint `Umays. They stayed in Abyssinia for ten years and they preferred to live there under the protection of that just ruler.

The Conversion of Hamzah and `Umar to Islam

After six years of the Prophet's mission, Hamzah Ibn `Abd al-Muttalib and `Umar Ibn Al-Khattab embraced Islam. `Umar Ibn Al-Khattab asked permission from the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) to make the Muslims proclaim their religion publicly.

Then, the Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) gave them his permission to do so. On the spot, Muslims went out in two rows; Hamzah leading one row and `Umar leading the other. They circumambulated the Ka'bah. This made Quraish more resentful.

Negotiations

Quraish negotiated with Abu Talib to hand his nephew over to them so they could kill him. They also offered the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) money, women, medicine and authority on one condition that he would stop his call but the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) refused. In this context, the Glorious Qur'an unequivocally announces, **"Say: 'O you that reject Faith! I worship not that which you worship.'"** (Al-Kafirun: 1-2)

His uncle, Abu Talib, protected him while Abu Lahab and his wife tried many times to kill the Messenger of Allah but Gabriel protected him in accordance with Allah's command.

The Boycott

The people of Quraish decided unanimously to boycott the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be

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upon him), his Companions and those who sympathized with them. They decided not to have any business dealings with them or any sort of marriage until they perish or hand the Prophet over to them to be killed. Consequently, they wrote this down as a formal boycott.

Abu Talib, on the other hand, called Bani Hashim and Bani Al-Muttalib to support the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him). All of them agreed except Abu Lahab and his wife. Therefore, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), his Companions and his supporters stayed in the Shi`b of Abu Talib for three years. They were starving and thirsty, and ate grass. However, they never stopped calling people to Islam. After nine years of the Prophet's mission, Quraish divided into two groups, one wanted to put an end to this boycott and the other refused. Therefore, a group of them planned to repeal the boycott. At the end of that year, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and his Companions left the Shi`b.

The Year of Grief

After ten years of the Prophet's mission, Abu Talib passed away. Only after three days of the latter's death, Khadijah passed away. This caused great grief to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). After the

death of his uncle, Quraish started again its bad treatment towards the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) to the extent that they sprinkled sand on his face and put the amnion of camels on his back while he was prostrating at the Ka`bah.

The Journey to At-Ta'if

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) went out to At-Ta'if and stayed there for a month. He called the people of Thaqif to believe in Allah but they refused his call and ordered their foolish ones to hurt him. Then, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) met `Addas who kissed his



hands and feet because he got acquainted with his mission. On his way back to Makkah, a company of Jinn listened to him and believed in him. Then, he entered Makkah under the protection of Al-Mut`am Ibn `Adi.

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Endurance

At that time, Almighty Allah revealed some verses as a consolation for the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and to command him to keep patient. Following are some of these verses:

“Mocked were (many) Messengers before you; but their scoffers were hemmed in by the thing that they mocked.” (Al-An`am: 10)

“Rejected were the Messengers before you: with patience and constancy they bore their rejection and their persecution, until Our aid did reach them.” (Al-An`am: 34)

“But, for your Lord’s (Cause), be patient and constant!” (Al-Muddaththir: 7)

“Therefore, do you hold patience, - a patience of beautiful (contentment).” (Al-Ma`arij: 5)

“And have patience with what they say, and leave them with noble (dignity).” (Al-Muzzammil: 10)



Al-Israa' and Al-Mi`raj (The Night Journey)

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was taken for a journey by night from the Sacred Mosque to Al-Aqsa (the Farthest) Mosque in Jerusalem. Then, Gabriel ascended with him through the seven heavens and *Sidrat-Al-Muntaha* (the lote-tree of the utmost boundary) where the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) saw some of the greatest signs of his Lord. There, *Salah* (Prayer) was prescribed on the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and his nation. He was commanded to perform five Prayers night and day and in turn they would receive rewards from Allah as they perform fifty Prayers.

In this connection, Allah, the Almighty, says: **"And was at a distance of but two bow-lengths or (even) nearer."** (An-Najm: 9)



The people of Quraish accused the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) of lying when he told them that he had journeyed to Al-Aqsa Mosque. On asking him about the description of it, he described it completely because Allah brought a picture of it before him.

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Introducing Islam to the Tribes

When Quraish hindered the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) from carrying out his duty, namely calling people to Islam, he started to introduce Islam to tribes on occasions in order to protect him so that he could proclaim his mission. Some of these tribes rejected his call politely while others mocked at him. One day, he met six men from Al-Khazraj and introduced Islam to them. They said, "He is the Prophet who is mentioned by the Jews; so we should not allow them to precede us in believing in his call." They believed in him and promised that they would meet him the next year. In the following year, a group of twelve men came to him. He sent with them Mus`ab Ibn `Umayr to teach them the doctrines of Islam. Then, Islam spread rapidly in Al-Madinah where Sa`d Ibn Mu`adh and Sa`d Ibn `Ubadah embraced Islam. In the following pilgrimage season, seventy-three men and two women from Madinah came to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) who met them at `Aqabah. He took their pledge to protect him, to listen and obey him completely in weal and woe, and in ease and hardship.

The Hijrah

After the rapid spread of Islam in Madinah and intensifying the persecution of Quraish against Muslims, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) gave his permission to the Muslims to migrate to Madinah while he stayed in Makkah with Abu Bakr.

Quraish had formed a conspiracy against the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him). They decided to kill him using young people from the tribes. On that day, Allah sent His permission to the Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) to migrate with his Companion, Abu Bakr. He came out of



his house despite the tight siege they laid round it. They did not see him. Moreover, he did his utmost to change the direction of his way and they were about to reach him but Almighty Allah saved him.

During the journey, there were some miracles, which happened on their way. For example, the incident of Suraqah, who wanted to catch them but his horse stumbled, was one of them. Another miracle was the goat of Umm Ma`bad which had no milk. The Prophet

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(peace and blessings be upon him) touched its udders then plenty of milk flowed out of them.

Furthermore, the Hijrah (immigration) showed the high rank of Abu Bakr in the heart of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him). It is worthy mentioning that the Hijrah took place in the month of Rabi` Al-Awal.

In this connection, we would like to draw the attention to the Prophet's hadith that reads, **"Al-Muhajir (the emigrant) is the one who abstains from what Allah prohibits."**

The First Year after the Hijrah

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) entered Quba' and the people of Madinah met him with joy and happiness. He stayed at Quba' for fourteen days and built the Mosque of Quba'. Then, he moved to Madinah and stayed with Bani An-Najar for a month until he built his Mosque and houses. That year witnessed many events as follows:

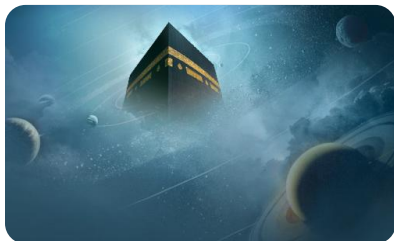
- 1- Muslims faced diseases that they had not acquainted with before and the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) asked Allah to save Madinah, endear it to the Muslims, and bless it.

- 2- The Prophet cemented the ties of brotherhood between Al-Ansar (the Helpers) and Al-Muhajrun (the Emigrants).
- 3- He concluded a treaty between Muslims (the Helpers and the Emigrants) and the Jews.
- 4- The *Adhan* (call to Prayer) was initiated.
- 5- `Abdullah Ibn Az-Zubair was born while the Jews of Madinah assumed that the Emigrants would not have offspring in Madinah.
- 6- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) married A`ishah (may Allah be pleased with her).
- 7- Muslims were permitted to fight in Allah's Cause and on the spot three expeditions went out to fight.

The Second Year after Hijrah

In that year, many events took place as follows:

- 1- The *Qiblah* (the direction to which Muslims turn their





faces in Prayer) was changed from Al-Aqsa Mosque to the Sacred Mosque in Makkah.

- 2- Fasting, *Zakah* on money and *Zakat Al-Fitr* have been prescribed.
- 3- The most important event, which that year witnessed, was the Great Battle of Badr where Muslims went out to waylay the caravan of Quraish but Allah destined this to be a great war in order to establish the truth and make it prevail. The Muslims' army was small in number and equipment but Almighty Allah supported them with angels. In that battle, seventy men of Quraish were killed including Abu Jahl and Umayyah Ibn Khalaf. Also, seventy men of Quraish were taken as prisoners of war. Thereupon, Quraish asked to ransom them. Fourteen Muslims, however, were martyred. At the end of the battle, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) sent the glad news of victory to the people of Madinah.
- 4- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) ordered Muslims to kill Ka`b Ibn Al-Ashraf and Abu Rafi` Salim Ibn Abi Al-Haqiq because they satirized the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), insulted him, and excited Quraish to fight Muslims.



- 5- Banu Qainuqa`, one of the Jewish tribes in Madinah, broke their treaty with the Prophet. So, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) besieged them and ordered them to depart Madinah.

The Third Year after Hijrah

That year witnessed the following events:

- 1- The battle of Uhud took place during this year. After their defeat in the Battle of Badr, Quraish decided to avenge. On his part, the Messenger (peace and blessings be upon



him) was of the opinion that they had to wait for enemies inside Madinah. He consulted Muslims regarding this but young men suggested to meet them outside Madinah - the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) acted according to the latter's opinion. At the beginning of the battle, Muslims had the upper hand and were about to win the battle. The archers on the mount of Uhud saw



that and thought that the battle was over. So, they left their position on the mountain and did not follow the orders of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him). Consequently, the army of Quraish surrounded the Muslim army. That was the turning point of the battle and the Quraishi army began a counter attack. Thereupon, Muslims were defeated. Seventy Muslims were martyred - Hamzah (may Allah be pleased with him) was one of them. In that battle, the hypocrisy of `Abdullah Ibn Ubay Ibn Salul, who rebelled against Muslims and withdrew with one-third of the army, was disclosed.

- 2- Also, in that year the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) sent `Asim Ibn Thabit with six Muslims to tribes of `Adal and Al-Qarah. Yet, the people of these two tribes betrayed Muslims and killed four of them and captured two whom they sold in Makkah where they have been killed.
- 3- Allah, the Almighty, has prohibited drinking wine and dealing with accumulative interest (*Riba*).
- 4- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) sent Haram Ibn Malhan with seventy men from the reciters of the Glorious Qur'an to `Amr Ibn Malik. In their way, the tribes of Salim, `Asiyah, Ra`l and Dhakwan killed them. Therefore, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) performed



Qunut in the Prayer invoking Allah against them for a month.

- 5- Also, in that year the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) went to Banu An-Nadir (one of Jewish tribes in Madinah) in order to seek their help in paying the blood-money he had to pay for two men that Muslims had erroneously killed, in accordance with the treaty they had concluded. But they conspired to kill him by throwing a large stone on his head. Then, Gabriel came down to reveal to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) their conspiracy. On the spot, he returned to Madinah, prepared an army and banished them to Syria. In this connection, Almighty Allah has revealed *Surat Al-Hashr*.

The Fourth Year after Hijrah

Like the above-mentioned years, that year witnessed great events as follows:

- 1- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and his Companions went out to fight Quraish at Badr but Quraish did not come.
- 2- That year also witnessed the birth of Al-Hussayn and the marriage of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) to Zaynab Bint Khuzaymah.



- 3- Bani Al-Mustaliq decided to fight the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). As a result, the latter met them at Al-Muraisi`. Muslims won the battle, gained a lot of spoils, and captured many of them. From the captives, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) chose Juayrah Bint Al-Harith, set her free, and married her. As a form of honoring the Prophet's relations, Muslims set free all her relatives. In their way back to Madinah, the leader of the hypocrites, `Abdullah Ibn Salul, said as the Glorious Qur'an narrates, **"If we return to Madinah, surely the more honorable (element) will expel there from the meaner.' But honor belongs to Allah and His Messenger, and to the Believers; but the hypocrites know not."** (Al-Munafiqun: 8)
- 4- During their return from the battle of Al-Muraisi`, `A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) discovered that she had missed her necklace somewhere. She went in search for it. On her return, she found that the army had already left. The hypocrites and diseased-hearted people disseminated scandal against her. On this occasion, Allah, Most High, has revealed *Surat* An-Nur and acquitted `A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her).
- 5- Moreover, the Battle of Al-Khandaq, or Al-Ahzab, took place in that year too. The unbelievers were eleven thousand and they besieged Madinah. In this context, Almighty Allah says in the Glorious Qur'an,



“And behold, the eyes swerved and the hearts gaped up to the throats.” (Al-Ahzab: 10) **“... But We sent against them a hurricane and forces that you saw not: but God sees (clearly) all that you do.”** (Al-Ahzab: 9) On the occasion of that battle, *Surat Al-Ahzab* was revealed.

- 6- Before the Battle of Al-Ahzab, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) had concluded a treaty with Banu Quraizah (one of the Jewish tribes in Madinah), but they betrayed his pledge and helped Quraish against Muslims. After the defeat of Quraish, Gabriel came down to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and ordered him to fight them. Then, he besieged them. They accepted the judgment of Sa`d Ibn Mu`adh, who was their former ally. Ibn Mu`adh's judgment was that their men would be killed, women and children would be enslaved, and their wealth would be divided among the Muslims. It is noteworthy that Ibn Mu`adh's judgment came, as the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) disclosed, in accordance with the Command of Allah, Most High. Afterwards, Ibn Mu`adh (may Allah be pleased with him) died.



The Fifth Year after Hijrah

Following are some of the great events that year witnessed:

- 1- Almighty Allah commanded His Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) to marry Zainab Bint Gahsh whose former husband was Zayd Ibn Harithah whom the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) had adopted. Apparently, this divine command was meant to prove the illegality of adoption.
- 2- *Hijab* (veil) has been prescribed by Allah, Most High.
- 3- Also, Allah has prescribed *Hajj* (Pilgrimage) upon Muslims.
- 4- In that year, according to the superior opinion of the Muslim scholars, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) journeyed to Makkah with the intention of performing *Umrah* (minor Pilgrimage) but the men of Quraish prevented him from performing it. Then,





the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) concluded the treaty of Al-Hudaibiyah with Quraish to make peace between them for ten years. Meanwhile, the believers gave their pledge of allegiance to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), which is historically known as the pledge of Ar-Ridwan.

- 5- Both `Amr Ibn Al-`As and Khalid Ibn Al-Walid embraced Islam.
- 6- The Messenger of Allah sent his messages to kings and rulers calling them to Islam¹⁹.

The Sixth Year after Hijrah

Below are some of the great events that took place in that year:

- 1- The Battle of Khaibar was one the greatest events that took place during that year. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) conquered Khaibar after besieging it for more than ten days.
- 2- Ja`far (may Allah be pleased with him) returned with the people who had migrated to Abyssinia and that

¹⁹According to the superior view of the Muslim scholars this took place in the sixth year after Hijrah.

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pleased the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) very much.

- 3- A Jewish woman offered the Prophet a roasted sheep she had poisoned, he took a mouthful, but he spat it out after the sheep's arm told him what the Jewish woman had done.
- 4- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) married Safiah Bint Huyai and Maymunah Bint Al-Harith.
- 5- It also witnessed the Compensatory *`Umrah*.

The Seventh Year after Hijrah

In that year the delegation of Al-Ash`arin came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and the Battle of Dhat Ar-Riqah took place.

The Eighth Year after Hijrah

That year witnessed numerous great events. Below are some of them:

- 1- The first combat between Muslims and Romans in the battle of Mu'tah: In this battle, Zayd Ibn Harithah, Ja'far Ibn Abi Talib and `Abdullah Ibn Rawahah were martyred; and Khalid Ibn Al-Walid led the army and could successfully return to Madinah.



- 2- The conquest of Makkah: Quraish violated the conditions of the treaty of Al-Hudaibiyah. As a result, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) decided to conquer Makkah. Therefore, he marched with ten thousand men and conquered it without war. He forgave the people of Makkah, saying, **"Go your way, for you are free."**
- 3- The Battle of Hunain: In this battle, the great numbers of Muslims elated them. Because of this spirit of elation, Muslims were about to be defeated, but Allah supported His Messenger and brought victory to him. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) started shouting, **"I am the Prophet undoubtedly: I am the son of `Abdul-Muttalib."** Among Muslims who protected the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), Umm Salim

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who carried her dagger to defend the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) while she was pregnant with her son `Abdullah.

- 4- The death of Ibrahim, the son of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), took place during that year.

The Ninth Year after Hijrah

Below are some of the great events that took place in that year:

- 1- People embraced Islam in large crowds and, according to the superior view of the Muslim scholars, the Christians of Najran were amongst them.
- 2- The Battle of Tabuk: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) marched with seventy thousand men to fight Romans in Syria. Many Romans made peace with the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and paid him the tribute (*Jizyah*). In this battle, many hypocrites remained behind in Madinah and did not go with the Muslim army due to the difficult nature of this battle: the heat was oppressive, there was a drought, fruit was ripe, and the men, therefore, wanted to stay in the shade with their fruit and disliked traveling in



that season. Among those who remained behind in Madinah were three believers – Ka`b Ibn Malik, Murarah Ibn Ar-Rabi`, and Hilal Ibn Umayyah - who repented and Almighty Allah accepted their repentance.

- 3- Negus, the king of Abyssinia, died, so the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) performed *Salat Al-Gha'ib*²⁰ for him.
- 4- The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) ordered Abu Bakr to lead Muslims in performing the rituals of Pilgrimage. After their departure, the opening passage of *Surat At-Tawbah* was revealed; and `Ali, therefore, was entrusted to deliver it to the pilgrims.

The Tenth Year after Hijrah

Like the aforementioned years, this year witnessed a lot of great events. Following are some of them:

- 1- The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) performed the Farewell Pilgrimage with all his wives and many Muslims. During this pilgrimage, Allah, the Almighty, revealed: **"This day have those who reject faith given up all hope of your religion:**

²⁰It means performing a funeral prayer for an absent dead person.

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yet fear them not but fear Me. This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favor upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion.” (Al-Ma'idah: 3) The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) instructed them regarding the prohibition of shedding others' blood with no right, defaming their honor and taking their property through illegal means. Also, he (peace and blessings be upon him) explained to them the rites of pilgrimage.

- 2- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) started to mobilize a great army under the command of Usamah Ibn Zayd to go forth to Syria. Yet, illness overwhelmed the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) who asked permission from his wives to stay with 'A'ishah. On Monday, the twelfth of Rabi' Al-Awal, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) passed away after he faithfully delivered the Message. It is noteworthy that he (peace and blessings be upon him) was given the choice to live eternally or to die. Thereupon, he (peace and blessings be upon him)





chose the latter so as to meet Allah, Most High. While the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was on his deathbed, he instructed Muslims, saying, **“(Persist in performing) prayer and (treat) your slaves (kindly).”**

His death caused a great grief to Muslims.

The Physical Description of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him)

The face of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was white and mixed with a reddish tan, bright and round. He had black and wide eyes and there was a reddish color in the white area in his eyes. His eyebrows were thick though long. He had a large forehead and thick beard. He was neither excessively tall nor extremely short. Whoever saw him from a distance would fear him, and whoever accompanied him would certainly love him. He had some gray hairs on his beard. Anas said: “I have never smelt ambergris nor musk nor any other thing better than the smell of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him).”

He was intelligent and accurate and eloquent speaker. He never praised nor criticized any food.



His Morals

Allah had gifted His servant and Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) with all sublime morals. In this context, Almighty Allah says: **"And surely you have sublime morals."** (Al-Qalam: 4)

On his part, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **"I was sent (by Allah) to perfect the sublime morals."**

`A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) described the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), saying, "His morals were the morals of Qur'an."

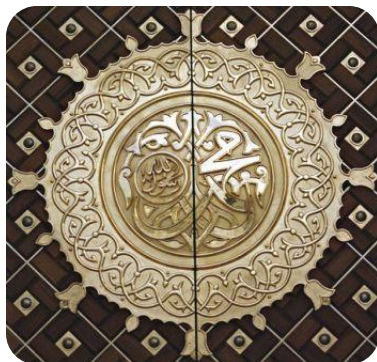
He (peace and blessings be upon him) had the best morals among people. He used to say, **"O Lord! As You have beautified my image, so beautify my morals."** Furthermore, he used to supplicate to Allah, saying, **"O Lord! I seek refuge in You from miserliness, hypocrisy and bad morals."** Almighty Allah protected him and guided him to whatever is good. Allah, Most Compassionate, says: **"... and (He) taught you what you know not (before) and great is the Grace of Allah unto you."** (An-Nisa': 133)

Following are some of his characters:

- 1- Forbearance, forgiveness and patience: Almighty Allah guided the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) to abide by these morals saying, **"Hold to**



forgiveness; command what is right; but turn away from the ignorant.” (Al-A`raf: 199) **“And bear with patience constancy whatever betide you; for this is firmness (of purpose) in (the conduct of) affairs.”** (Luqman: 17) Whenever he (peace and blessings be upon him) was given the opportunity to choose between two affairs, he always chose the easier as long as it was not sinful. He (peace and blessings be upon him) never avenged himself but in case Allah’s laws would be violated he would retaliate. People of Makkah had tortured him but he said, **“O Allah! Guide my people since they do not know!”** It is well-known that the more the ignorant people used to abuse the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), the more the latter met their abasement with tolerance and pardon. Once, a man said to him, “Load my two she-camels with the property you have for it is not yours nor your father’s, but it is Allah’s.” Then, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) kept silent and said, **“Surely, the property belongs to Allah and I am His servant.”**



- 2- Generosity and liberality:
The Prophet (peace and

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blessings be upon him) was the most generous amongst people, particularly in Ramadan. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) would never deny anything he was asked for. Furthermore, he (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **"I do not like to possess (what equals the mount of) Uhud of gold and that three days expire while I still have (even) a dinar (without spending it in the cause of Allah) except something I save for my religion."**

- 3- Courage: It was related that Ibn `Umar (may Allah be pleased with both of them) said, "I have never seen a courageous nor a helpful nor a generous man more than the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him)." Likewise, `Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "Whenever the fight grew fierce and the eyes of fighters went red, we used to resort to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) for protection. He was always the closest to the enemy."
- 4- Modesty: The Prophet was more modest than a virgin in her boudoir. When he hated a thing, it appeared on his face. He would never name a person about whom he had heard ill news and wanted to discipline him. Instead, he would say, **"Why some people did such-and-such."** Almighty Allah says: **"... Such (behavior) annoys the Prophet: he is**



ashamed to dismiss you, but God is not ashamed (to tell you) the truth.” (Al-Ahzab: 53)

- 5- Politeness and good treatment to others: He (peace and blessings be upon him) used to gather his people and not cause dissension between them. He (peace and blessings be upon him) used to respect, visit, and pay attention to his Companions. He accepted any invitation and never refused presents. He used to play with his Companions’ children and nickname them. He was always the first to shake hands. He was generous to whoever came to him and he was always cheerful.
- 6- Mercy: Allah, the Almighty, says: **“We sent you not but as a Mercy for all creatures.”** (Al-Anbiya’: 107) **“To the believers is he most kind and merciful.”** (At-Tawbah: 128) **“It is part of the Mercy of God that you do deal gently with them; were you severe or harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about you: so pass over (their faults), and ask for (God’s) forgiveness for them; and consult them in affairs (of moment).”** (Al `Imran: 159) It is reported that from time to time, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) used to admonish his Companions lest they might get bored. He, moreover, said, **“Nobody of you should inform me anything (bad) about my Companions for I like to meet you with pure heart.”** Also, he

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(peace and blessings be upon him) said, **"In (kindness to) every creature that has a dry liver a reward (from Allah)."**

- 7- Loyalty and kindness towards relatives: Whenever he received a present he used to give Khadijah's friends from it. He used to serve his guests himself. Khadijah (may Allah be pleased with her) consoled the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) when Revelation came to him, saying, **"By Allah, He will never disgrace you. You used to establish good and steady relationships with your relatives, give the poor, be generous with your guests and help others to improve right."**
- 8- Justice: Some of his perfect qualities are justice, trustworthiness and truthfulness. Before his mission, he was called the trustworthy. When Usamah Ibn Zayd interceded for Al-Makhzomeyah in the prescribed penalty for theft, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **"Oh Usamah! Do you intercede in one of Allah's prescribed penalties? By Allah! If Fatimah Bint Muhammad stole, I would cut her hand off."** When a man said to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him): "Be just!" he said to him, **"Woe to you! Who will be just if I am not."** About his justice between his wives, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **"O Lord! This is my disposal in what I have control**



over, so, grant me Your forgiveness in what I have no control over.”

- 9- Humbleness: He commanded people not to stand up for each other as the non-Arabs used to do to glorify each other. Furthermore, he (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“I am a servant (of Allah), eat as a servant eats and sit as a servant sits.”** Also, he (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“Do not excessively praise me as Christians excessively praised the son of Mary.”** Once, a man entered to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and stood in awe. Thereupon, the latter said, **“Take it easy. I am not a king. I am a son of a woman from Quraish...”** He used to fodder his she-camel, serve himself, eat with his servant and the patient and clean his house.
- 10-Gravity: He (peace and blessings be upon him) used to keep silent most of his time and speak only when it was necessary. His laughing was like smiling. When he spoke, his addressees would attentively listen. `A'ishah said, “If a man intended to count the Prophet’s words during a speech, he could easily do.”
- 11-Asceticism: According to `A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her), the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) never ate his fill of bread for three consecutive days until he passed away. Rather, he (peace and blessings be upon him) used to say,

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“Oh, I do not long for this world for I am living in it like a traveler who sat under the shade of a tree and then departed to complete his journey.”

- 12-Fear of Allah: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“I ask Allah for forgiveness a hundred times a day.”** Once, he (peace and blessings be upon him) prolonged his period of worshipping, and `A'ishah said to him, “Allah has forgiven your past and future faults.” He said, **“Shouldn’t I be a grateful slave?”**

The Miracles of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him)

As we mentioned before, the Glorious Qur'an is the eternal miracle of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) by which he challenged humanity until the Day of Judgment. Yet, Almighty Allah supported His Messenger with other





miracles. Below are some of them:

- 1- the flowing of the water among his fingers,
- 2- the splitting of the moon,
- 3- the increase of food as a result of his invocation,
- 4- the journey of Al-Isra' and Al-Mi`raj,
- 5- the submission of the tree to him,
- 6- the greeting of stones and trees in Makkah to him,
- 7- the recovery of patients as a result of his blessed invocation or his touch on the painful spot,
- 8- foretelling about future incidents like his foretelling that Khosrau would die and there would be no other Khosrau after him, his foretelling on the Day of Al-Khandaq about the conquest of the Roman and Persian empires, his foretelling that Abu Dharr would die lonely, and his telling about the poisoned goat²¹,
- 9- the respond of Allah to his invocations such as his invocation for Abu Hurayrah to have a good memory, for Ibn `Abbas to have knowledge, and his invocation for the fall of rain,

²¹This refers to the incident when a Jewish woman gifted a poisoned goat to the Messenger, but the latter was inspired by Allah with the woman's conspiracy (editor).

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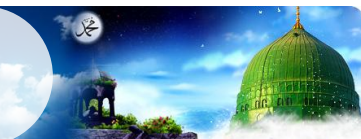


- 10-the speech of the wolf and its witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah,
- 11-hearing the glorification of food,
- 12-planting palm-trees which gave dates in the same year for Salman Al-Farisi in order to pay back his debts, and
- 13-telling the people about what they were thinking or planning secretly.

The Prophet's Messages to the Kings and Rulers of the Neighboring Countries

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) sent messages to kings and rulers of the neighboring countries to call them to Islam since Islam is a universal religion that its adherents should call others to it. Thereupon, the Messenger of Allah sent messages to Hercules, Negus, the Egyptian ruler Al-Muqawqas, the emperor of Persia, the ruler of Amman, the governor of Bahrain, the ruler of Al-Yamamah, and to the prince of Damascus.

Besides, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) sent messages to sheikhs and leaders of different tribes.



The Prophet's Wives

- 1- Khadijah Bint Khuwaylid from the tribe of Quraish: She was the first wife of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). He did not marry any other woman except after her death. She was offered greetings from her Lord via the angel Gabriel.
- 2- Sawdah Bint Zam`ah: She died during the caliphate of `Umar.
- 3- `A'ishah Bint Abu Bakr: The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) married her in Makkah after the death of Khadijah. He consummated the marriage with her in Madinah. She was the only virgin he married, the most beloved to him, and distinguished with profound knowledge. She died in 58 A.H.
- 4- Hafsa Bint `Umar: She died in 45 A.H.
- 5- Zainab Bint Khuzaymah: She stayed with him for only few months and died during his life.



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- 6- Umm Salamah: She died in 60 A.H.
- 7- Zainab Bint Jahsh: She was the first of the Prophet's wives to die after the twentieth year A.H.
- 8- Juwayriyah Bint Al-Harith: She died in 56 A.H.
- 9- Umm Habibah (Ramlah Bint Abu Sufian): She died in 44 A.H.
- 10- Safiyah Bint Huyai: She died in 50 A.H.
- 11- Maimunah Bint Al-Harith: She died in 51 A.H.

The Prophet's Children

Khadijah (may Allah be pleased with her) begot all the children of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) except Ibrahim whom Mariyah (may Allah be pleased with her) begot.

- 1- Al-Qasim: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was surnamed Abu Al-Qasim. Al-Qasim died when he was a child.
- 2- Zainab: The wife of Abu Al-`As Ibn Ar-Rabi`. She died in the eighth year after Hijrah.

- 3- Ruqayyah: She was the wife of `Uthman Ibn `Afan. He migrated with her to Ethiopia. She died when Muslims went out to the Battle of Badr.
- 4- Umm Kulthum: After the death of Ruqayyah, `Uthman married Umm Kulthum. She lived until the conquest of Makkah and died in the ninth year after Hijrah.
- 5- Fatimah: She was called Bint Abiha (the daughter of her father) and the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) called her Umm Abiha (the mother of her father). She was born five years before the Prophet's mission. She married `Ali Ibn Abi Talib and gave birth to Al-Hassan and Al-Husain, Umm Kulthum, Zaynab and Muhsin. It was said that the latter was miscarried. The descendants of Al-Hassan and Al-Hussain increased. She died six months after the death of her father (peace and blessings be upon him).
- 6- `Abdullah: His surname was At-Tahir (the pure) and At-Tayb (the good-natured) because he was born after the mission and died when he was child.
- 7- Ibrahim: He was the son of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) from Mariyah, the Coptic, and died when he was young. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon

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him) was told that his son had a breast-feeding mother in Paradise.

The Selection of the Prophet

Almighty Allah says: **"Allah chooses Messengers from angels and from men."** (Al-Hajj: 75)

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **"Verily Allah selected Kinanah from amongst the descendants of Isma`il, selected Quraish from amongst the tribes of Kinanah, selected Banu Hashim from amongst (the families of) Quraish, and selected me from amongst the tribe of Banu Hashim."**

Also, he (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **"I have been given five things which were not given to any amongst the Prophets before me: Allah made me victorious by awe (by His frightening my enemies) for a distance of one month's journey, the earth has been made for me (and for my followers) a place for praying and a thing to perform *Tayammum* (dry ablution), therefore, my followers can pray wherever the time of a prayer is due, the booty has been made *Halal* (lawful) for me and was not made so for anyone else, every Prophet used to be sent to his nation exclusively but I have been sent to all mankind, and I have**



been given the right of intercession (on the Day of Resurrection).” (Al-Bukhari)

The Prophet's Distinguishing Traits

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was singled out by particular things: the permissibility of having more than four wives, the prohibition of marrying his wives after his death, the illegality of taking a charity, the obligation of performing *Qiyam al-Layl* (Night Vigil), what the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) left behind of property was not considered as an inheritance but a charity, the obligation of burying him at the place of death, and the permissibility of fasting more than one day without breaking his fast at evening. Besides, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was granted a sleepless heart.

The Prophet's Mission

The Glorious Qur'an explains the mission of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him).

“O Prophet! Truly We have sent you as a Witness, a Bearer of Glad Tidings, and Warner, and

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as one who invites to God's (Grace) by His leave, and as a Lamp spreading Light." (Al-Ahzab: 45-46)

"O Apostle! Proclaim the (message) which has been sent to you from your Lord. If you did not, you would not have fulfilled and proclaimed His mission. And Allah will defend you from men (who mean mischief)." (Al-Ma'idah: 67)



"We have sent down to you the Book in truth, that you might judge between men, as guided by Allah: so be not (used) as an advocate by those who betray their trust." (An-Nisa': 105)

"O Prophet! Strive hard against the unbelievers and the hypocrites, and be firm against them. Their abode is Hell - an evil refuge (indeed)." (At-Tahrim: 9)

These verses explain the mission of the Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) that is to invite people to Islam and strive in the Cause of Allah until the

religion becomes Allah's in its entirety. This is obligatory upon the whole nation. Allah, the Most High, says:

"Say you: 'This is my way: I do invite unto Allah,- on evidence clear as the seeing with one's eyes,- I and whoever follows me. Glory be to Allah! And never will I join gods with Allah!'"
(Yusuf: 108)

The Prophet's Description in the Qur'an

"Now has come unto you an Apostle from amongst yourselves: it grieves him that you should perish: ardently anxious is he over you: to the Believers is he most kind and merciful." (At-Tawbah: 128)

"It is part of the Mercy of Allah that you do deal gently with them were you severe or harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about you: so pass over (their faults), and ask for (Allah's) forgiveness for them; and consult them in affairs (of moment). Then, when you have taken a decision put your trust in Allah. For Allah loves those who put their trust (in Him)." (Al `Imran: 159)

"You are not, by the grace of your Lord, mad or possessed. Nay, verily for you is a Reward

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unfailing: And you (stand) on an exalted standard of character.” (Al-Qalam: 2-4)

“Your companion is neither astray nor being misled, nor does he say (aught) of (his own) desire. It is no less than inspiration sent down to him.” (An-Najm: 2-4)

“Then he approached and came closer. And was at a distance of but two bow-lengths or (even) nearer. So did (Allah) convey the inspiration to His Servant – (conveyed) what He (meant) to convey. The (Prophet’s) (mind and) heart in no way falsified that which he saw.” (An-Najm: 8-11)

“And (O people!) your Companion is not one possessed.” (At-Takwir: 22)

“Neither does he withhold grudgingly a knowledge of the Unseen.” (At-Takwir: 24)

“That this is verily the word of an honored Apostle. It is not the word of a poet: little it is you believe! Nor is it the word of a soothsayer: little admonition it is you receive.” (Al-Haqqa: 40-42)

His Rights upon his Nation

Allah, the Most High, has made some rights for the Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) upon his nation because He is the One Who chose him as a devout and beloved servant and entrusted him with the mission of conveying the message to the whole mankind. Some of these rights are:



- 1- To believe in him: Allah, the Almighty, says: **"So believe in Allah and His Apostle, the unlettered Prophet, who believes in Allah and His Words: follow him that (so) you may be guided."** (Al-A`raf: 158) **"O you who believe! Believe in Allah and His Apostle, and the scripture which He has sent to His Apostle."** (An-Nisa': 136) **"Believe, therefore, in Allah and His Apostle, and in the Light which We have sent down."** (At-Taghabun: 8) So to believe in the Messenger is a condition of Faith and one of its pillars. Believing in him means to believe in his Message and behave accordingly.

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- 2- To take him (peace and blessings be upon him) as an example: Allah, the Most Compassionate, says: **"You have indeed in the Apostle of Allah a beautiful pattern (of conduct) for any one whose hope is in Allah and the Final Day, and who engages much in the praise of Allah."** (Al-Ahzab: 21)
- 3- To obey him: Allah, the Almighty, says: **"He who obeys the Messenger, obeys Allah:"** (An-Nisa': 80) **"O you who believe! Obey Allah, and obey the Messenger, and make not vain your deeds!"** (Muhammad: 33)
- 4- To follow him: Allah, the Most High, says: **"Say: If you do love Allah, Follow me: Allah will love you and forgive your sins. For Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."** (Al `Imran: 31) The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **"People will be divided into seventy three groups. All of them will be in the Hell-fire except one."** Then, he explained it in his saying: **"Those who follow me and my Companions."**
- 5- To abide by his decision: Allah, the Almighty, says: **"But no, by your Lord, they can have no (real) Faith, until they make you judge in all disputes between them."** (An-Nisa': 65)

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- 6- To follow his rules: Allah, the Most High, says: **"It is not fitting for a believer, man or woman, when a matter has been decided by Allah and His Apostle to have any option about their decision: if any one disobeys Allah and His Messenger, he is indeed on a clearly wrong Path."** (Al-Ahzab: 36)
- 7- To take his consultation in every matter: Allah, the Most High, says: **"When there comes to them some matter touching (public) safety or fear, they divulge it. If they had only referred it to the Apostle..."** (An-Nisa': 83)
- 8- To honor and assist him: Allah, the Almighty, says: **"In order that you (O men) may believe in Allah and His Messenger, that you may assist and honor Him, and celebrate His praises morning and evening."** (Al-Fath: 9)
- 9- Not to contend with the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him): Allah, the Most High, says: **"If anyone contends with the Messenger even after guidance has been plainly conveyed to him, and follows a path other than that becoming to men of Faith, We shall leave him in the path he has chosen,"** (An-Nisa': 115)
- 10- Not to put oneself forward before him: Allah, the Most High, says: **"O you who believe! Put not**

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yourselves forward before Allah and His Messenger.” (Al-Hujurat: 1)

- 11-Not to raise one's voice above the voice of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), even in his life or after his death: Allah, the Almighty, says: **“O you who believe! Raise not your voices above the voice of the Prophet.”** (Al-Hujurat: 2)
- 12-To be loyal to Allah and His Messenger: Almighty Allah says: **“Your (real) friends are (no less than) Allah and His Messenger.”** (Al-Ma'dah: 55)
- 13-To send blessings on him: Allah, the Almighty, says: **“Allah and His Angels send blessings on the Prophet: O you that believe! Send you blessings on him, and salute him with all respect.”** (Al-Ahzab: 56)
- 14-To love him more than any other thing, even one's self: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“No one of you has perfect faith unless I become dearer to him than his son and father and all mankind.”**
- 15-To seek his advice: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“Religion is counsel. It is said: For whom? He said: For Allah, His Scriptures, His messengers, the leaders of Muslims and their folk in general.”**

The Prophet's Compassion for his Nation

Allah, the Most High, says: **"Now has come unto you a Messenger from amongst yourselves: it grieves him that you should suffer: ardently anxious is he over you: to the believers is he most kind and merciful."** (At-Taubah: 128)



His (peace and blessings be upon him) compassion is portrayed in the following:

The *hadith* of the great intercession after the permission of Allah. The first thing that the Messenger will say is, **"My nation, my nation."**

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **"Every prophet has an accepted invocation and every prophet said his invocation but I keep mine which is my intercession to my nation for the Day of Judgment. It will be, God**

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willing, for whoever died from my nation while he did not disbelieve in Allah."

When the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) recited the verse, **"O my Lord! They have indeed led astray many among mankind; He then who follows my (ways) is of me, and he that disobeys me, - but Thou art indeed Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful"** (Ibrahim: 36), he raised his hands and said, **"O Allah! My people."** Then, he cried. Then, Allah said to Gabriel: **"Go to Muhammad and say, 'We will please you with your people and will not displease you.'"**

The Prophet's Position

Whoever recites the Glorious Qur'an, will find that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was given a high position by Allah, the Most High, Who says: **"And soon will your Guardian-Lord give you (that wherewith) you shall be well-pleased."** (Ad-Duha: 5) **"And removed from you your burden, which did gall your back. And raised high the esteem (in which) you (are held)?"** (Al-Inshrah: 2-4)

Whoever bears witness that there is no god but Allah, should follow it with bearing witness that



Muhammad is Allah's servant, His Prophet and His Messenger.

Allah, the Most High, says: **"That Allah may forgive you your faults of the past and those to follow; fulfill His favor to you; and guide you on the straight Way."** (Al-Fath: 2)

And He also says: **"To you have We granted the Abundance²²."** (Al-Kauthar: 1)

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) will be the first for whom the grave will be split, and the first to carry the brigade of Praise on the Day of Judgment. He will have the Basin (Al-Kauthar). He will be given the right of great intercession when all people will go to Adam, Nuh, Ibrahim, Musa and `Isa seeking for their intercession. Every prophet will tell them to go to the prophet who follows till `Isa will say 'Go to Muhammad.' All people will go to the Messenger of Allah. Then he will say, **"I am for it."** Then, he will intercede for them.

Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him): The Husband

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was an excellent husband to his wives. He gave them pure love. Whenever he was asked about the

²² It is a river in Paradise.

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most beloved to him he said, “`A’ishah.” He was loyal to his dead wives. He used to send presents to friends of Khadijah and her family and mention her with all goodness. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) used to clean his house. He used to take a path with `A’ishah and have races with her. If she drank from a vessel, he put his mouth at the place of hers. This is some sort of jest and kind treatment. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“The best of you is the best to his family and I am the best of you to my family.”**

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was just between his wives and always reminded them of the Last Day.

Prophet Muhammad: The Father

The two sons of Abu Lahab divorced the two daughters of the Messenger of Allah during his lifetime. He saw his daughter's husband Abu Al-`As as a captive on the day of Badr. His daughter Ruqayyah died during his lifetime and her son `Abdullah ibn `Uthman died after her. Then `Uthman married his second daughter Umm Kulthum after her sister's death. In all these situations, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was the kindhearted father.

He sometimes carried Umamah, the daughter of Zainab while he delivered his speech. He used to smell Al-Hassan and Al-Hussain and they rode on his back while he was bowing and he did not move till they left his back.

During his last days, he had no children except his daughter Fatimah. He loved her so much. When she entered to him, he stood up and kissed her and put his garment for her to sit on. He used to call her Umm Abiha (her father's mother) and sometimes he called her Bint Abiha (her father's daughter). When she complained about house work and asked him for a servant to help her, he told her that he would not give her any money while there were needy Muslims and he guided her to remember Allah.

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One day, a man wondered when he saw the Messenger kiss Al-Hassan and Al-Hussain. The man told the Messenger that he had never kissed his children. Then, the Messenger of Allah said, **“What should I do while Allah has taken mercy from your heart?”**

Prophet Muhammad: The Ruler

The Messenger was compassionate to his people. He was the first at the battlefield. He never drank till he was sure that all his people had drunk. He took care of them and sat with them.



Sometimes, a bondmaid stopped him and asked him for whatever she wished and he responded to her needs. He took care of the young, old, rich and the poor people. He sometimes gave names to some children. Whenever a child urinated on his cloths, he never became angry. Whoever invited him, he accepted his invitation. He accepted presents and gave rewards for it. He used to visit the ill, ask about the absent and pray for deceased people. He used to



prepare the army and lead it. He forgave people. He protected his people from enemies and taught his Companions how to be brave and stick to justice.

His Companionship (peace and blessings be upon him)

Companionship with you, O Messenger of Allah, is not contained in these words but it is a companionship of the heart. We ask Allah to make us follow you, strive in the cause of the Religion with which Allah has sent you, bear witness of your message when we will be asked in our graves, stand in front of your Basin and drink from it and to gain your intercession in the Hereafter.

O Allah! Send Your blessings upon Muhammad, his wives, the Mothers of the believers, his Companions and his followers until the Day of Judgment, *Amen*.