



Life of Muhammad^{sa}

BY

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MAHMUD AHMAD^{ra}

Early Childhood

His father 'Abdullah had died before his birth

he and his mother Amina had to be looked after by the grandfather, 'Abdul Muttalib

The child Muhammad^{sa} was suckled by a countrywoman who lived in a place near Ta'if

When the Prophet^{sa} was in his sixth year, his mother died while travelling from Medina to Mecca

When he was in his eighth year, his grandfather also died

After which Abu Talib, his uncle, became his guardian

Adolescence

The Prophet^{sa} had two or three opportunities to travel out of Arabia

One of these occurred when at the age of twelve he went in the company of Abu Talib to Syria

From now onwards until he grew up to young manhood he remained in Mecca

From very childhood he was given to reflection and meditation

In the quarrels and rivalries of others he took no part

except with a view to putting an end to them

Young adulthood

The tribes living in Mecca and the territories around, .., resolved to found an association the purpose of which was to help victims of aggressive and unjust treatment



When the Holy Prophet^{sa} heard of this, he gladly joined

Young adulthood

Members of this association gave an undertaking in the following terms

They will help those who were oppressed and will restore them their rights, as long as the last drop of water remained in the sea. And if they do not do so, they will compensate the victims out of their own belongings

An exceptionally brave act

His worst enemy was Abu Jahl*, a chief of Mecca



A person from outside came to Mecca. Money was due to him from Abu Jahl, but Abu Jahl refused to pay



This man went to the Prophet^{sa} and complained to him about Abu Jahl



The Prophet^{sa}, hesitating not a minute, stood up, went with the man and knocked at Abu Jahl's door

*He preached social boycott and public humiliation of the Prophetsa



An exceptionally brave act

Abu Jahl came out ..the Prophet^{sa} mentioned the loan and suggested its payment.



Abu Jahl was taken aback and, making no excuses, paid at once



When the other chiefs of Mecca heard of this they reproved Abu Jahl



Abu Jahl ..told them that as he saw the Prophet^{sa} standing at his door, he also saw two wild camels standing one on each side, ready to attack



Marriage

When the Prophet^{sa} was about twenty-five years old, his reputation for integrity and fellow-feeling had spread over the whole of the town

People would ..say, here was a man who could be trusted

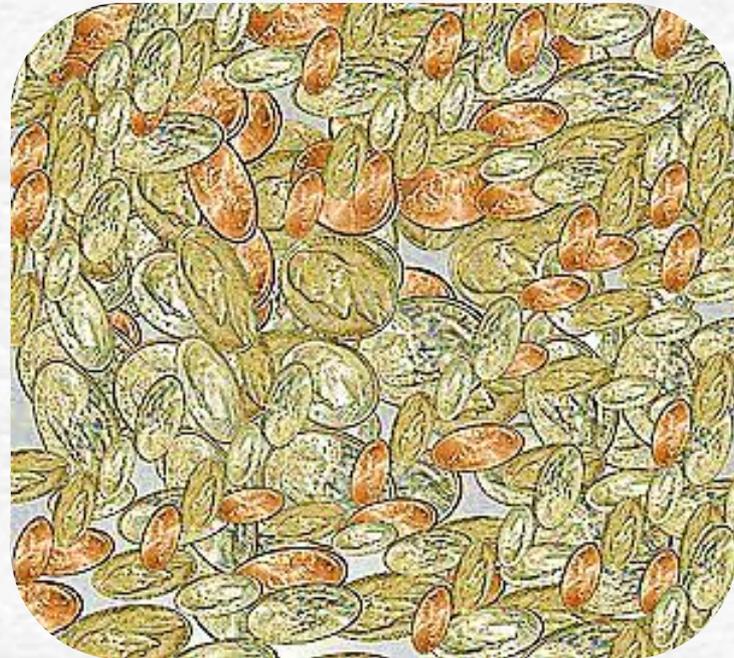
The expedition met with great success and brought unexpected profits



Marriage

The rich widow, Khadija^{ra}, was convinced that the success of the caravan was due ..to the integrity and efficiency of its leader

She interrogated her slave, Maisara, on this subject, and Maisara supported her view



Marriage

Khadija^{ra} was ..forty years of age and had already been widowed twice

She sent a woman friend of hers to the Prophet^{sa} to find out whether he would be persuaded to marry her.

Khadija^{ra} then sent a message to the Prophet's^{sa} uncle.

Marriage between the Prophet^{sa} and Khadija^{ra} was settled and solemnized

After marriage

After the marriage Khadija^{ra} felt that she was rich and he was poor



So she proposed to make over her property and her slaves to the Prophet^{sa}



The Prophet^{sa}, .. declared that as soon as he had any of Khadija's^{ra} slaves, he would set them free



And he did so



Moreover, the greater part of the property which he received from Khadija^{ra} he distributed among the poor.

A freed slave!

Among the slaves whom he thus set free was one Zaid^{ra}

He belonged to a respectable family, had been kidnapped as a child and sold from place to place until he reached Mecca.

When the Prophet^{sa} set the slaves free, Zaid^{ra} refused to be freed and asked leave to continue to live with the Prophet^{sa}

He did so, and as time went on his attachment to the Prophet^{sa}
grew

The first revelation



When the Prophet^{sa} was over thirty years of age, love of God and love of His worship began to possess him more and more.

- He chose a spot two or three miles away for his meditations.
- This was on top of a hill, a sort of cave shaped out of stone.
- In the cave he would worship God day and night

The first revelation

When he was forty years of age, he saw a vision .. In this very cave

He saw some one commanding him to recite

The Prophet^{sa} said in reply he did not know what or how to recite

The figure insisted and at last made the Prophet^{sa} recite the following verses:



The first revelation

إِقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ﴿١﴾

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ﴿٢﴾

إِقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ ﴿٣﴾

الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ﴿٤﴾

عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ﴿٥﴾

Recite thou in the name of thy Lord Who created, created man from a clot of blood. Recite! And thy Lord is the Most Beneficent, Who taught man by the pen, taught man what he knew not (96:2-6).

These verses, the first ever revealed to the Prophet^{sa}, became part of the Qur'an as did other verses which were revealed later

The first revelation

When the Prophet^{sa} received this revelation, he was full of fear of the responsibility which God had decided to place on his shoulders

After this great experience he reached home greatly agitated, his face drawn.

On Khadija's^{ra} enquiry, he narrated the whole experience to her and summed up his fears, saying,

"Weak man that I am, how can I carry the responsibility which God proposes to put on my shoulders."

The first revelation



Khadija^{ra} replied at once:

God is witness, He has not sent you this Word that you should fail and prove unworthy, that He should then give you up. How can God do such a thing, while you are kind and considerate to your relations, help the poor and the forlorn and bear their burdens? You are restoring the virtues which had disappeared from our country. You treat guests with honour and help those who are in distress. Can you be subjected by God to any trial?

The first revelation

Having said this, Khadija^{ra} took the Prophet^{sa} to her cousin, Waraqa bin Naufal, a Christian.



When he heard the account Waraqa said: **"The angel who descended on Moses^{as}, I am sure, has descended on you"**