



The *Sirah* of Prophet **Muhammad**

Birth

570 Muhammad's (SAW) Birth and Infancy

♦ The Holy Prophet Muhammad, *Salla Allah alayhi wa sallam*, (SAW) meaning (may the peace of Allah be upon him), was born in the year 570 in the town of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. His name derives from the Arabic verb *hamada*, meaning "to praise, to glorify." He was the first and only son of Abd Allah bin Al-Muttalib and Amina bint Wahb. Abd Allah died before Muhammad's (SAW) birth and Muhammad (SAW) was raised by his mother Amina, who in keeping with Meccan tradition entrusted her son at an early age to a wet nurse named Halima from the nomadic tribe of the Sa'd ibn Bakr.

575 Muhammad (SAW) Becomes an Orphan

♦ When the prophet (SAW) was six his mother took him to Yathrib (Madina). On the return journey, Amina became ill and died. The orphaned boy was now placed in the protection of his paternal grandfather, Abdul Al-Muttalib. Mecca was Arabia's most important pilgrimage center and Abdul Al-Muttalib its most respected leader.

578 Muhammad (SAW) in Mecca in Care of an Uncle

♦ Upon his grandfather's death in 578, Muhammad (SAW), aged about eight, was passed into the care of a paternal uncle, Abu Talib. Muhammad(S) grew up and was most beloved by him.

580-594 Muhammad's (SAW) Teenage Years

♦ Muhammad (SAW) worked as a shepherd. In his teens he sometimes traveled with Abu Talib, who was a merchant, accompanying caravans to trade centers. Upon reaching Busra, Syria, Bahira, a Christian monk recognized the Prophet (SAW) through his knowledge of the previous scriptures. Older merchants recognized his character and nicknamed him El-Amin, the one you can trust.

594 Muhammad (SAW) Acts as Caravan Agent for Khadija (RA)

♦ At the age of 25, Muhammad (SAW) entered the service of a wealthy Meccan merchant, a widow named Khadija bint Khawalayd. She sent the Prophet and her worker Maysarah to Syria. On this journey a monk called Nastura observed him and identified him as a Prophet.

♦ Maysarah testified to the honesty and nobility of the Prophet.

595-609 Muhammad's Marriage and Family Life

♦ Impressed by Muhammad's (SAW) honesty and character, Khadija proposed marriage. They were wed in about 595. He was twenty-five. She was forty. From his marriage with her, the Prophet (SAW) had a son named Al-Qaasim, who passed away at a young age. From him, he took his name, *kunya* (father of) Abu'l-Qaasim. In addition, he had four girls,

♦ **Zainab:** who the prophet (SAW) said about her when she migrated to Medina and was attacked and harmed by the disbelievers: "She is the best of my daughters for she was harmed following my path". She migrated to Medina after the battle of Badr. In the year 8 A.H. her husband embraced Islam and migrated to Medina to join her, and the prophet (SAW) reunited them.

♦ **Rukaya:** who the prophet (SAW) said after she migrated to Abyssinia with Othman: "May Allah be with them both, Othman is the first to migrate with his family after prophet Lot (AS).

♦ **Umm Kalthoum:** whose first husband was Otaiba Bin Abulhab, who died as a disbeliever. Her second husband was Othman Bin Affan who married her after Rukaya's death, that is why Othman was called "*dhin-noorain*" which means the one with the two lights", because he married two of Muhammad's (SAW) daughters ..

♦ **Fatimah:** the prophet (SAW) said, "Fatimah is a piece of me, whatever hurts her, hurts me, and whatever frightens her, frightens me". "Fatimah is the lady of all ladies in Paradise except Mariam (Mary) *Bint Imran* (the daughter of Imran).

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Prophethood

First Year of Prophethood

♦ In the year 610 C.E., at the age of 40 in the cave Hira, the Prophet(SAW) was visited by the angel Jibra'il. Jibra'il revealed the first few verses of Surah Iqra. From this point the era of divine revelation (Wahi) began.

♦ Shaken by the experience of revelation, Khadijah (R.A) took the Prophet(S) to Waraqah bin Nawfal, a Christian scholar. The Prophet(SAW) related his experience and Warqah said that this is what the Prophet Moses also experienced. Waraqah confirmed the Prophet(S) was the final messenger described in the Christian and Jewish scriptures.

♦ The first people to accept Islam are Khadijah (R.A), Abu Bakr (R.A), Ali (R.A) and Zaid (R.A).

♦ The Muslims began gathering in the house of Arqam to learn about Islam and worship Allah(SWT) discreetly.

First-Third Year of Prophethood

♦ The Prophet(S) discreetly invited people to Islam. This practice and propagation of Islam continued for 3 years.

♦ Those people who accepted Islam during the first three years are known as 'Al-Sabiqin al-Awwalin'. Approximately 130 men and women fall into this category.

Fourth Year of Prophethood

♦ The Prophet(S), was instructed by Allah(SWT) began to openly preach Islam. They also began to worship and perform Salah openly.

♦ Islam spread fast.

♦ The Quraish, as they received money from pilgrims visiting the Kabah, feared this new and popular religion.

♦ The Quraish intensified their opposition to the prophet and started to physically abuse him and other Muslims. The poor and weak Muslims were severely persecuted.

♦ The Quraish approached Abu Talib and attempted to convince him to make his nephew, the Prophet(S) stop preaching. Abu Talib refused.

Fifth Year of Prophethood

♦ In hope of escaping the persecution of the Quraish, 12 men and 4 women migrated to Abyssinia, where a kind king, Najasi, ruled over.

This was the first migration in Islam. Soon after a second group of 82-86 men and 17-18 women migrated to Abyssinia.

♦ The Prophet recited Surah al-Najm and the disbelievers of the Quraish were miraculously forced, against their will, to prostrate with the Muslims upon hearing the Quran.

Sixth Year of Prophethood

♦ Enraged that the Muslims were safe in Abyssinia, the Quraish sent Amr bin al-As and Abdullah bin Ubayy to Najasi to try to convince him to evict the Muslims. Najashi refused.

♦ Notable and powerful figures such as Hamza (R.A), the Prophet(S)'s uncle and Umar (R.A) accepted Islam.

♦ The Quraish contacted the Jews of Madinah and asked them for advice. They told the Quraish to put three questions to the Prophet(S) advising that, if he answered the first two of the three questions he was a Prophet(S). The Prophet(S) answered the questions.

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The *Sirah* of Prophet Muhammad

Seventh-Ninth Years of Prophethood

- ♦ The Quraish initiated an oppressive boycott to the Muslims and any supporters of the Prophet(S). To show that it was official, they hung the charter of the boycott inside the Kabah, with the words, "In the name of God"
- ♦ The three year long boycott caused massive starvation amongst the Muslims. They were forced to survive on leaves. Sometimes if they were lucky they would find skin, which they would roast to eat.
- ♦ Mansur bin Ikramah, the scribe who drafted the charter of the boycott, was soon punished by Allah. His hands became disabled and he was never to write again.

Tenth Year of Prophethood

- ♦ The Quraish again asked Abu Talib, to make his nephew stop preaching. The Prophet(S), by Allah(SWT), said if the Quraish were to find that charter hanging inside the Kabah was eaten away except for the words, "In the name of Allah," then they would stop the boycott. The Quraish found this to be true and so stopped the boycott.
- ♦ The Prophet's (SAW) uncle Abu Talib, who had given him constant support, and his wife Khadija, with whom he had shared a happy life for twenty-five years, passed away only three days apart from one another (10 Ramadan/19 April 620). Their demise deeply saddened the Prophet and the Muslims. Thus, this year came to be known as the Year of Sorrow,
- ♦ The Prophet(S) went to the city of Taif to ask for help. The people of Taif mocked and attacked him. On the return from Ta'if an angel asked the Prophet(S) for permission to crush the people of Ta'if by bringing together the mountains on either side of the two cities, Prophet(S) refused and instead prayed for them.

Eleventh Year of Prophethood

- ♦ The Me'raj/Isra took place wherein the Prophet(S) was taken from Masjid al-Haram in Makkah, to Masjid al-Aqsa in Palestine in one night. In this journey, Prophet(S) physically toured the heavens. It was during this journey that the 5 daily prayers became obligatory.
- ♦ Six men from the tribe of Khazraj accepted Islam. Through these six men Islam began in Yathrib, or as it was later named to, Madinah.
- ♦ The Prophet(S) married A'isha (R.A).

Twelfth Year of Prophethood

- ♦ First pledge of Aqabah took place, in which 12 men from Madinah pledged their allegiance to the Prophet(S).

Thirteenth Year of Prophethood

- ♦ The second pledge of Aqabah took place, in which 2 women and 70-73 men pledged their allegiance to Prophet(S). The Prophet(S) then appointed 12 leaders amongst them.
- ♦ Upon seeing the mounting difficulties and persecution the Muslims faced daily, the Prophet(S) instructed his companions to migrate to Madinah.

"You have indeed in the Messenger of Allah, a beautiful model of (conduct) for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Final Day and who engages much in the praise of Allah"

Quran: 33 -21.

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Fourteenth Year of Prophethood/First Year of Migration 622/623 CE

- ♦ The disbelievers of Quraish gathered in Dar al-Nadwa to plot to kill the Prophet(S).
- ♦ The next day, a group of Quraish men surrounded the house of Prophet(S) in order to assassinate him. When the Prophet(S) emerged, he threw dust in their direction which temporarily blinded them. They remained unaware of his exit until morning. At this point, on the 27th of Safar, the Prophet(S) began the journey of migration along with his loyal companion Abu Bakr (R.A).
- ♦ The Prophet(S) stopped in Quba, which was a place at the entrance of Medina for a few days wherein he established the first masjid, namely Masjid Quba.
- ♦ The Jewish rabbis came to the Prophet(S) in order to test him and determine whether he was their long awaited prophet. Many Jewish scholars accepted Islam upon meeting him.
- ♦ The Prophet(S) and his companions (R.A) built Masjid al-Nabawi as well as his living quarters. As the Muhajirin(Muslims who emigrated to Medina) had left all their possessions in Makkah, Prophet(S) established the bond of brotherhood between the Muhajirin and Ansar(Muslims of Medina). An Ansari took a Muhajir as his brother, which established the bond of Brotherhood between the Muhajirin and Ansar. The Ansar then divided his entire wealth with that man whom he had taken as his Brother.
- ♦ The Athan, call to prayer was established.
- ♦ As the Quraish prepared to attack Madinah, Allah(SWT) granted the Muslims permission to defend themselves and thus Jihad was ordained.
- ♦ Salman al-Farsi and Abdullah bin Salam the famous Jewish scholar, both accepted Islam.

Second Year of Migration

- ♦ Through the command of Allah the direction of prayer, Qibla, was changed from Masjid al-Aqsa to Masjid al-Haram.
- ♦ The Battle of Badr took place between the Muslims and the disbelievers of Quraish. Despite the fact that the Muslims had only about 300 ill-equipped men and the Quraish had over a 1000 well armed men, the Muslims were victorious. The year was 624 C.E.
- ♦ Fatimah (R.A), the daughter of the Prophet, married Ali (R.A).

Third Year of Migration

- ♦ The Battle of Uhud took place. The year was 625 C.E. In this battle, Prophet Muhammed(S) placed fifty of his best archers on the side of the mountain to protect the Muslims from the rear. They were instructed not to leave until instructed to do so.
- ♦ When the Quraysh started retreating, the archers eager to collect the booty (spoils of the war), started running down the mountain. Abdullah ibn Jubayr, tried to convince them to stay, but only ten kept their ground, while the rest left. The Quraysh seeing the archers leaving their posts, advanced to the Muslims attacking them from their rear.
- ♦ The Muslims did not win this battle.

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The *Sirah* of Prophet Muhammad

Fourth Year of Migration

- ◆ Upon their request, the Prophet(S) sent ten learned Muslims to the tribe of Adhal and Qarah to educate them about Islam. They betrayed the Muslims and killed all ten learned Muslims.
- ◆ Upon the request of Amir bin Malik the Prophet(S) sent seventy companions (R.A) to Najd to teach them about Islam. Again the Muslims were betrayed and martyred.
- ◆ Hussain (R.A); the grandson of the Prophet(S) was born to Fatimah (R.A).
- ◆ The second expedition of Badr took place.
- ◆ The rules of Hijab (modestly covering oneself) were ordained.

Fifth Year of Migration

- ◆ The rules of Tayammum were ordained.
- ◆ The Battle of the Trench: An alliance of 10,000 soldiers from different Arab and Jewish tribes converged on Madinah. The Prophet(S), by the suggestion of Salman al Farsi, dug trenches around Madinah to stop their advance. The enemy besieged Madinah for 27 days after, which distrust and dispute dissolved the alliance and they all left.
- ◆ Hajj is made obligatory.

Sixth Year of Migration

- ◆ The Prophet(S) and his companions intended to perform Umrah.
- ◆ The Quraish prevented them from entering Makkah and a standoff between the Quraish and the Muslims ensued.
- ◆ During this standoff, the Prophet(S) sent Uthman (R.A) as a messenger on behalf of the Muslims to the Quraish. The Muslims were wrongly informed that Uthman (R.A) was martyred by the Quraish.
- ◆ The Muslims vowed to take revenge for him. This vow was known as Bay'ah al-Ridhwan. Subsequently this standoff was resolved through the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah.
- ◆ The Treaty of Hudaibiyyah meant that after 18 years of persecution at the hands of the Quraish, the Muslims would now live in peace.
- ◆ In this peace-time era the Prophet sent letters to various kings and rulers inviting them towards Islam.

Seventh Year of Migration

- ◆ The battle of Khaybar: The inhabitants of Khaybar were the main agents who had enlisted the Arab and Jewish forces in the battle of the confederates, who lived in Madinah. They were still at large and continued to plot against Islam. The Prophet(S) laid siege to their forts.
- ◆ The people of Khaybar begged for forgiveness, which the Prophet(S) granted and he allowed them to leave Madinah without any punishment.
- ◆ Umrah al-Qadha was performed to compensate for the Umrah, which the Muslims intended to perform in the previous year.
- ◆ Ja'far bin Abi Talib (R.A) and other companions (R.A) who are left in Abyssinia migrated to Madinah.
- ◆ Highly respected leaders such as Khalid bin Walid, Uthman bin Talha and Amr bin Aas accepted Islam.

Eighth Year of Migration

- ◆ The Quraish broke the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, at which, the Prophet (S) advanced towards Makkah with 10,000 soldiers and successfully entered and conquered Makkah.
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- ◆ Even though the Quraish had tortured and persecuted the Muslims, when the Prophet(S) entered Makkah, he prohibited any form of revenge and thus there was no bloodshed.
- ◆ This act of kindness and peace results in many ardent enemies of the Prophet accepting Islam. The year was 630 C.E.
- ◆ Entire tribes embraced Islam in succession. Even after the Prophet(s) gave the Quraish leaders sanctuary and forgave them, many of the leaders still embraced Islam. Some of them were: Safwan bin Umayyah, Suhayl bin Amr, Utbah and Mu'awiyah (RA) (May Allah be pleased with them).
- ◆ The Prophet(S) appointed governors in many Muslim areas and thus a system of peace and justice was established in those areas.

Ninth Year of Migration

- ◆ Tamin bin Awsal-Dari accepted Islam. He was also well known for being the first person to light a lamp in a Majid that had no light.
- ◆ The Prophet(S) dispatched individuals to the various Muslim lands to collect Zakat.
- ◆ After the fall of Makkah and the collapse of the Quraish, the Romans feared for their own power. The Muslims assembled an army of 30,000 to combat the Roman army of 40,000 at Tabuk. The Romans fled as soon as they heard of the Muslim army and thus no fighting took place.
- ◆ Usury and dealing with Riba (interest) became prohibited.

Tenth Year of Migration

- ◆ The Prophet sent Muadh bin Jabal (R.A) to Yemen. One of the greatest of Muadh's contributions was that he was one of the group of six who collected the Qur'an during the lifetime of the Prophet (S).
- ◆ The Prophet (S) personally bade farewell to him and walked for some distance alongside Muadh as he set out to leave the city. Finally he (S) said to him: "O Muadh, perhaps you shall not meet me again after this year. Perhaps when you return you shall see only my mosque and my grave." Muadh wept. Those with him wept too. A feeling of sadness and desolation overtook him as he parted from his beloved Prophet, (SAW). The Prophet(S)'s premonition was correct. The eyes of Muadh never beheld the Prophet(S) after that moment. The Prophet(S) died before Muadh returned from the Yemen. When Muadh returned to Madinah the *Khalifa* (head of state) was Abu Bakr (RA).

Eleventh Year of Migration (May) 632 CE

- ◆ In March, 632, Prophet Muhammad(S) returned to Mecca one last time to perform Hajjat Al Wada (Farewell Pilgrimage); and tens of thousands of Muslims joined him where he gave his Last Farewell Sermon.
 - ◆ After the pilgrimage, he returned to Medina. Three months later on June 8, 632 (Monday 12th Rabi'al- Awwal 11 AH) he died there, after a brief illness. He is buried in the mosque in Medina.
 - ◆ Muhammed (SAW) lived a simple, austere and modest life. He played many roles including, head of state, chief of justice, commander-in-chief, arbitrator and family man. The Prophet's (SAW) sayings are collections known as the "Hadiths".
 - ◆ Among his (S) last words were "We the community of Prophets are not inherited. Whatever we leave is for charity."
 - ◆ So strong was his message of faith that within a hundred years, Muhammad(S)'s teachings and way of life had spread from the remote corners of Arabia to as far east as Indo-China and as far west as Morocco, France and Spain.
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The Prophet's (SAW) Last Sermon



"O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I don't know whether, after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore listen to what I am saying to you carefully and take these words to those who could not be present here today.

O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as Sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your Lord, and that He will indeed reckon your deeds. Allah has forbidden you to take usury (Interest), therefore all interest obligation shall henceforth be waived.

Beware of Satan, for your safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things.

O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have right over you. If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with any one of whom you do not approve, as well as never to commit adultery.

O People, listen to me in earnest, worship Allah, say your five daily prayers (Salah), fast during the month of Ramadan, and give your wealth in Zakat. Perform Hajj if you can afford to. You know that every Muslim is the brother of another Muslim. All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety (taqwa) and good action. Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood. Nothing shall be legitimate to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim unless it was given freely and willingly. Do not, therefore, do injustice to yourselves.

Remember, one day you will appear before Allah and answer for your deeds. So beware, do not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone.

O People, no prophet or apostle will come after me and no new faith will be born. Reason well, therefore, O People, and understand my words which I convey to you. I leave behind me two things, the Qur'an and my example, the Sunnah and if you follow these you will never go astray.

All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again; and may the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly. Be my witness oh Allah that I have conveyed your message to your people."

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