

**LIFE IN MAKKAH [TOPIC 1]  
[SESSION 1]**

**The Life of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H)**

**Early Life:**

**Birth:**

Holy Prophet was born in the year of Elephants 12<sup>th</sup> Rabi ul Awwal, 570 AD, that was when Abraha the vicegerent of Abyssinia was adamant to change Makkah as the place of Pilgrimage with San'a. He built a church so that people could visit the church as the place to perform the pilgrimage. A man from Kinana tribe got to know his evil moves and caused some damage in Abraha's church. In fury he vowed to demolish Makkah and set out with an army of **sixty thousand** and around **thirteen** Elephants. Upon reaching close to Makkah, Abraha chose the **biggest elephant (Mahmud)** for himself. It so happened that all the elephants refused to go forward and knelt down. It was the decision of Allah that he sent down birds in order to protect the Holy city. These birds were very much like swallows and sparrows, each carrying three stones; one in its peak and two in its claws. The stones hit Abraha's men and cut their limbs and killed them. A large number of Abraha's soldiers were killed in this way and the others fled at random and died everywhere. Abraha himself had an infection that had his fingertips amputated. When he reached San'a he was in a miserable state and died soon after. Holy Quran mentions this incident in Surah Al-Fil in the following words ***"O beloved! Have you not seen how your Lord dealt with the men of the Elephant? Did He not cause their device to be ruined? And He sent against them flocks of birds. Striking them against stones of baked clay. And thus made them like broken straw eaten up"***

After the battle of Fihl was over, the birth of Holy Prophet took place at the house of Abdullah ibn Mutalib and Amina bint Wahb. Abdullah at the time of the birth of his son had passed away and now the new born was under the care of his beloved mother. Holy Prophet was born in Bani Hashim lane in Makkah on **Monday morning, the ninth of Rabi' Al-Awwal.**

**Care of Bibi Halima:**

Arabia, at that time had a tradition that they used to give new born babies to Bedouin women who could take care of them. The care by the Bedouin was done for two reasons a) The Bedouin women would earn money through this and b) the children would learn pure Arabic dialect. Much like everyone, Bibi Amina also wanted a Bedouin woman to take her baby so as to keep him away from the busy life of the city of Makkah. It was during this time that a fair took place where babies were put up for adoption and Bedouin women came to collect them. Holy Prophet was also present as a baby there but none of



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the women took him because he was an orphan and all the women that came eyed on the amount of wealth they would get by taking care of the child. Since, the Holy Prophet was an orphan, getting a good amount for care would be nearly impossible. Until, a woman named Halima bint-e Dhu'yab took the Holy Prophet with him as she was unable to find any other child to foster to. She is reported to have said

*"Every woman who came with me got a baby and when we were about to depart, I said to my husband: "By Allah, I do not like to go back along with the other women without any baby. I should go to that orphan and I must take him." He said, "There is no harm in doing so and perhaps Allah might bless us through him." So I went and took him because there was simply no other alternative left for me but to take him."*

Bibi Halima did an initial contract of 2 years with the mother of the Holy Prophet. With the coming of Prophet, the fortune of Bibi Halima changed, her camels and goats which were not giving milk had now started giving milk and overall her life standard had improved. She also saw that the grass around her house had turned greener when the neighborhood still had yellow grass. This did strike her as odd but she kept on taking care of the baby.

The young baby Muhammad SAW had to be returned to his mother at the tender age of two, as per the rules of the contract. Bibi Halima took him back to his mother in Makkah which was undergoing a plague (a disease). Therefore, Bibi Halima requested Bibi Amina that Muhammad SAW should be given in her custody for two more years. Bibi Amina agreed and Holy Prophet started living with Bibi Halima once again.

Towards the end of the second year, something strange happened which made it inevitable for Bibi Halima to keep the baby in her custody. It so happened that the Holy Prophet was in a room alongside his foster brother when two men in white come to Holy Prophet. They opened his chest and removed his heart, washed away a black clot (which in Ahadith, is stated as the Shaytan part), cleaned it in a gold platter and put it back in its place. *Imam Muslim narrates from Sayyiduna Malik bin Anas that: "Jibrail came to the Beloved RasulAllah while he was playing with other boys. He took hold of him and laid him down on the ground, then he opened his chest and took out his heart, from which he took out a clout of blood and said: "This was the Shaytan's part in you" Then he washed it with Zamzam in a Golden tray. Then he put it back together and returned it to its place. The boys went running to his mother and said: "Muhammad has been killed." They went to him and his color had changed." Sayyiduna Anas said: "I used to see the mark of that stitching on his chest!" (Sahih Muslim)*



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The foster brother ran to his mother Bibi Halima, who upon hearing this story was so shocked that she sent away Prophet to his mother. It is also stated that the Prophet Muhammad learnt pure Arabic dialect during his stay in Banu Saad. The Holy Prophet said *"Verily I am the most perfect Arab amongst you; my descent is from Quraish and my tounge is the tounge of Banu Saad"* (Ibn Hisham)

### **Custody of His mother and Grandfather:**

The Holy Prophet aged around 4 years was now in custody of his mother Bibi Amina. When the Holy Prophet was at the age of six Bibi Halima took him, their maid Umm-e-Aiman and her father-in-law, Abdul Muttalib to visit the grave of her husband in Yathrib, **some 500 kilometers away from Makkah**. They stayed there for a month and on the journey back, Bibi Amina fell ill and passed away in a place called Abwa.

Holy Prophet was brought back safely by his grandfather who then took his custody. 'Abdul-Muttalib, the grandfather of the Holy Prophet, had a special love for his grandson, more than his own children. He never allowed the boy to feel lonely and always treated him with preference. There was a mattress placed in the shade of the Ka'bah, where 'Abdul-Muttalib would sit. While his other children gathered around it to honor their father, the Holy Prophet would sit on the mattress. Despite attempts by his uncles to move him, 'Abdul-Muttalib insisted that his grandson remain seated. He had a strong belief that the Holy Prophet would hold a significant position in the future. 'Abdul-Muttalib would pat his back, showing his affection and joy for everything the Holy Prophet did. Abdul Muttalib was able to take care of the Holy Prophet for two years as he also passed away when the Holy Prophet was of age eight.

### **Custody of Abu Talib:**

After the death of his grandfather, Prophet moved on with his uncle, Abu Talib who then started taking care of him. **Abu Talib was a poor man** who earned his livelihood through the pasturing of sheep and would often take his nephew on travels. It was during one of the travels to Syria that they met a Christian monk **Bahira (his real name was "Georges")** at a place known as Bostra. Bahira, in his safekeeping, had manuscripts which predicted the coming of a Prophet and his belief was that he would come during his lifetime. Upon the arrival of the caravan, Bahira noticed some signs. As the caravan moved closer, he could see a small cloud moving over the caravan and where the caravan stopped, the cloud stopped as well. Moreover, where the caravan rested, the branches of the tree lowered to offer more shade. Upon the arrival of Holy Prophet, Bahira saw the signs in him of being a Prophet, the most prominent one being the marks between his shoulders about which Bahira said, *"I can recognize him*





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*also by the seal of Prophethood which is below his shoulder, like an apple. We have got to learn this from our books.*". Seeing them, he told Abu Talib of protecting the Prophet as was to become a Prophet.

### Harb-ul-Fijar (sacrilegious wars) and Hilf-ul-Fudul:

Upon their return, the tribes in Makkah had a clash amongst them in the year when fighting was forbidden. This war is known as **Harb-al-Fijr (the sacrilegious war)**. This battle happened at the fair of Ukaz which a custom in Arabia. During this fair the Quraish alongside the Kinanah tribe came in conflict with the Qays-Ailan tribe. Holy Prophet was also present during this war but did not fight, he just collected fallen arrows for his uncle to shoot later.

Harb-ul-Fijr led to the signing of a peace treaty and this is known as the **Hilf-ul-Fudul**. During the sacred month of Dhul-Qadah, several tribes called for this treaty. The tribes were Bani Hashim, Bani Al-Muttalib, Asid ibn Abdul-Uza, Zahra ibn Kilab and Taym ibn Murah. They gathered in **Abdullah ibn Jud'an** house. There they agreed on and wrote up a covenant that stated **that any oppressed person in Mecca, whether he was from Mecca itself or from any other city, would be supported against the one who oppressed him until the oppressor gave the oppressed his rights**. Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) witnessed this covenant. Holy Prophet, talking about Hilf-ul-Fudul said *"In Abdullah ibn Jud'an's house, I witnessed a covenant which is more beloved to me than a prized red camel. If I was called to uphold it after Islam came, I would have agreed (to do so)"*

### Marriage with Hazrat Khadija:

Holy Prophet then started trading and his honest and truthful nature earned him the title of *"Sadiq"* and *"Amin"*. It was during those days that he started trading for a woman named Khadija who belonged to the tribe of Banu Asad. She, after the death of her second husband took over his business. She heard of Muhammad's great reputation that she hired him for a trade trip to Syria. She sent her servant Maysara alongside to help Prophet with his task. Upon their return Maysara told her how wonderfully Prophet did the business and how a Monk named Nestor claimed that he was a Prophet of Allah. When, Hazrat Khadija heard of it all, she sent a proposal of marriage to Prophet Muhammad through her friend Nafeesa. After consultation with his uncles, Prophet Muhammad got married at the age of twenty-five with Hazrat Khadija. Together, they had four daughters and two sons (both of whom died in infancy)

### Rebuilding Kaabah:



0307-4523656



@abdullahteaches



ishaqabdullah012@gmail.com



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(Sawiq which is barley porridge) and water and go to a cave called Hira' (a small cave 4 yards long and 1.75 yards wide) in the Mount Al-Nour. It was a small cave, and he would often invite travelers passing by to share his food with him. During this time, especially in the month of Ramadan, he would focus on worshipping and thinking about the world. He was troubled by the wrong actions and idol worship that were common among his people, but he didn't know what to do about it yet. This period of solitude and contemplation was important for him because it prepared him for the important role he would have later on. It helped him develop a strong connection with the unseen power behind the universe.

The holy month of Ramadan was his traditional month of retreat, and during the end of Ramadan in 610 AD (evidence states it was Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> of Ramadan) he experienced something unique. He was shocked by a voice which woke him from his sleep and said **"Read"**. Holy Prophet at this time was shocked and as reported by Hazrat Aisha (from what she heard from the Holy Prophet) **"I said: I cannot read! The Angel then took me and pressed me tightly" Then he repeated the words "Read", "I cannot Read." Said I; and once again he squeezed me and let go me until I was exhausted. The he said, "Read", "I cannot Read." Said I; and he squeezed me for a third time and then let me go and said Recite in the name of your Lord Who created, created man from a clot of congealed blood. Recite: and your Lord is Most Generous. Who taught by the pen, taught man what he did not know.** As soon as the Holy Prophet heard it he started saying it out as well as if it had been imprinted on his mind.

Upon being shaken by this experience and running out, he started tripping on the rocks, afraid of what had happened to him. He then looked at the sky and it was filled with stars and on the sky he saw Angel Jibraeel hanging over calling him out: **"I am Jibraeel, and you are Muhammad the Messenger of Allah"**. Then onwards he ran to his house and upon reaching he asked his wife, Hazrat Khadija **"Cover me, cover me."** They covered him until he restored security. He told Hazrat Khadijah of the incident of the cave and added that he was horrified. His wife tried to soothe him and reassured him saying, **"Allah will never disgrace you. You keep good relations with your kith and kin; you bear the burden of the weak; you help the poor and the needy, you serve your guests generously and assist the deserving calamity-afflicted ones."**

She then told him that she will be visiting her cousin, Warqa bin Nawfal, who had embraced Christianity in the pre-Islamic period, and used to write the Hebrew Scriptures. She took the Holy Prophet alongside and when they reached his residence, Hazrat Khadija said, **"My cousin, listen to your nephew!"** Warqa then said, **"O my nephew! What did you see?"** Holy Prophet told him what had happened. He replied, **"This is 'Namus', i.e. (the angel who is entrusted with divine secrets) that Allah sent to Hazrat Musa. I wish I were younger. I wish I could live up to the time when your people would turn you out."**



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ishaqabdullah012@gmail.com



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After the marriage, an incident occurred which had a lasting impact on the history of Makkah. It was during the time of floods that Kabah was being renovated and the issue of replacing the black stone occurred. The tribal chiefs present fought over as to who would place the stone in its place because of the huge importance it had. It was then decided by the elder most chief, that whoever, in the morning will walk into the vicinity of Kabah first will replace it. The first person to enter was none other than the Holy Prophet and he used a technique which made it easy for the stone to be replaced and also ended the fight. He asked for a big cloak, and on that he placed the stone, he then asked all the chiefs to hold it from one end and take it to the area where it had to be placed. He then placed the stone and the fight was resolved as well.

### **Holy Prophet's character till age 40:**

To sum it all up, the Holy Prophet had a sharp mind and a pure nature, which helped him understand and relate to different ways of life and people, both as individuals and as a community. He stayed away from superstitious practices and instead engaged in constructive and useful activities. When he needed time alone, he would retreat to solitude. He avoided drinking alcohol, eating meat sacrificed to idols, and participating in idolatrous festivals. He strongly disliked and rejected the worship of idols, and he couldn't tolerate anyone swearing by false gods. He was protected by God's providence from engaging in any evil or abominable practices. Whenever he was tempted to indulge in worldly pleasures or follow questionable traditions, God intervened and prevented him from doing so. **The Prophet once tried to join a wedding party in Makkah with music being played, but he fell into a deep sleep in the middle of it and was awakened by the sun's heat. He realized it was a sign from God, and he never repeated that mistake again.**

### **The Call to Prophethood:**

When Prophet Muhammad was around forty years old, he would spend a lot of time alone, thinking and reflecting on the world around him. It is commonly stated that this is the time when the Prophets were always ordered to disclose their message. This was the time when the signs of Prophethood became evident to the Holy Prophet. These signs included the greeting of the stones everytime the Holy Prophet passed through them and his dreams becoming a reality.

Holy Prophet's start of the revelation occurred with his dreams becoming a reality and then seclusion became dear to him. In order to seclude himself he would go to cave Hira to engage himself in Tahanuth (devotion), for a couple of nights before reuniting with his family. He would bring some simple food

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Muhammad asked, "Will they drive me out?" Waraqah answered in the affirmative and said, "Anyone who came with something similar to what you have brought was treated with hostility; and if I should be alive till that day, then I would support you strongly." But after a few days Waraqah died.



**Abdullah**  
ISHAQ



0307-4523656



@abdullahteaches



ishaqabdullah012@gmail.com