

BELIEF IN THE PROPHET

1.0 His name & lineage.

- 1.1 His name: Muhammad, the son of 'Abdullāh.
- 1.2 His lineage: Muhammad, the son of 'Abdullāh, the son of 'AbdulMutallib, the son of Hāshim. Hāshim was from the tribe of the Quraysh. The Quraysh are from the Arabs, who are the descendants of Prophet Ismā'īl, the son of Prophet Ibrāhīm - may peace and salutations be upon all the Prophets.

2.0 The Prophet's birth and death.

- 2.1 The exact birth date of the Prophet ﷺ is unknown; however we know he was born in the Year of the Elephant. This was approximately 570 of the Christian era i.e. 570 years after the presumed birth of Prophet 'Īsa (Jesus).
- 2.2 He was born in the sacred city of Mecca, in the Arabian Peninsula, in the country which is now known as Saudi Arabia.
- 2.3 Due to persecution, he and his followers left Mecca and moved to the city of Madīnah in which he lived and died.
- 2.4 He lived for 63 years - 40 years before prophethood and then 23 years as a prophet. Of these 23 years, he lived 13 in Mecca and 10 in Madinah.
- 2.5 He died in the year 632 of the Christian era i.e. 632 years after the presumed birth of Prophet 'Isa (Jesus).

3.0 His Family.

- 3.1 His parents: His father was: 'Abdullāh Ibn 'AbdulMutallib, he died before his birth. His mother was: Āminah bint Wahb, she died when he was only 6 years old.
- 3.2 His siblings: He did not have any biological brothers and sisters; however, he had step-brothers and step-sisters who were related to him by having the same wet-nurse(s).
- 3.3 His wives: The Prophet ﷺ married 11 women in total. Only one of them - 'Aisha - was a virgin. His first wife -

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Khadijah - was 15 years older than him. His other wives were either widows whose husbands died, divorced by their husbands and/or single mothers struggling to look after their children. Some of them were also slaves whom the Prophet ﷺ emancipated and then married.

3.4 His children: He had 7 children in total, 3 sons and 4 daughters. His 3 sons died in their infancy, and 3 of his 4 daughters died during his lifetime.

4.0 His lifestyle

4.1 His living quarters were “Hujarāt” - chambers or rooms which were approximately 4mx4m in size. During these ten years, he never ‘upgraded’ his accommodation or built a house for himself.

4.2 During his life in Madīnah, he never lived like a king, He never allowed people to stand up for him if he entered a room, nor remain standing if he was sitting. Often, he could not be distinguished from the rest of his companions.

4.3 People were treated fairly in front of the Prophet ﷺ: He never gave preferential treatment to the rich and he never overlooked the rights of the weak and poor. He preferred the companionship of the poor and weak, and would spend a great deal of time trying to help them.

4.4 His clothing, shoes, lifestyle, accommodation and food were no better than most of his companions, and often worse off - may peace and blessings be upon him. This is not because he was poor. If he had wanted to be rich, he could have been very rich; however, he remained humble and lived in modesty.

5.0 His message.

5.1 The core of his mission was the same as every other prophet: He was sent with glad tidings, as a warner and as a witness.

5.1.1 {O Prophet, indeed We have sent you as a witness, a bringer of good tidings and a warner} [33:45]

5.2 He called to Tawḥīd - the worship of Allāh alone; that mankind should be sincere and truthful to their Creator. He urged people to appreciate the many blessings of

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their Lord and to show gratitude to Him through their sincere worship of Him. He warned against turning away from Allāh, and Shirk - associating partners with Allāh in worship.

- 5.3 Along with teaching people about Allāh and His exclusive right to be worshipped, he also taught them how to worship Him; and the manners, ethics and morals we should all adorn ourselves with.
- 5.4 Our Prophet ﷺ taught us to fulfil the rights of the Creator by worshipping Him alone, and fulfil the rights of all creation by being good to them. He emphasised the rights and responsibilities we must fulfil.
- 5.5 He encouraged us to be sincere, honest, and hardworking in order to provide for our families; he also encouraged people to learn and educate each other.
- 6.0 What were the struggles he went through?
- 6.1 He grew up as an orphan in the care of others.
- 6.2 He suffered the death of those closest to him: his uncle Abu Tālib and his beloved wife Khadijah; All his children passed away during his lifetime apart from one daughter, Fāṭimah who died 6 months after his death.
- 6.3 The Quraysh harmed him through mockery, slander, defamation, abuse and exile.
- 6.4 To harm him, they would torture his companions and kill some of them. He could not do anything to prevent this in Mecca, so he would encourage them to remain patient.
- 6.5 When he finally reached Madinah, his struggles did not cease. His enemies were always plotting to harm and persecute him. They poisoned his food, attacked Madinah and even tried to assassinate him. He signed peace treaties with them, but they broke all the treaties, and the Quraysh continued their wars.
- 6.6 While living in Madīnah, he never filled his stomach for more than two nights consecutively, and his diet consisted mostly of dates, water and bread. Many weeks would pass by and a fire would not be lit in his house to cook. Meat, milk, vegetables and fruits were a luxury, not staples.

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7.0 How did he deal with struggles, difficulties and persecution?

- 7.1 Despite his struggles, he remained patient and tolerated the harm that people caused him and the distress of life and poverty. He had little attachment to materialistic luxuries, and never forgot his past. He would give special consideration and care to the orphans - because he himself grew up as an orphan.
- 7.2 He was always relaxed and open minded, happy and pleased with the decree of Allāh, optimistic and not fearing blame from people. He never sought revenge for himself; in fact, his pleasure and anger were only for the sake of Allāh.
- 7.3 He had a cheerful disposition, always smiling in front of people, being playful with children, caring towards the sick and respectful towards elders. He would advise women and advocate the rights of the poor; and he would encourage people to emancipate slaves. He would follow funeral processions, and often ask about companions if they were absent.
- 7.4 He remained focused and steadfast upon his mission and the reward of the Hereafter. He was not deterred by his worldly struggles. He never allowed anything to distract him from his responsibility of guiding people.
- 7.5 Ultimately, he believed in Allāh. He was certain about His promise of victory and relief; there was never any doubt in his belief. He lived for the Hereafter because he knew why Allāh had created him, and why Allāh had sent him to mankind.

8.0 His rights upon us.

- 8.1 Loving him more than we love anybody else; in fact, loving him more than we love ourselves.
- 8.1.1 He said, 'none of you truly believes unless I am more beloved to him than his own father, children and everybody else.' [‘Al-Bukhāri]
- 8.2 Defending his honour when he is mocked or lies are spread about him. This is by spreading his teachings



of goodness and calling people to believe in him. It is not done through injustice, violence or bad manners.

- 8.3 Following his teachings, worshipping Allāh like he used to worship Him, obeying him, abiding by what he taught us to do and staying away from what he forbade.
- 8.4 Following his teachings also means following his Sunnah and not committing Bid'ah (innovations in religion).
- 8.5 Missing him, feeling sorrow that you never had a chance to meet him, looking forward to one day meeting him as long as you live and die upon Islām.

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