

MLU-12.1: Early Life and Prophethood of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

KEY DATES AND EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF HAZRAT PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)			
AGE	YEAR OF MISSION/ HIJRAT	CHRISTIAN DATE C.E.	EVENTS
		570/571	Born on 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal in the year of the Elephants.
4 YEARS		574	Hazrat Halima (RA), Brings Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) after weaning.
6 YEARS		576	Demise of Hazrat Aamina. Grandfather Hazrat Abdul Muttalib takes care.
8 YEARS		578	Demise of Hazrat Abdul Muttalib. Uncle Hazrat Abu Talib takes care.
12 YEARS		582	Makes journey to Syria. Meets Buhaira who forecasts Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) forthcoming prophet hood.
23 YEARS		593	Rebuilding of the Ka'ba and placing of the Hajre Aswad (Black Stone).
24 YEARS		594	Takes a second journey to Syria under the employment of Hazrat Khadija (RA).
25 YEARS		595	Marriage to Hazrat

			Khadija (RA). The slaves are set free. Sets up Society (Hilf-Ul-Fuzul). Time spent in meditation in the cave of Hira.
	YEAR OF NABUWWAT		
40 YEARS	1st	609	Receiving the first Divine Revelation (Wahi) in Ramadhan.
43 YEARS	3rd	612	Islam accepted by twenty persons. Public declaration of the call of Islam.
45 YEARS	5th	614	Advice a group of Muslims to emigrate to Abyssinia.
50 YEARS	10th	619	Me'raj (Ascension)- 27 Rajab.
52 YEARS	12th	621	The first Oath of Allegiance- Aqaba.
53 YEARS	13th	622	The second Oath of Allegiance.
	HIJRA (A.H)		
53 YEARS	1	623	Hijrat (Emigration) to Madinah. The beginning of the Islamic Calender (A.H)
54 YEARS	2	624	Battle of Badr Expulsion of Banu Qaynuqa Change of Qibla from Jerusalem to Makkah
55 YEARS	3	625	Battle of Uhad
57 YEARS	5	627	Battle of the Trench
58 YEARS	6	628	The Treaty of Hudaibiyya Letters (Epistles) to Kings
59 YEARS	7	629	Conquest of Khybar
60 YEARS	8	630	The Expedition of Muta Conquest of Makkah
61 YEARS	9	630	The Expedition of Tabuk

			First Haj of Muslims
62 YEARS	10	631	Year of Deputation and Farewell Pilgrimage
63 YEARS	11	632	The demise of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) (12th Rabi-ul-Awwal)

BIRTH

On Monday the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal 571 A.D. a child was born to Hazrat Aminah. He was given the name Muhammad (The praised one). His father's name was Abdullah. Hazrat Abdullah passed away before Muhammad (PBUH) was born. The grandfather Abdul Muttalib took Muhammad to the Ka'ba and thanked Allah for giving him a grandson. Abdul Muttalib made an aqeeqah for Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on the 7th day after his birth.

CHILDHOOD

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was born in the noble family of the Banu Hashim of the Quraish tribe. After he was born he was taken by women Hazrat Halima (RA) to her village where he lived for four years in a clean environment. While he stayed with Hazrat Halima (RA), she was never short of anything and her home was always blessed. He was returned to his mother when he was four years old. His mother took him for a visit to her families in Madinah when he was six years old. She passed away when she was returning to Makkah, at a place called Abwa and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was brought back by a slave girl Umm-e-Aiyman.

After the demise of his mother, his grand-father Abdul Muttalib looked after him, but it was not long before his grandfather passed away too. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was then eight years old. Then his uncle Abu Talib looked after him. At a young age Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) used to go into the desert to watch the flocks of his uncle. As a young boy he was truthful, well-mannered and honest. He never wasted his time playing games. He always helped other people.

YOUTH

In his youth Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was a very hard working young man. He learnt to do business from his uncle Abu Talib. At first, he went with his uncle on business trips at the age of twelve but later he started trading on his own. The people of Makkah respected him. He believed in one Allah. He was loving and kind. He always kept his promise. He lived a simple life and hated pride. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) helped to re-start the work of Half- ul - Foodhul which took an active part in bringing about peace and unity among the tribe of Makkah. Killing, stealing and harassing visitors was discouraged while love and brotherhood was encouraged. The weak were looked after. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was also known as As-Saadiq (The Truthful) and Al-Ameen (The Trustworthy).

BUILDING OF THE KA'BAH

As the ka'bah was badly damaged by floods, the different tribes of Makkah worked together to build the Ka'bah again. The building was almost finished, only the famous black stone known as Hajre Aswad was left to be set into its place, and the tribes started quarreling, because each tribe wanted to have the honour to replace the stone.

There was great fear that fighting would take place, when a wise old man gave them an idea. He said that the first person to enter the Ka'bah in the morning shall suggest what was to be done. This idea was accepted by all the tribes. It so happened that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was the first person to enter the Ka'bah in the morning. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was asked what to do. He took a sheet and spread it on the ground. He placed the black stone in the center of the sheet and asked the chiefs of all the tribes to lift it up together. When the sheet reached the proper height, he lifted the black stone and put it in its proper place. Everyone was happy and the problem was solved.

MANHOOD

As Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) grew older, his good manner and truthfulness became well known to all his friends and the people of Makkah. He was noted for his honesty. The people of Makkah respected him and called him AL-AMEEN (the trustworthy). The people left their goods with him for safe keeping. But Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was disgusted with the people doing wrong around him and he often went to a cave called Hira. He spent his time there in the remembrance of Allah.

A rich widow of Makkah, Khadija by name, hearing about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)'s honesty and truthfulness, asked him to go to Syria for her on a business trip. When Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) came back he gave an account for every dirham. Hazrat Khadija (RA) was completely won over by his honesty and good manners.

MARRIAGE

The trustworthiness, virtue, honesty and truthfulness of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was praised by every tribe and individual in Makkah. His dignified character and sincerity had won the heart of Hazrat Khadeejah-binte-Khuwaylid (RA), who was pretty, rich and widowed.

Hazrat Khadeejah (RA) sent a marriage proposal to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). As a mark of respect, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) consulted his uncle Abu Taalib, and gladly accepted the proposal. Hazrat Khadeejah (RA) was forty years old and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was twenty-five.

Abu Taalib performed the Nikah and delivered the historical Nikah Khutbah (Sermon) which was noted for its praise of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and of the high regard in which he was held by the elders of Makkah. Umar-bin-Asad represented Hazrat Khadeejah (RA) as her Wakeel (representative) and accepted four hundred misqaal (20 misqaal being equivalent to 4.37 grams of gold), as Mehr (dowry) on behalf of Hazrat Khadeejah (RA) and gave her away as wife of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had two sons, Qasim and Abdullah, both of whom passed away in childhood. They had four daughters, Hazrat Zaynab (RA), Hazrat Umme-kulthum (RA), Hazrat Ruqayya (RA) and Hazrat Faatimah (RA).

SEARCH FOR TRUTH

When Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) reached the age of thirty-three, he developed a tendency to be alone and in deep thought and was drawn more towards the contemplation of the Great Creator, Allah. There was an ever-present light and brilliance 'Noor (light)' around him which gladdened his heart.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) resented the worship of idols and he denounced 'polytheism' (worship of more than one God). He abstained from eating food that had been offerings to the idols.

As Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) got older he desired to be lonely and began to retire to the cave of Hira which was about five kilometers from Makkah. The cave was only three meters by two meters in size. During his visits to the cave he took with him only a small supply of bread and water.

He was always engaged in prayer and contemplation of the Greatness of Allah, the One and Only God.

PROPHETHOOD

When Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was forty years old, an angel appeared in the cave of Hira and commanded him three times to 'Read'. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) replied that he could not. The angel then recited the following verses as the first revelations of the Quran then disappeared:

'Read, in the name of Allah who created (everything). He created man from a clot of blood. Read, your Lord is great who taught you but virtue of the pen that which you did not know'.

This Divine incident so affected Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that he hurried home and he related the incident to Hazrat Khadeejah (RA). When Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said he was afraid for his life, Hazrat Khadeejah (RA) comforted him and said 'you should feel happy. Allah will never let you down because you have loved, helpful, truthful, and you are 'Fair'.

After this granting of apostleship, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) began to preach Islam. The first man to become a Muslim was his closest friend Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) and first women was his beloved wife Hazrat Khadeejah (RA) Others who became Muslims willingly were Hazrat Ali-ibn-Abu Taalib (R.A.), the young cousin of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and Hazrat Zaid-bin-Harith (RA) the freed slave of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

PREACHING

After this Allah's messages continued to come and he quietly but firmly began to preach the Oneness of Allah and the good ways of living to his relatives and friends. His wife Hazrat Khadeejah (RA) was the first to accept Islam. His very close friend Hazrat Abu Bakar bin Kuhafa (RA), and slave Hazrat Zaid (RA), and his cousin Hazrat Ali (RA), and then Hazrat Uthman bin Affan (RA), Hazrat Talha bin Ubaidullah (RA), Hazrat Zubair bin Awaam (RA), Hazrat Sa'ad bin Abi Waqass (RA) and Hazrat Abdur-rahmaan bin Auf (RA) became muslims.

The teaching of Islam continued in secret for three years. Then Allah commanded Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to preach the religion of Islam openly to his people. Obeying Allah, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) called his people together from the family of Quraish and invited them to the religion of Islam. The people of the Quraish were very angry with his teaching and began to abuse him (PBUH).

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) did not stop preaching Islam although the people of Makkah, especially his uncle Abu Lahab and Abu Jahl (Amr bin Hishaam) were against his message and preaching. However, the sincere people slowly continued to accept Islam. The poor and

weak converts to Islam, like Hazrat Bilal (RA) and others suffered at the hands of the Quraish. With all the hardships no one left Islam and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) did not stop his mission of Islam.

TWO STALWARTS OF ISLAM

One day Abu Jahl, an enemy of Islam, attacked Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) while he was resting near the hills of Safaa. Abu Jahl hurled a stone and wounded him on his head. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) went home bleeding a lot.

Hazrat Hamza (RA) who was the uncle of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had just returned after one of his daily hunting trips in the morning. He was considered one of the bravest soldiers of Arabia. When he heard what Abu Jahl had done to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) he became so angry that he attacked Abu Jahl and made him bleed from his head. Although Hazrat Hamza (RA) had as yet not embraced Islam, he nevertheless loved his nephew Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) very dearly. On reporting to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) of his revenge against Abu Jahl, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said although he was very grateful for the kind thoughts he had for him, he would feel very happy indeed if Hazrat Hamzah (RA) accepted Islam. On hearing this, Hazrat Hamzah (RA) immediately became a Muslim.

Hazrat Umar (RA) was considered a brave person of Makkah. He was one of the Quraish who persecuted the Muslims to such an extent that one day he decided once and for all to assassinate Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Abu Jahl promised Hazrat Umar (RA) a gift of a hundred camels and one thousand silver coins if he would do this.

On his way to Darul-Arqam with an unsheathed sword, he met Nuaym-bin-Abdullah, who on hearing Hazrat Umar (R.A.)'s intention replied that Hazrat Umar (RA) 'should first put his own house in order'. His sister Hazrat Fathima (RA) and her husband Hazrat Saeed-bin-Zayd (RA) had already embraced Islam.

This rebellion by his own family angered Hazrat Umar (RA) that he turned towards his sister's house and on hearing them recite the Quran, he beat his sister and her husband. They told him that they would rather prefer death than give up Islam. On hearing this, Hazrat Umar (RA) calmed down and asked to hear what they were reading. When he heard the recital of the Quran, he decided to become a Muslim.

With the unsheathed sword still in his hand, he turned towards Darul-Arqaam. On arriving at the house of Hazrat Arqaam (RA) Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) enquired about Hazrat Umar (R.A.)'s intention, while Hazrat Hamzah (RA) and other companions stood ready against any wrong act by Hazrat Umar (R.A.). But when they heard that he had come to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to accept Islam, they were so overjoyed that their cheer of '**Allah is Great**' was heard in the mountains of Safaa. This was the sixth year of Prophethood