

The Ideal Prophet

by Aisha Ahmed

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INTRODUCTION

A child writing for children is a great idea. Innocent, growing minds can relate better to similar minds. They can understand each other better.

I have read Aisha's first book Islam For The Junior, with much interest. The format, the style, the whole presentation is informative as it is adorable. In fact, some schools in Pakistan and the US have included this book as part of their curricula. Their choice is appropriate, since the book is so simple, yet very enlightening and educational. I am confident that this little book The Ideal Prophet will also be immensely popular.

Basharat Ahmad
Coral Springs, Florida
Oct.8,2001

PREFACE

People have been writing about the Holy Prophet. They will continue to do so, forever. I have not seen a book written about him by a child. For the young ones by a young one might be interesting.

This book is about the most respected person in history. It is to be read with respect.

Your comments will help Aisha in the future.

Abul Fazal Mahmud,
Baltimore

FOREWORD

Assalamalaikum (peace be upon you) friends! I am Aisha, and I am here with you once again. I am now in the 6th grade. Thank you for reading and appreciating my first book, Islam For The Junior. Several of my friends and readers have given me a great assignment. They say I should write about the greatest man in all history. I value and respect my friends and readers so I am trying to fulfill their wish.

The greatest man ever, of course, was Prophet Muhammad (our salutes to him). This book explains why. Writing about a great man is difficult, about the greatest man ever, is very difficult. In order to accomplish this, I will get support from my father, Dr. Shabbir Ahmed. May Allah help us to do justice with this very high and noble subject.

Aisha Ahmed
Sept.3,2001

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CHAPTER 1

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PROPHETS

Many people think, "Man created God." I believe man can only invent false gods. The One, True God has created man. He is the Creator of the universe. The universe is running by His rules. Everything in the universe knows its role. Humans must know the rules of their life.

God is kind and caring. He gave us guidance. He did this through very special people. These chosen people are called prophets, the messengers of God.

Functions of Prophets

Some people think prophets only make prophecies (predictions). They are not magicians or fortune-tellers. But, in fact, they:

1. Receive messages from God.
2. Act upon these messages.
3. Carry this message to people.
4. Become ideal examples for others.
5. Strive to set up a way of life, a society in accordance with the instructions provided by God.

WHAT IS THAT MESSAGE?

Basically all prophets delivered the same message. The essence of this message is:

GOD, THE CREATOR IS ONE. LIKEWISE, MANKIND IS ALSO ONE.

Regardless of race, gender, family, wealth, or occupation, all people are equal. The best person is the one who is best in character. All mankind is His family. They must respect and help each other. They all must live in peace.

Some prophets mentioned in the Bible are:

NOAH	MOSES	
ELIJAH		DAVID
JOB		SOLOMON
ABRAHAM		AARON
ISAAC	LOT	
ISHMAEL		JESUS
JACOB	ENOCH	
JOHN THE BAPTIST	JOSEPH	

PROPHETS NAMED IN THE QUR'AN:

There are 24 prophets named in the Qur'an (25 if you include Adam).

1. Nooh (Noah)
2. Ibrahim (Abraham)
3. Ishaq (Isaac)
4. Yaqoob (Jacob)
5. Daud (David)
6. Suleman (Solomon)
7. Ayub (Job)
8. Yousuf (Joseph)
9. Moosa (Moses)
10. Haroon (Aaron)
11. Zakaria (Zachariah)
12. Yahya (John the Baptist)
13. Ilyas (Elijah)
14. Ismail (Ishmael)
15. Alyasa (Elisha)
16. Younus (Jonah)
17. Lott (Lot)
18. Issa (Jesus)

The 18 prophets mentioned above are named in surah 6, verses 84-87 of the Qur'an. Elsewhere mentioned are:

19. Hud
20. Shoaib
21. Idrees (Enoch)
22. Zulfikl (Ezekiel)
23. Saleh
24. Finally, Muhammad (our salutes to them all).

Adam is generally believed to be the first prophet. Some scholars think Adam could also mean "Adami" or man.

THEIR CHARACTER

All prophets were exemplary human beings. They had spotless character. Their conduct was excellent. They obeyed God. They committed no sins. They were modest. They were kind. They did not consume alcohol, or indulge in anything forbidden by God. They were obedient of His commands. Each prophet was sent to his respective nation. When human civilization grew enough, God sent his Final Messenger, Prophet Muhammad, the Exalted*. He was sent to all mankind, for all times. God revealed the Holy Qur'an to him. This is the last book of God. In this sense, we may even call it, The Final Testament.

*It is common practice to write, "peace be upon him" after the name of the Holy Prophet, Muhammad. But, this does not indicate the true meaning of 'Yusaloono alan Nabi'. This Qur'anic greeting in fact, means that Allah and His angels support the mission of the Holy Messenger. Of course, peace is with him; therefore, my father indicates the glory of Prophet Muhammad by adding "The Exalted" after his name.

CHAPTER 2

ARABIA IN THE 6TH CENTURY A.D.

What Muhammad (SA)* Saw:

Muhammad (S.A.), the greatest man ever, was born in Makkah in the year 570 AD. As a boy he saw many wrongs in society. All of Arabia was divided into tribes. There was no rule of law. There was total chaos. Take a look:

- v A few people were wealthy. The rest were very poor.
- v These rich people were cruel to the poor.
- v Those in power, kept slaves.
- v The slaves were forced to work hard. They were beaten with whips. They were not fed, nor clothed properly.
- v Women had no rights. Men ordered them constantly. The woman's only job was to obey men and bear children.
- v Alcohol was rampant. People got drunk, misbehaved, and fought frequently.
- v Tribes fought endless wars.
- v Looting and raiding other tribes was considered honorable. There was no respect for other people's life and property.
- v Seeking revenge was considered a sacred duty. People took revenge for their ancestors. We can call it 'chain revenge'.
- v Men and women were immodest. They circled around the Kaabah disrobed.
- v Gambling was a part of life. One who avoided alcohol and gambling was labeled a 'berm', meaning outcast. No person would befriend a berm.
- v Many Arabs buried their daughters alive. The birth of a girl was considered an insult.
- v The Arabs used to worship idols (statues). They believed in evil spirits, demons and witches. Each family and tribe had their own special "gods".
- v The fear of unseen creatures was common. People were chained in countless superstitions.
- v Fortune-tellers, soothsayers, diviners, and priests ruled their minds.
- v Barter and trade was the common profession. But honesty was unknown. Adding interest on money made masses poor. A few became rich.
- v Trade caravans were frequently looted.

v If a person could not pay back his loan, he became a slave. Even the women of his family were taken as slaves.

v The rich women were laden with jewelry. They displayed their beauty.

v Men killed their camels in competition. If one killed some camels the other would slay twice as many just to impress others.

v Men even put their wives as stakes in gambling and betting.

In this society, there was no government and no standards of conduct. Immorality and corruption was the order of the day. "Might is right", was the rule to solve all disputes. These were the circumstances when the Holy Prophet heralded the greatest mission-EVER.

"We will establish a State. In that State, a young, beautiful woman, laden with jewelry will travel alone from Yemen to Syria. And she will have no fear but the fear of God."

(In the Muslim Empire, the life, honor and property of all people would be safe. There will be rule of law. And discipline in the hearts. This noble mission was achieved in the lifetime of the Holy Prophet.)

CHAPTER 3

Early Life

Muhammad, the Ideal Prophet, was born in Makkah in 570 A.D. Makkah is a town in today's western Saudi Arabia. Bani Hashim, Muhammad's family were noble people. His grandfather was Abdul Muttalib. He was the chief of his tribe, and the chief of Makkah as well. Abdul Muttalib was in charge of the Kaabah. The Kaabah is a symbol of the first house of The One, True God. It was built by Prophet Ibrahim and his son Ismail, about 2000 B.C.

The chief, Abdul Muttalib had 12 sons. Abdullah was the youngest. The family arranged his marriage to a beautiful, gentle, and intelligent young lady. Her name was Amena. Abdullah means the servant of God. Amena means "someone who is at peace", or "one who provides peace". Both were about 20 years old at the time of their marriage. Soon after, Abdullah went to a business trip, probably to Syria. While returning home, he became ill. He died in Medina. Amena was devastated, but she had excellent support from her family.

Muhammad was born after his father's untimely death. His mother and family members took very good care of him. But another misfortune struck when he was only 6 years old. His loving mother also died. The Prophet Muhammad was at a great disadvantage from the beginning. Fortunately, his grandfather, Abdul Muttalib, was a very kind and caring individual.

In Makkah, there was no school in those days. The young boy had no siblings. (I often wonder how he spent his time in his childhood and youth). It was too hot outside to play (temperatures in the desert were as high as 116 degrees). Of course, there were no fans or air

conditioning available. There was no library, no mode of teaching. Only 10 or 11 people in the whole community knew how to read or write. Girls were given dolls to play with, while boys had no playthings.

My father tells me that older nations had wheel-carts. Three to four thousand years before the prophet's time, the people of Egypt and the Indus Valley (now in Pakistan) used wheelbarrows, bullock carts, chariots, and horse carriages. In Arabia, however, no one had a vehicle. People used donkeys, horses and camels for traveling. Of course, there was no newspaper, radio, or television. It is hard to believe, but think for a moment. People did not use any sort of lamps at night. It was in this environment, that the Holy Prophet was learning about life. The smart, peaceful, child created his own resources. He understood that getting bored was an insult to one's self.

You might wonder why I am referring to the little boy Muhammad, as the Holy Prophet. I have learned that all prophets were born and not made. The Qur'an states that they are chosen individuals. No one can become a prophet by trying. So, although Muhammad received the first message from God at age 40, he was a prophet by birth.

The young, bright, orphan boy was raised in Makkah and in the desert around the town. Very early in his life, he learned to ride the bareback ponies, horses and camels.

There were no swimming pools in those days. But rainwater did collect in natural ponds. So the little boy learned how to swim. He also kept busy by taking the sheep and goats of his family and neighbors out to graze. He also liked to play with his bow and arrow in the safety of the desert. Running after the arrows, riding animals and swimming kept him very fit. Herding sheep and goats made him feel very responsible. No one at that time knew that this brilliant, lovely child would one day become the greatest leader of mankind.

As he grew, the clear days and nights of the desert offered a vast view of nature. I have learned from my elders that God teaches us through the Qur'an. We also learn by observing the universe around us. Muhammad closely observed the wonders of nature around him. He understood that there was great discipline in the universe. The sun rose in the East and set in the West everyday. The moon and the stars appeared at night. Winter and summer followed each other. Seeds grew into plants. He knew in his heart that there is only One True God who could keep such order and discipline.

He was surrounded by adults and children who worshipped the sun, the moon, the stars and even trees! There were hundreds of idols in the Kaabah. They thought that the angels were the daughters of God. Jews and Christians in Arabia assigned children to God. Even as a child, Muhammad never worshipped any of these false gods.

One day, when he was a teenager, youngsters promised to take him to a nice place. In fact, it was a show of different cultures on stage. Muhammad did not waste any time. He turned back home alone. He never went to any shows again.

When others wasted their time in vain talk and senseless play, Muhammad the Exalted, was helping people. He bought needs for the elderly, the sick and the widowed. He even milked their cows, and goats. He fed any hungry animals. He always did his own chores. He even repaired his shoes. Everyone in town loved him. They called him Ameen (Trustworthy) and Sadiq (Truthful).

GRANDFATHER AND UNCLE

The grand old man of Makkah, Abdul Muttalib died at the age of 82. Muhammad (SA) was about 8 years old at that time. A son of Abdul Muttalib, Abu Talib raised Muhammad (SA) from then on.

When the Holy Prophet was born, he was named Muhammad by his celebrated grandfather. This was a very special name. No one ever had this name before. People asked Abdul Muttalib, "Why a brand new name?" He responded, "I want this child to be praised everywhere." (Muhammad means "the praised one").

When Muhammad (SA) was 12 years old, his uncle, Abu Talib, started taking him with trade caravans to Syria. Makkah was an important business center in those days. Camel and horse caravans frequently traveled between Yemen, Makkah, and Syria.

EARLY QUALITIES

Even when the Ideal Prophet was very young, he had exceptional qualities.

- v He respected elders.
- v He was very kind to children.
- v He realized that time made up life, so he never wasted it.
- v He was learning new skills everyday.
- v Unlike others, he did not play vain sports.
- v He helped others day and night.
- v There were no banks or safe deposits in those days. People of Makkah deposited their valuables with the teenager, Muhammad because he was trustworthy.
- v People of Makkah knew him as a young man of life upright.
- v No wine, no gambling, no drugs, no violence, no bad friends.

Even then, no one thought of him as a "berm". Because:

1. He had a great and decent sense of humor.
2. He enjoyed good poetry.
3. He was an extremely good listener.
4. He spoke softly, slowly, and clearly.
5. He was a man of his word.
6. He used to draw great lessons from history.
7. He was extremely kind to animals.

8. He took deep and sincere interest in human, animal and plant life.
9. No one ever saw Muhammad (SA) losing his temper.
10. He never yelled.
11. He was constantly eager to learn more. In fact, he prayed to God to increase him in knowledge and wisdom.
12. He had the most noble character and conduct.
13. He would later tell the people of Makkah, "See, I have lived an open life among you."

It is amazing to note that even his enemies could find no fault in him.

THE PEACE DEAL

When he was about 25 years old, Muhammad, the Exalted, helped formulate a very important document. He sat down with the influential leaders of the town. Keeping in mind the insecurity of that society, they reached the following conclusions:

1. Travel must be made safe.
2. Tribal raids must be halted.
3. The poor must be helped.
4. The weak must be protected.

Most of the tribes of Makkah, agreed with the idea. Their leaders signed this historical document, "Half-il-Fudhool" (The Vow of Bounty).

It is interesting to note that 1000 years later the United Kingdom adopted this historical document. In 16th century Britain, any person becoming a knight had to abide by the four rules mentioned above.

AN IMPORTANT TRUCE

During Muhammad's (SA) youth, the Kaabah was damaged by a flood. The local chiefs helped repair it. Now, the sacred black stone had to be placed in its corner. (Traditionally, this black stone is a meteorite. It had been used as a mark for pilgrims to walk around the Kaabah.) Every tribe wanted the honor of placing it. Heated arguments took place. Violence was about to break out. Then one of the leaders suggested finding a judge to resolve the matter. It was decided that whoever enters the Kaabah first thing in the morning will be the judge. They waited. The next morning, the first man to enter happened to be no one else but Muhammad (SA). The leaders screamed with joy, "Here is Ameen, here is Sadiq!" Muhammad (SA) peacefully resolved this matter. He laid his shawl on the floor, placed the sacred black stone in the middle, and then he asked the chief of each tribe to hold the shawl at, and around each corner. They walked to the assigned corner. Muhammad (SA) then lifted the black stone and placed it where it belonged. A destructive battle had been avoided.

MARRIAGE

There was a noble widow in Makkah. Her name was Khadijah. She sent trade caravans to Syria. Her business was flourishing. She heard of a man in Makkah, whose name was Muhammad. What a wonderful name! "The Praised One." And the Makkans seldom called him by his first

name. They referred to him by his titles "As-Sadiq" and "Al-Ameen." Khadijah requested this truthful and trustworthy man to lead her caravan. She sent her servant, Maiysarah, to accompany him. This was a long journey. The trip was very successful and profitable. Maiysarah could not stop praising Muhammad (SA). He told Khadijah how patient, hard working, and honest Muhammad (SA) was. The prosperous, noble lady of Makkah, Khadijah, was very impressed. She sent a proposal for marriage. The young Prophet, and his Uncle, Abu Talib, gladly accepted.

According to tradition, Khadijah was 40 and Muhammad (SA) was 25 at the time of their marriage. She passed away at the age of 65. Their family life was ideal. Their relationship was based on love and understanding. Khadijah took care of the home. Muhammad (SA) ran the business. He also did a great deal of community service. He strove to make Makkah a better place to live. He also prayed to the One, True God.

On his way he picked up thorns and nails. He did not mind clearing the streets of trash. The comfort and welfare of people was always his top priority. The whole town always knew that Muhammad, the Exalted, was always there to help. And Khadijah was always the ideal companion to her husband.

ú Later on, in Madinah, the Holy Prophet was also Head of the State. Quite a few Muslims had been killed in battles and by persecution. There were women who accepted Islam. Their husbands did not. The Qur'an does not permit a Muslim lady to remain wedded to a Non-Muslim. So, there were many women and their children who needed shelter and family life. The Holy Prophet and his companions accommodated them in their homes. To prevent slander, these widows and divorcees signed marriage contracts in their new households.

CHAPTER 4

THE CALL TO PROPHETHOOD

Like other prophets, Muhammad, the Exalted, was chosen by God. The time was right. The place was perfect.

TIME

Human beings learned through the ages. Civilizations developed with time. The earlier prophets were given the message for their times, and their nations. Then, human society grew up. It grew up enough to receive the Final Message. The Final Word of God, forever, for all times. The time was so right that it could not be better. The message to the Last Prophet could now be preserved, every word of it. This word would remain modern for all times. Books and writings in the 7th Century could be easily saved on parchment and spread.

PLACE

No place could be better than Makkah to receive the last word of God. The city of Makkah was a center of trade caravans. It already had the House of God (i.e. the Kaabah had been built by Prophet Ibrahim 2500 years before. It is the symbol of One God, and therefore one mankind). The people of Makkah were respected in Arabia because they took care of the House of God. Makkah was far away from other civilizations. It was in the middle of a desert. The people of the town were shrewd. They had to survive in this desert. They had never been ruled by foreign powers. They had the qualities of a free nation. They were bold and simple. Only a few people in Makkah knew how to read and write. So, they relied on their memory for history and knowledge. They had very sharp memories. Over centuries, they developed their language, Arabic, to amazing degrees. Poets and good narrators were respected in the society. They were proud of their tribes. They kept their word. The people could lay down their lives for honor. They were courageous. Many of these qualities made Makkah the best place in the world to receive the Final Message.

We have briefly examined the good and the bad in Arabian society. Prophet Muhammad, the Exalted, knew that his society needed a great change. He used to spend a lot of time thinking about it. Sometimes he went outside of town to find solitude. Until this day, there exists the Mountain of Light, a few miles from Makkah. This mountain has a little cave called "HIRA". It is about 12 feet long and 6 feet wide. Legend has it that the holy prophet (SA) used to go there. He prayed for guidance. He would then come back to town, and continue business as usual. He helped his community more than ever.

THE COMMISSION

At this point, I feel overwhelmed. I am very young and the task of writing about the greatest and holiest man ever is a great challenge. I will pause and pray to Allah to help me.

The Holy Prophet was very kind to children. His love is forever. His love is for everyone. He is the Mercy for all creation. The Qur'an states that he was sent for all mankind. That is why I am writing this book. That is why you are reading this book. In fact, Prophet Muhammad, the Exalted, said, "One who does not love our children, one who does not respect our elders, is not one of us."

I state, with great confidence, that the 12th of February 610 A.D. was the most important day in all of human history. This means when the Holy Prophet was 40 years old. On this day, the angel Gabriel came to the Prophet, in Hira, with the first message of Allah. When the Prophet (SA) came home, he shared his experience with his wife, Khadijah. Of course, no one knows a person better than one's family. Khadijah immediately accepted the Revelation, the message from Allah. She said, from her heart, "You are loyal to your family. You are truthful and trustworthy. You always help the poor and the needy. You take care of widows and orphans. You are hospitable to your guest. You comfort the grieved. Allah will never let you be sad or unsuccessful."

That day, in 610 A.D., divided history into 2 eras:

1. The world before the Qur'an
2. The world after the Qur'an.

The difference between the 2 eras is that of darkness and light. In my first book, *Islam for the Junior*, I showed how the Qur'an changed the world. The rules of Islam are on the march. Even when Muslims fall behind, the rules of the Qur'an march forward, even in countries that are not Islamic. (Unfortunately, at this time, not one country in the world is truly Islamic). In the last 14 centuries, the whole world has been coming closer to the Qur'an, knowingly or unknowingly. Here are some examples:

- v Rule of law
- v Freedom and equality for all
- v Democracy
- v Mankind is one
- v Natural human rights
- v Women have equal rights as men
- v Slavery is wrong
- v God is the only True Master
- v Animals must be treated kindly
- v Worshipping humans is wrong
- v People must consult with one another
- v Theories must be checked by practice

AN EXTRAORDINARY CHALLENGE

The Holy Prophet Muhammad received the Word of God. The adults call it Divine Revelation. The Prophet (SA) claimed no miracles. He said, "I am a human being like you." The Revelation he received, he remembered by heart and conveyed it exactly to others. The scribes recorded the message immediately. The Glorious Qur'an is the collection of these revelations. The Qur'an claims that no person or people will be able to produce a few verses like those of the Qur'an. Muhammad, the Exalted is the only person in history who disclaims the authorship of a great book. Isn't it amazing? The author is God Almighty.

Another extraordinary truth gives me goose bumps! The Holy Prophet lived all his life in the full view of his people. Not even his opponents could ever point a finger at his character.

This is the greatest miracle. I understand it. I think you will agree, too. Well the Makkans had always called him "truthful" and "trustworthy".

THE FIRST BELIEVERS

Family and friends know us best. The first ones to accept the message were his family and friends.

1. Khadijah, his wife, instantly believed.
2. Abu Bakr, his closest friend accepted right away.
3. Ali Ibn Abu Talib, the Prophet's first cousin, immediately said yes.

4. Zaid bin Haritha, the Prophet's adopted son, showed no hesitation.

These are only a few examples.

WHAT THE HOLY PROPHET TAUGHT

- v There is no God but the One, True God.
- v Allah, the One, True God is worthy of worship and obedience. No one else.
- v Allah is the Creator of the universe.
- v His laws govern all creation.
- v Mankind is all one community.
- v All human beings are equal. Only a person's character makes him or her better than another.
- v Every child is born free and worthy of honor.
- v Family background, wealth, profession, gender, or color of one's skin does not make any one superior or inferior.
- v All men and women who believe in the One True God are brothers and sisters to one another.
- v Prophet Muhammad (the Exalted) told people to think:

Look at the world around you, watch the sun, the moon, stars and clouds. Observe the balance in nature. You will recognize that a Supreme Power is running the whole show. He guides the planets, the animals and even trees to follow certain Divine rules. We as humans are the only ones who are able to make a choice. Planets have to follow gravity. Animals must follow their instincts. Plants can only follow their environment. We as people can make free choices.

THE OPPOSITION

In Makkah there were men of great power and wealth. An average leader had about 10 wives, 15 concubines and 25 slaves. In fact, in the whole town, there were five slaves to one free man. Can you see the grave injustice?!

The powerful leaders also controlled the Kaabah; the cubical shaped symbolic House of God. This, as we saw before, is the symbol of the unity of mankind, built by Prophet Ibrahim and his son, Prophet Ismail. It was built 2500 years before the Holy Prophet Muhammad's time. The people of Makkah had placed 360 idols in the Kaabah. The leaders of Makkah were regarded as keepers of the House of God. But, they had converted the sacred Kaabah into a house of idols. The leaders of the town made much money from these idols.

Many of the Makkans opposed the Holy Prophet. Many people think they opposed him for a single reason. That he said, "God is One."

Because he taught that idols (statues) were not gods. In fact, the Makkans opposed him for a bigger reason. He taught that just as God is one, humans are one. All men and women are equal; white or black, Arab or non-Arab, rich or poor, all are equal. There is no master and there are no slaves. The only True Master is Allah, the one True God.

THE DETERMINATION

The leaders of Makkah tried to retaliate another way. They went to Muhammad, the Exalted, and said:

"O' Muhammad! We will accept you as the King of Arabia."

"We will grant you all the gold, diamonds and wealth you desire."

"We will find the most charming, honorable, and beautiful queen for you."

"Please stop conveying your message to people!"

But, the Holy Prophet knew the way of life. The way of life that makes everyone feel like a king or queen. He said, "No thank you" to them. He knew he was conveying the message of God. He was following the Divine Command. So, how could he stop!

Leaders of tribes now decided another tactic. They went to the Prophet's Uncle, Abu Talib with threats. The grand old man feared that the powerful leaders might harm his beloved nephew. The Holy Prophet responded, "My dear uncle! Even if they place the sun on my right hand and the moon on my left hand, I will not end my duty. By God, either I will succeed or I will lose my life. But I will go ahead with my noble mission." Abu Talib smiled very kindly and prayed for him. He promised total support.

A GREAT ANALOGY

One day, the Holy Prophet climbed the mount "Safa." Then he called people. When they gathered he asked, "My dear fellows, I am standing on the peak of this mountain. I am looking at you. If I tell you that an army is coming to attack you, will you believe me?" The people replied, "Of course, you are truthful and trustworthy." The Prophet then said, "You know (from where I am standing) I can see what you don't. Similarly, by the Revelation of Allah I see what you do not-The way of life that can give you paradise in this life and in the second life."

THE LEADERS OF MAKKAH

The rich and the powerful of Makkah did not like what the Holy Prophet taught. How could they let go of their power and wealth? The great leaders of Makkah were extremely disturbed. Therefore, they started opposing the Holy Prophet and his followers. Among these leaders were:

1. Abu Lahab
2. Abu Saffiyan
3. Abu Jahl
4. Umayya bin Khalaf

5. Walid bin Mugheera
6. Aas bin Wael

People like these tried to block the Holy Mission. They threatened the Holy Prophet. They mocked him. They tortured Muhammad, the Exalted and his companions, in every possible way.

Thirteen years of preaching in Makkah had brought only 300 converts to Islam. These were mostly the weak and the poor. Finally, Allah commanded Muhammad, the Exalted to migrate to Madinah.

CHAPTER 5

HIJRA (MIGRATION TO MADINAH)

Madinah is a town about 270 miles north of Makkah on the west coast of today's Saudi Arabia. During those 13 years, some people of Madinah had embraced Islam. They were inviting the Holy Prophet to move to their town. It was in the year 622 A.D. when Muhammad, the Exalted made his move to Madinah. This was the most influential migration in history. Why? It was to change the future of humanity. Traveling 270 miles on camel back usually took about 2 weeks. The Holy Prophet rode to Madinah on camelback. His companion was Abu Bakr. The people of Madinah welcomed the Holy Prophet with great joy. Men, women and children all were extremely delighted. The day of Hijra, or migration, marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar. The Exalted Prophet brought peace to Madinah. He ended tribal warfare. The previous name of this blessed township was "YATHRIB". From this point onwards, it came to be known as Madinah-tun-Nabi (the town of the Prophet).

HEAD OF THE STATE

Muhammad, the Exalted, became the Head of The State of Madinah. He signed peace treaties with jews and other residents of Madinah. He established brotherhood between immigrants (Muhajireen) and locals (Ansar). He established the first Charter of Human Rights and the first Constitution, EVER.

1. It guaranteed every citizen freedom, security, and justice.
2. Freedom of speech and worship for Muslims as well as non-Muslims.
3. Abolition of all crime and immorality.
4. Everyone was to be considered innocent unless proved otherwise.
5. Security and protection from outside threat or attack.
6. Economic justice. Wealth was fairly distributed.
7. Very shortly, these 7 BASIC NEEDS were guaranteed to all citizens by the State:
 1. Food
 2. Shelter
 3. Clothing
 4. Employment / or unemployment allowance
 5. Tools
 6. Transportation
 7. Medical Care

THE BATTLE OF BADR

It was the second year after Hijra (624 A.D.) The pagans in Makkah knew that Islam was conquering hearts and minds in the state of Madinah. They were afraid that the revolution would reach them. So, they came to attack Madinah with 1000 warriors. The Holy Prophet decided to meet them outside Madinah at a place known as Badr. The army of 1000 was very well equipped. They had a great number of horses and camels. They had excellent weapons, swords, bows, arrows and armor. Muslims were only 313 in number. This included the old and the young. Most of them were foot soldiers (soldiers who were in fact civilians). Their weapons were few and clumsy. Within a few hours, the outnumbered Muslims won the battle decisively. Most of the cruel, big leaders of Makkah were slain. Others were captured. Muslims treated the captives with great care and kindness. Any captive who could teach 3 Muslims to read and write was set free. They were fed and dressed better than the victors. Some of them accepted Islam. The rest were very soon set free to go back to their hometown.

THE BATTLE OF UHUD

Shortly after Badr in 626 A.D., the people of Makkah brought a much bigger army. The Battle took place outside Madinah. Uhud is the name of the famous mountain where the two forces met. The Muslims were greatly outnumbered and ill equipped. After a temporary setback for Muslims, the Makkans turned back.

THE BATTLE OF THE TRENCH (KHANDAQ)

In 627 A.D., the Quraysh tribe of Makkah came forward with an army of 10,000. This force included Jews and several tribes and clans from in and outside of Madinah. They all had broken the peace treaties. Muslims dug trenches to defend the city. The enemy waited for 1 month. They could not cross the trench. They could not attack Muslims on the other side. The weather became stormy. The enemy was demoralized. They packed up their tents and went back. This is known as the Battle of the Trench. It is also called the Battle of Clans, because different tribes had joined together against Muslims. Madinah was never again attacked!

CHAPTER 6

THE ULTIMATE VICTORY

HUDAIBIYYAH

In the 6th year of Hijra (June 628 A.D.), a truce was signed between the Muslims of Madinah and the non-believers of Makkah. This truce was called the Treaty of Hudaibiyah. Although the treaty, in detail, was apparently unfavorable for the Muslims, the Holy Prophet accepted it. This truce proved to be a blessing for Muslims and Islam. The people of Makkah and Madinah started meeting freely. Everyone could see and experience the truth and beauty of Islam established as a system of life. More and more people kept embracing Islam.

AMBASSADORS

Maggians of Persia and Christians of Byzantium (the Eastern Roman Empire) were oppressed by their rulers. They constantly requested the holy State of Madinah to liberate them. The Qur'an says that Muhammad, The Exalted is "A Mercy for the Worlds." Therefore, his message is for all times and all people. Seizing advantage of the relative peace, the Holy Prophet invited kings and rulers of that time to accept Islam. He sent special ambassadors with brief yet effective letters.

Cisra, (Khusroo Perwaiz) the Maggian King of Persia, was the most powerful emperor of the time. He became enraged and tore the sacred invitation apart. The letter from the Prophet contained a touchy quotation, "Mend your ways of tyranny. Learn about Islamic justice. Otherwise, the plight of your own people will fall upon you."

Hiraclius, the Christian Emperor of Byzantium, the Eastern Roman Empire, was very inclined to accept the blessed invitation. Unfortunately, his courtiers threatened to rebel, if Hiraclius chose Islam. Even then, Hiraclius could not hold back his emotions of reverence. With tears in his eyes he said, "If I were to meet with the Prophet, I would wash his feet with my own hands."

Maqooqus, the Pagan Ruler of Egypt, received the Islamic ambassador with great hospitality. He went into deep thought and sent some precious gifts to the Holy Prophet.

The King of Abyssinia/Ethiopia, Najashi (Nigus), upon hearing and reading some verses of the Qur'an, burst into tears. He entered the blessed fold of Islam.

THE CONQUEST OF MAKKAH

During these 2 years of relative peace, Quraysh, the pagans of Makkah, repeatedly violated the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah. As the Head of the State of Madinah, the Holy Prophet had no choice, but to attack Makkah. With 10,000 soldiers, he marched to Makkah in 630 A.D. The Makkans were taken aback! The city was captured without a drop of blood being shed. The Holy Prophet rode on his camel through the gate of the city while his opponents trembled. Instead of showing pride, he was very humble. He bowed his head in humility. Then he immediately declared amnesty for all, "This day there is no charge on you. All of you are completely free." Upon hearing this, everyone was stunned in amazement. Almost instantly, all of Makkah embraced Islam.

Among those Makkans, there were people present who had driven Muhammad (S.A.) and his companions out of their homes. There were those who had looted their property. They had killed many Muslims. They had tortured the Holy Prophet and his companions. They had tried to destroy Islam and Muslims. Yet the Holy Prophet tells them, "This day there is no blame on you." All of human history will fail to cite one example of clemency like this.

COMPLETION OF THE MISSION

In a few days, the Muslims of Madinah led by Muhammad, the Exalted came back to their hometown. Very soon, all of the tribes, clans, and people in the Arabian Peninsula had embraced Islam.

THE FAREWELL ADDRESS

In the year 632 A.D. (tenth year of Hijra), Prophet Muhammad, the Exalted, came back to Makkah to perform the final pilgrimage. From a mountaintop, he addressed about 100,000 people as follows:

(Only the highlights will be given)

"O, mankind! I believe we will not meet in this congregation again.

Remember your blood (life), your property, and your honor, are sacred unto each other. Very soon you will have to explain your actions before God.

The ways of Jahiliyah (darkness), I demolish under my feet.

I revoke this day, all previous warfare, contention, bloodshed, and chain revenge. I am the first to forgive the murder committed against my family.

Interest on money has been cancelled. I am the first one to cancel all usury on behalf of my family.

Remember, no black is superior to a white, and no white person is superior to a black person, and no Arab is better than a non-Arab and no non-Arab is better than an Arab.

The best among you will be the one who is best in conduct.

Be fearful of God in matters concerning your wives. Do treat your women well. Be kind to them. They are your companions, partners, and helpers.

Remember everyone is a shepherd. You will be questioned about those under your care.

If a non-Muslim is wronged in our state I would personally plead on his or her behalf.

Avoid extremes in religion.

Peace, remember peace, O' Mankind!

O' mankind! I am leaving behind a thing among you. If you hold it fast, you will never go astray. And that is the Book of Allah.

Even if a (former) slave is chosen among you as the Ruler, obey him. Obey him as long as he guides you according to the Book of Allah.

O' mankind! No prophet will come after me. And there is no Ummah (divine community) after you.

Remember that all believers are brothers and sisters to one another. It is only lawful to take from a brother what he gives willingly.

On the Day of Judgement, you will be asked about me. Tell me, what you will say.

The congregation proclaimed "We witness that you have conveyed the message of Allah. You have clearly defined for us the right and the wrong."

On hearing this, the Holy Prophet raised his right hand:

"O' Allah, be witness. O' Allah, be witness. O' Allah, be witness.

O' people, listen! Those of you, who are present, must convey this message to others who are not present at this place and at this time."

At this point, Allah revealed a verse to the Final Prophet and Messenger:

"THIS DAY I HAVE PERFECTED YOUR RELIGION FOR YOU. I HAVE COMPLETED MY FAVOR UPON YOU AND HAVE CHOSEN FOR YOU AL-ISLAM, AS THE WAY OF LIFE."

THE GREATEST MAN DEPARTS

The Holy Prophet returned home to Madinah. Only a few months later, he breathed his last, in peace (June 8th 632A.D.). He was febrile in his last few days. His last words are truly remarkable:
"Allah is the Glorious Companion."

I learned from my father that even in his last words, he raised humanity to further glory. Thinking of God as our companion is a great honor for mankind. So, when we live according to the Natural Laws of Allah, we are joining hands with Him. We create Paradise on this Earth and thus, attain it in the Hereafter.

Has Muhammad, the Exalted died? His mission is marching on. So in this sense, he is living. The Qur'an foretells, more than once, that the whole world will accept the noble message of the Qur'an. Just as the Creator is One, mankind will soon become one community. Ameen.
Respectfully,

Aisha Ahmed

COMPLIMENTS FROM GREAT MINDS

"He must be called the Savior of Humanity," George Bernard Shaw.

Greatness of purpose smallness of means, astounding results. "As regards to all standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask 'Is there any man greater than he?'" Alphonse Lamartine.

"The greatest leader of all times was Muhammad," Jules Messerman.

"Muhammad was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels," Michael Hart.

"The traditions of Muhammad are a treasure of wisdom for all mankind,"
M. K. Gandhi.

"Those who believe Islam was spread by force are fools, who neither
know the ways of Islam, nor the ways of the world," Sardar Balbir
Singh.

"Muhammad saved human civilization from extinction," J.H. Dennison.

"He was the greatest executive officer for implementation of the Divine
Will," H.N. Spalding.

"Fellow inhabitants of the planet! Search for the Ideal Prophet, who
in the seventh century has shown you the way to total success," Lewis
Mumford.

"The only person who could ever claim that he was establishing Divine
Kingdom on earth was none else but Muhammad," Thomas Carlyle

THE NOBLEST MISSION STATEMENT EVER

At the onset of the call to prophethood Muhammad, the Exalted announced
the highest and the noblest goal ever.

"We will establish an extraordinary empire. In this empire a beautiful
young woman laden with jewelry will travel alone from Yemen to
Syria (about 2000 miles). Yet, she will have no fear but the fear of
God."

This meant that in the Muslim state the life, honor and property of all
people would be safe. It promised peace and rule of law. It promised
discipline in the hearts. The Holy Prophet achieved this lofty mission
in his lifetime!

Sall Allaho Alaiyhe Wasallam

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

570 AD Muhammad, the Exalted born in Makkah; His father, Abdullah
dies before the Prophet is born.

576 Mother Amena dies. Grandfather Abdul Muttalib becomes
guardian.

578 Grandfather dies. Abu Talib, an uncle, becomes the guardian.

582 First trading journey to Syria with Abu Talib.

595 Marriage to Khadijah.

605 Muhammad the Exalted helps to rebuild the Kaabah.

610 Angel Gabriel visits Muhammad (SA). First Revelation.

- 613 The Message of Islam begins reaching the community.
- 615 The Holy Prophet orders some Muslims to migrate to Abyssinia.
- 617 Persecution increases. The Holy Prophet and his followers are boycotted by Makkans.
- 619 Khadijah and Abu Talib die.
- 622 The Prophet migrates to Madinah. New Constitution declared.
- 624 Battle of Badr - The Turning Point.
- 626 Battle of Uhud
- 627 Battle of the Trench (Khandaq)
- 628 Treaty of Hudaibyyah
- 628 Invitation to Emperors
- 630 Conquest of Makkah
- 632 Last pilgrimage to Makkah. The Farewell Address
- 632 632 The Holy Prophet departs.

Some Sayings of Muhammad, The Exalted

Do not prevent the word of wisdom from people who have the ability to understand it (Qurtabi).

While attending a funeral, the Holy Prophet said, "O' people prepare for this day" (Ibne Majah).

Allah loves not the person who tries to be prominent among his companions (Zarqani).

Avoid taking loans because that brings grief at night and humiliation during the day (Baihaqi).

O' Muslims! Spend time in the company of the elderly. Ask questions to men of knowledge and meet with the wise (Tabarani).

If people do not stop the oppressor, all of society will suffer the consequences (Tirmizi).

The word of wisdom is the lost property of the believer. Attain it wherever you find it (Tirmizi).

Speaking truth in front of a tyrannical power is the best jihad (Tirmizi).

Among Muslims, the perfect faith is of the one who is best in conduct (Tirmizi).

A person who sleeps with a full stomach while his neighbor remains hungry cannot be a believer (Bukhari).

What is discrimination? Helping your own people when they are doing wrong (Abu Daud, Mishkat).

Good people are those who treat women well and bad are the ones that insult them (Nisai).

If modesty is disregarded, you will do as you desire (Bukhari).

What is reward and punishment in the Life Hereafter? Allah will say, "I return to you your own actions" (Tirmizi, Muslim).

One from whose torment his neighbor does not feel safe cannot be a believer (Bukhari).

Be kind to the dwellers of the earth and the Creator of the Universe will be kind to you (Abu Daud, Hakim).

Silence is dignity for the scholar and a veil for the ignorant (Ghazali).

Let me tell you who a real strongman is. He is the one who controls his temper (Muslim).