



E-BOOK SERIES FOR CHILDREN

WHO WAS....?

Khadijah

SHORT CHAPTER BASED BIOGRAPHY

Ummi

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1. An Extraordinary Woman

Khadijah (radi-Allahu anha, may Allah be pleased with her) was a woman who was extraordinary in many ways. It is not ordinary after all to be a wife of Prophet Muhammed *صلى الله عليه وسلم*, more so to be the most beloved one. Neither it is ordinary for someone's house to be regularly surrounded by Angel Jibreel. And it is certainly not ordinary to be greeted with Salaam by Angel Jibreel on behalf of Allah!

Prophet Muhammed *صلى الله عليه وسلم* informed us in a hadith that Khadijah is one of the four best women of Islam. When we look at her life we learn about the great qualities she possessed that raised her to this high and unique status.

2. Impressed with Muhammed

صلى الله عليه وسل

Khadijah (ra) was very bright which made her a successful businesswoman. She would employ only hardworking, honest and outstanding people in her business. Khadijah had heard about the good character of Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم . Since Khadijah liked to work with praiseworthy people she offered him to work for her in her business. Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم had not become a Prophet yet, he was only an ordinary man with remarkable qualities. He started to work for her and soon brought great benefits to Khadijah's business. Khadijah began to see more of Muhammad's صلى الله عليه وسلم impressive personality. He was honest, trustworthy, hardworking, intelligent and ethical. This made Khadijah admire Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم even more deeply.

3. *The Wish to Marry*

Although Khadijah (radi-Allahu anha) was a very wealthy businesswoman she was truly impressed by this simple man *صلى الله عليه وسلم* and desired to become his wife. However, she was not sure how Muhammed *صلى الله عليه وسلم* would react as he was young and unmarried while she was forty years old and was married twice before.

4. *The Blessed Marriage*

Khadijah's friend Nafeesah bint Manbah knew how much Khadijah (ra) wanted to marry Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم. So she went to Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم and asked him if he would like to get married to a righteous, wealthy and a beautiful lady who was seeking to become his wife. Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم asked who she was; when she told him that it was Khadijah he agreed to marry her.

Thus, Khadijah and Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم got married, and she became his first wife. For the wedding Khadijah sent special invitation to Haleemah who had nursed Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم when he was a baby. When Haleemah had left the celebration, Khadijah sent her many presents as a way of thanking her for taking such a good care of Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم in his infancy.

The Marriage of Khadijah and Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم was truly blessed. She was deeply loved by the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. Khadijah respected, loved and admired the Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم greatly too. She was a perfect wife.

4. A Mother

Khadijah and Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم had six children: Qasim, Abdullah, Zainab, Ruqayyah, Umm Kulthum and Fatima (radi-Allahu anhum, may Allah be pleased with them all). They all were wonderful, good, intelligent children. However, their sons Qasim and Abdullah died in their childhood.

One of the signs of Khadijah being a great and righteous mother is that she raised her daughter Fatima (radi-Allahu anha) in a manner which entitled her to become the leader of all women in Jannah!

5. A Strange Experience

It was the habit of Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم to retreat in the cave of Hira for a month every year.

In the cave, he used to pray to Allah and think about plenty of things around him. He despised seeing people worship idols that were nothing more than sculptures which they made with their own hands. He knew that there is only One True God, however he wanted to know more about Allah.

Once when he was at the cave he felt someone embracing him tightly from behind. Then, that being told him to 'Read'. Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم was someone who could not read! But the being repeated the same command over and over again until he repeated the words of that being. Those were the verses from Surah al Alaq. That is how Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم first received a revelation from Quran and became a Prophet. Soon, the mysterious being disappeared. It was a very strange experience for Prophet Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم. Naturally, he was very scared. He didn't know who that being was, neither did he understand the things that took place in the cave.

6. *Comfort in Khadijah*

Prophet Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم came back from the cave to Khadijah's home shivering and sweating. He told her to cover him up with a sheet.

Then, he told her about the entire incident.

Khadijah had confidence in the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.

She assured him that Allah won't let harm touch him since he was a very good man. She reminded him how he always helped the poor and the needy and was good to his neighbors and relatives. Upon hearing these comforting words from his wife

Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم calmed down.

7. Visit to Waraqah ibn Nawfal

That night, Khadijah took Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم to her cousin Waraqah ibn Nawfal to learn more about the things that Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم experienced in the cave. Waraqah was an old man who had knowledge about the previous Books that were revealed by Allah; Tawrah and Injeel. He was almost sure that the one whom Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم met in the cave was none other than angel Jibreel and that Allah had chosen Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم to be a Prophet and Messenger of Allah.

Waraqah told the Prophet that when he would start teaching his people about Allah when Allah commands him to do so his people will hate him, would want to get rid of him and hurt him a great deal. Prophet Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم couldn't believe Waraqah's words since his people loved him dearly.

8. *The First Believer*

Allah soon ordered the Prophet *صلى الله عليه وسلم* to teach his people that Allah is Only One, they should worship Allah Alone and give up worshiping the idols as they were nothing but false gods. Khadijah was first one to believe in the words of Prophet Muhammed *صلى الله عليه وسلم*, the first one to accept that there is only One God and that Muhammed *صلى الله عليه وسلم* was the Messenger of Allah.

Khadijah would pray Salaah with Prophet Muhammed *صلى الله عليه وسلم* even before Allah had made prayers obligatory on the Muslims. She would join the Prophet in prayer when he would pray in the mornings and evenings. Khadijah would find peace in prayer and would love to spend her time in worshiping Allah.

10. The Siege and Death

Waraqah's words started to become a reality.

It had been some seven years since the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم had began teaching Islam to the people of Makkah. They simply did not want to accept him as a Messenger of Allah and give up their evil ways of living life despite of all the signs that Allah showed them through the revelation of Quran.

To get rid of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم and his call to Islam, they decided to force the Prophet and his tribe out of Makkah. They were left alone in a place with no food or help for three long years. No one was allowed to help them in anyway. Khadijah, who had spent her life in luxury was now living a very hard life. Towards the end, she had to eat wild leaves and grass to survive. She bore all of this hardship for Allah and His Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم. She did not leave him or complain to him. She remained patient and courageous and supported the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم throughout her life. However, this siege was so severe that Khadijah eventually died at the age of sixty five.

10. Missed by the Prophet

Khadijah (radi-Allahu anha) had lived for twenty five years with the Prophet *صلى الله عليه وسلم*.

He *صلى الله عليه وسلم* was deeply saddened at the death of his beloved wife. And how wouldn't he be so sad when she was such a great comfort to him and his children. Khadijah believed in the Prophet *صلى الله عليه وسلم* when everyone else denied him. She helped him with her wealth as well as with her love and support. She was his closest companion in the most difficult times.

The Prophet *صلى الله عليه وسلم* always missed her after her death. Whenever he spoke about her he would talk a lot about her, praise her and make du'aa for her.

11. The Great Promise

The life of Khadijah was a noble one. For all the extraordinary efforts she put for Islam Allah rewarded her extraordinarily. While she was still alive she was promised by Allah and His Messenger a special Palace made of an enormous pearl in Jannah (Paradise). In that Palace, Khadijah would live in peace and delight surrounded by the best provisions from Allah for eternity. All the hardships that she went through this world for the sake of Allah will be forgotten the moment she would step in Jannah.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All thanks and Praise is for Allah Alone.

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