

## TAREEKH SYLLABUS - CLASS 6 (9 YEARS OLD)

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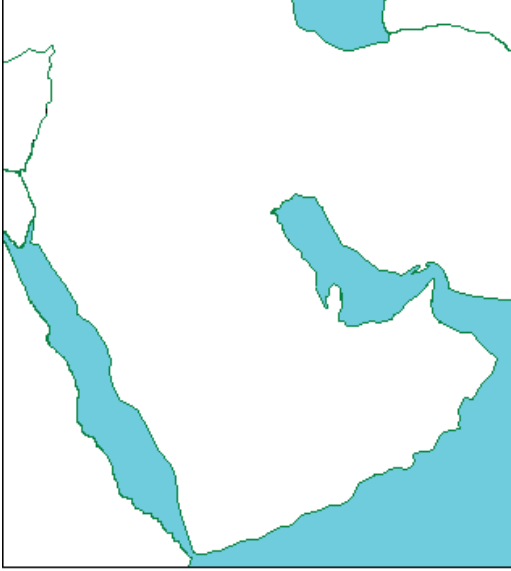
My Tareekh Teacher is \_\_\_\_\_

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## TOPIC 1: ARABIA BEFORE ISLAM

Arabia is a large country whose area is three million square kilometres. From olden times this land was divided into three regions. These were **Hijaz**, the **Arabian Desert** and **Yemen**.

**Geography Box – Map of Arabia in the Olden Times**



1. Divide the map of Arabia into the three regions. Shade each region with a different coloured pencil. Don't forget to fill in the key.

2. Mark on the map of Arabia the cities of Makka, Madina and Abwa.

KEY:

- Hijaz
- Arabian Desert
- Yemen

The largest city in Hijaz was Makka and its history dated from the time when Prophet Ibrahim (A) built the Holy Ka'ba with the help of his son Prophet Isma'il (A). Prophet Isma'il (A) settled in Makka. From his descendants there were many Arab tribes. The most famous was the Quraish.

Before the coming of Islam, the Arabs had many bad habits. Some of these were:

1. They were very quick to start fights and even wars for very small and petty reasons.
2. They believed in hundreds of gods, and built little idols to worship. In the Holy Ka'ba alone, they put 365 idols - one for each day of the year.
3. Women were treated very badly.
4. One of the most horrible customs of the Arabs was to bury their daughters alive.


**The Arabs, however, also had some good qualities. These were as follows:**

1. They never broke a promise and regarded this to be a great sin.
2. They had great skill in horsemanship and archery.
3. They were brave people and never ran away from the enemy in war.
4. They were very good in the art of poetry and had sharp memories that enabled them to remember long verses and speeches by heart.

These good qualities were especially found in the family of Adnaan, who himself was a descendant of Prophet Isma'il (A).

The descendants of Adnaan were very generous. They believed in one God as taught by Prophet Ibrahim (A). Their poetry and speech was better than all others were. Our Holy Prophet (S) was from this noble family. He was from the clan of Bani Hashim, which was part of the tribe of Quraish.

### RESEARCH BOX

 In the Holy Qur'an, Allah describes the feelings of some of the Arabs when a daughter was born to them. This is in Surah an-Nahl (the Bee), verses 58 and 59. Find these verses and write the translation below.

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#### *Now you know...*

- ◆ Hijaz is a region of Arabia; its capital was Makka.
- ◆ The Quraish was the main Arab tribe in Makka. They were the descendants of Prophet Isma'il (A).
- ◆ Before Islam, the Arabs had many bad habits: they were quick to start fights, they were idol worshippers, and they treated women badly and buried their daughters alive.
- ◆ The Arabs had some good qualities: they never broke their promises, they were very brave and had skill in horsemanship and archery and they were brilliant poets.
- ◆ The family of Adnaan had the best qualities. They were generous, the best in poetry and they believed in one God.
- ◆ The Holy Prophet (S) was from the clan of Bani Hashim, which was part of the tribe of Quraish.

## **TOPIC 2: THE ANCESTORS OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (S)**

### **1. QUSAY SON OF KILAB**

Qusay was the fourth ancestor of our Holy Prophet Muhammad (S). Qusay was generous and brave and he was popular because he had very good manners and treated people kindly. He became the chief of the Quraish.

Qusay took over all the responsibilities of the tribe of Quraish, like being in charge of the Ka'ba and the looking after the pilgrims as well as being the commander in the army.

Qusay died in 5 A.D. and left behind two sons, Abdud Daar and Abd Manaaf.

In his will, Qusay made his elder son, Abdud Daar, the new chief of the Quraish and left the duties connected with the Quraish to him.

After the two brothers died, their sons began to quarrel about the division of the duties. Finally, it was decided that the duties would be divided between Abd Manaaf's sons and Abdud Daar's sons.

### **2. HASHIM SON OF ABD MANAAF**

Hashim was the great grandfather of our Holy Prophet Muhammad (S). He had a twin brother whose name was Abd Shams and two other brothers, Muttalib and Nawfal.

Hashim was a wise leader. He kept good relations and business agreements with the neighbouring countries and as a result the Quraish became rich and powerful. Makka itself became a centre of trade.

Hashim started a scheme, where one poor family was united with one rich one. The two families helped each other in the trading and thus both were in a better position.

Umayyah, son of Abd Shams, was jealous of the respect of his uncle Hashim.

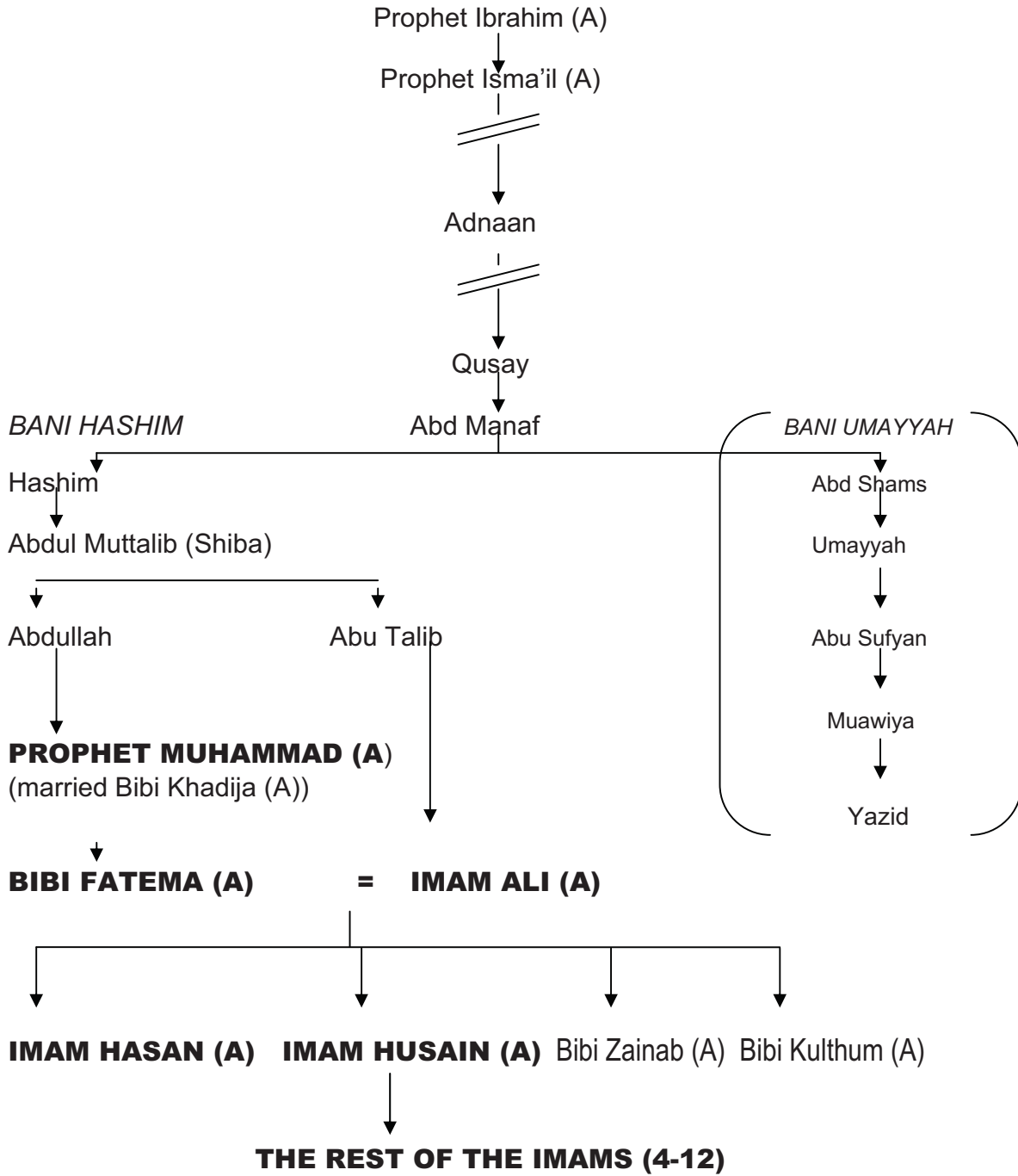
Umayyah openly challenged his uncle for the leadership of the Quraish but he lost and the wise men of Makka forced Umayyah to leave and spend 10 years in Syria.

Ever since that day the Bani Umayyah became the enemies of the Bani Hashim.

Hashim died in Syria. He left behind 5 sons: Abdul Muttalib, Asad, Nadha, Saifi and Abusaifi. The last three had no children and Asad had only one daughter Fatimah who was the mother of Imam Ali (A).

### Research Box

📖 Find out a bit more about some of the Bani Umayyah. What sort of people were they? How did they treat the Holy Prophet (S) and other members of the Ahlul Bayt (A)



***Now you know...***

- ◆ Qusay was the fourth ancestor of the Holy Prophet (S).
- ◆ Qusay was generous and brave and he became the chief of the Quraish.
- ◆ He took over the responsibilities of the tribe of the Quraish.
- ◆ He had two sons: Abdud Daar and Abd Manaaf.
- ◆ Hashim was the great grandfather of the Holy Prophet (S).
- ◆ Hashim was a wise leader. He made the Quraish rich.
- ◆ He brought about the scheme of uniting one rich family with one poor family.
- ◆ Hashim's nephew, Ummayah (son of Abd Shams) was jealous of the respect of his uncle. He challenged his uncle for the leadership of the Quraish.
- ◆ He lost the challenge, and had to leave Makka for 10 years. From then on, the Bani Ummayah became the enemies of the Bani Hashim.

**MORAL BOX**

❖ If you have good manners and are kind and generous, you are liked by people.

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### TOPIC 3: ABDUL MUTTALIB - SON OF HASHIM (PART 1)

#### Introduction to Abdul Muttalib

Abdul Muttalib was the grandfather of our Holy Prophet Muhammad (S). His father was Hashim.

Abdul Muttalib was born in Madina. His mother named him Shibah. He was very young when his father Hashim died. When Hashim was about to die, he told his brother Muttalib, "Go to Madina and bring my son Shibah to Makka."

When he was brought to Makkah he was mistaken as the slave of Muttalib and thereafter was known as Abdul Muttalib.


Muttalib continued to manage his brother Hashim's duties until Abdul Muttalib was old enough to take over.

Abdul Muttalib had many good qualities and made many changes to the lives and habits of the Quraish. Some of these were:

1. **He was the first man to make a Nazr and fulfil it. A Nazr is where a person promises Allah that, if his wish is granted, he will perform a certain good deed.**
2. **He stopped the custom of marriages between close relatives like brother and sister, mother and son, etc.**
3. **He started the rule of cutting off the hand of a thief.**
4. **He stopped the people from drinking alcohol.**
5. **He discouraged the terrible practice of burying daughters alive.**
6. **He set the fine of 10 camels for killing a person by mistake.**
7. **He was the first to give 1/5 (Khums) of treasure in the way of Allah.**

Abdul Muttalib lived for 82 years and his good leadership earned him the title Sayyidul-Bat'ha, which means Chief of Makka.

#### Research Box

 Read verses 7-11 of Sura ad-Dahr in the Holy Qur'an and then write a few sentences below about a Nazr that was done by Imam Ali (A) and his family.

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***Now you know...***

- ◆ Abdul Muttalib was the grandfather of our Holy Prophet (S).
- ◆ His father's name was Hashim.
- ◆ His real name was Shibah, but because he was once mistaken as the slave of his uncle Muttalib, he was called Abdul Muttalib.
- ◆ He was the first person to make and fulfil his Nazr and the first to pay Khums.
- ◆ During his life he made many good changes in the lives of the Quraish: he stopped marriage between close relatives, he punished thieves, he stopped people drinking alcohol, he discouraged the burying of daughters alive and he set a fine for killing people by mistake.
- ◆ Because Abdul Muttalib was a good leader, he was called **Sayyidul-Ba'tha**, which means Chief of Makka.

**MORAL BOX**

- ❖ A Nazr is where a person promises Allah that, if his wish is granted, he will perform a certain good deed. You should always fulfil your Nazr.
- ❖ If you are ever chosen to be a leader of something, you should always fulfil your responsibilities

- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_
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## TOPIC 4: ABDUL MUTTALIB - SON OF HASHIM (PART 2)

### Abdul Muttalib's Nazr

When Abdul Muttalib was digging the well of Zam Zam, he felt that his position amongst the Quraish was weak because he had only one son. At that time he made a **Nazr**, a promise to Allah, that if he got **ten** sons, he would sacrifice one of them to Allah.

Allah blessed Abdul Muttalib with many children. When the number of his sons reached **ten**, Abdul Muttalib knew it was time to fulfil the Nazr. Although it was very difficult for him to sacrifice and lose one of his beloved sons, he did not want to break his promise to Allah. After discussing the matter with his sons, he decided that one would be selected by **drawing lots**. When the lots were drawn, the name of **Abdullah**, the father of our Holy Prophet (S), came up.

Abdullah was the youngest and most loved son of his father, but Abdul Muttalib did not turn away from his duty and took Abdullah to the place of sacrifice. However, his family and the people of Quraish were very sad at the thought of losing the young Abdullah and begged Abdul Muttalib to find another solution.

When the problem was put before a wise man, he suggested that a lot should be cast between Abdullah and 10 camels. In case the lot still fell to Abdullah, a further 10 camels should be added and the lot cast again. This should be repeated till the lot fell to the camels.

In those days the penalty for the accidental killing of a person (blood price) was 10 camels, and the Quraish liked this solution. After a great deal of persuasion, Abdul Muttalib agreed.

A lot was cast between Abdullah and 10 camels but the result was Abdullah. The number was increased to 20, but still Abdullah's name came out. The number was increased by 10 until it reached 100. Finally when a lot was cast between Abdullah and 100 camels, the lot fell to the camels.

**Abdul Muttalib ordered that 100 camels belonging to him should be slaughtered that same day in front of the Holy Ka'ba and no person or animal should be stopped from eating the meat.**

In this way Allah protected Abdullah, who later was to become the father of our Holy Prophet Muhammad (S). One year before Aamul Feel (The Year of the Elephant), Abdullah got married to Aamina, daughter of Wahab. Aamina was to become the mother of the Holy Prophet (S).

One year after his marriage, Abdullah was returning from trade in Syria and fell ill in Madina and died there. He died two months before his great son was born.

**The Holy Prophet (S) used to say, "I am the son of two sacrifices, Prophet Isma'il (A) and Abdullah".**

## QUESTION BOX

? What did the Holy Prophet (S) mean about the sacrifice of Prophet Isma'il (A)?

### *Now you know...*

- ◆ Abdul Muttalib made a **Nazr** that if he got 10 sons, he would sacrifice one in the way of Allah.
- ◆ To fulfil his Nazr, he decided to pick his son whom he would sacrifice by casting lots. His son Abdullah came up. He was Abdul Muttalib's youngest and most loved son.
- ◆ The Quraish were unhappy with the thought of sacrificing Abdullah, so it was decided that a lot should be cast between Abdullah and ten camels. If the lot fell to Abdullah then ten more camels should be added and the lot repeated.
- ◆ Finally, after many repetitions, when a lot between Abdullah and 100 camels was cast, it fell to the camels. Thus, the camels were sacrificed.
- ◆ Abdullah married Amina and from their marriage the Holy Prophet (S) was born. Sadly, Abdullah died two months before the birth of his great son.

## MORAL BOX

❖ **You should always keep your promises, especially those you have made with Allah.**

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## TOPIC 5: ABDUL MUTTALIB - SON OF HASHIM (PART 3)

### The Well of Zam Zam

The well of **Zam Zam** had existed since the time of Prophet Ibrahim (A). It was a sign of Allah's Mercy to Prophet Ibrahim's (A) wife Hajira and son Prophet Isma'il (A). This blessed well exists even today.

After Prophet Isma'il (A), the tribes that came after him overused the well and it dried up.

#### QUESTION BOX

? How is the well of Zam Zam connected to walking between Safa and Marwah during Haj?

One day Abdul Muttalib received instructions in a dream to dig up Zam Zam and was given some signs as to where it was. He took his eldest son Harith, and after digging for four days, they managed to find the entrance of the well.

The Quraish claimed that the well belonged to the whole tribe so everyone should have the honour of digging the well. They could not reach a decision on who should dig it, so they decided to go to a famous wise person in Syria and follow whatever he said.

Every clan sent one person to represent it. Abdul Muttalib with his son and companions were in one caravan and the others were in another.

During the long journey Abdul Muttalib's caravan had run out of water so they asked the other people for some, but were refused. The situation was such that Abdul Muttalib thought they would die. They continued searching for water and after some time Abdul Muttalib decided that it was better to keep searching than to die in such a way. By Allah's Mercy, they soon discovered water.

The other group wanted some water as well. The companions of Abdul Muttalib tried to refuse, but Abdul Muttalib said that if they did that, then there would be no difference between the two.

**Seeing the kindness of Abdul Muttalib, the other group said that the miracle of discovering water in the middle of the desert was proof from Allah that the well of Zam Zam belonged to Abdul Muttalib. They did not go on any further and returned to Makka at once.**



On his return, Abdul Muttalib dug deeper in the well and found some treasure - two gold deer, some swords and battle armour. The Quraish again claimed a share of the treasure and were prepared to fill up the well if they did not get it. It was decided to draw lots, and the result was that the two gold deer went to the Holy Ka'ba and the rest to Abdul Muttalib, and the Quraish got nothing.

**It was then that Abdul Muttalib gave 1/5 of his share to be spent in the way of Allah.**

#### QUESTION BOX

? After reading this lesson, what have you learnt about the tribe of Quraish? What sort of people were they? Think about the way they behaved towards Abdul Muttalib.

#### *Now you know...*

- ◆ The well of Zam Zam has existed since the time of Prophet Ibrahim (A). In its early days it was overused, and it dried up. At the time of Abdul Muttalib knew nothing about the well except that it existed.
- ◆ In a dream Abdul Muttalib received instructions to dig up the well, but the Quraish refused to let him dig alone. So, they decided to seek the advice of a wise man, who lived in Syria.
- ◆ On the way to Syria, Abdul Muttalib and his companions ran out of water. Everyone refused to give them water.
- ◆ However, by the mercy of Allah, Abdul Muttalib discovered water, which he willingly shared with others. The Quraish thought this was a sign from Allah that the well of Zam Zam belonged to Abdul Muttalib. They all returned to Makka.
- ◆ When they returned, Abdul Muttalib dug further and discovered some treasure. From his share, he donated 1/5 in the way of Allah.

#### MORAL BOX

- ❖ If someone is unkind to you it does not mean you have to behave in the same way to them. You should approach them with Good Akhlaq so as to bring them closer to Allah.
- ❖ You should not be greedy every time you see something that someone else has and you should be grateful to what Allah has given you.

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## TOPIC 6: ABDUL MUTTALIB - SON OF HASHIM (PART 4)

### Aamul Feel - The Year of the Elephant

*{This lesson is in the form of a role play.}*

**Narrator:** Yemen is a country that neighbours Arabia. Just before the birth of our Holy Prophet Muhammad (S), the ruler of Yemen was a man called Abraha. When Abraha learnt that the Arabs looked upon the Holy Ka'ba with great honour, he decided to build a huge church in San'a in Yemen. When the church was built, he asked the Arabs to leave the Holy Ka'ba and come to his church instead.

Some Arab travellers sheltering in the church lit a fire to keep them warm and by mistake burnt the church down. As a result, Abraha was very angry.

**Abraha:** I built the church so that people would leave Makka and come and worship here but my church has been destroyed instead. I will show those Arabs, I will destroy the Holy Ka'ba once and for all.

**Narrator:** In 570 A.D. Abraha marched at the head of a huge army towards Makka. He camped outside Makka, and then sent a few of his people to capture the camels of the Makkans. Of the camels captured, around 200 belonged to Abdul Muttalib.

**Abraha's officer:** I come with a message from Abraha. Abraha does not wish to hurt any of you but has come to demolish the Holy Ka'ba with his Army and Elephants.

**Abdul Muttalib:** We too do not want to fight Abraha. As for the Holy Ka'ba, it is the house of Allah and He will do whatever He pleases.

**Narrator:** Abdul Muttalib then went with some of his sons to see Abraha. Abraha welcomed him with respect.

**Abraha:** I suspect you have come to ask me not to destroy your Holy Ka'ba.

**Abdul Muttalib:** No, I have come to get my camels back.

**Abraha:** Why are you worrying about your camels and not the Ka'ba?

**Abdul Muttalib:** *I am the owner of the camels. The Ka'ba too has a Master who looks after it.*

**Abraha:** There is none powerful enough to stop me!

**Narrator:** On his return, Abdul Muttalib ordered the people to leave Makka and go to the hills for safety. He then prayed to Allah to protect them and the Holy Ka'ba from any harm.

The next morning Abraha prepared to march towards Makka. All of a sudden, a flock of birds appeared from the side of the sea, holding tiny stones in their claws and beaks. Each bird held three stones and they showered the stones on the army of Abraha in such a way that the Elephants and many men were soon dead. One of the stones hit Abraha on his head and he was so frightened that he ordered the remaining men in his army to retreat at once. Many of his men died on the way back and Abraha himself reached San'a with the flesh falling from his body and died a painful death.

This dreadful and miraculous event is mentioned in the Holy Qur'an in the following verses:

*In the Name of Allah, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful  
Have you not seen how your Lord dealt with the People of the Elephant?  
Did He not cause their plan to go astray? He sent down upon them flocks  
of birds, who showered them with stones of baked clay. So they became  
like straw eaten up by cattle.*

**Suratul Feel 105:1-5**

#### **QUESTION BOX**

? What does Allah say in suratul feel about those who plot against Islam?

#### **Art Box**

When you have finished reading this lesson:

Draw on an A4 size paper a picture of this story. Show the Ka'ba, the mountains surrounding it, the birds with stones in their claws flying towards the army of Abraha and the Elephants. In the corner of the picture write out Suratul Feel and it's meaning.

***Now you know...***

- ◆ Abraha was the ruler of Yemen. He built a great church and invited the Arabs to leave the Holy Ka'ba and come and worship in his church.
- ◆ However, the Arabs ignored him, and one day, by mistake, burnt down the church. So, Abraha decided to attack and destroy the Holy Ka'ba.
- ◆ Abraha came to Makka with a great army and elephants. Before entering he seized all the camels of the Makkans. Then he sent a messenger to tell the Quraish that he had come to attack the Ka'ba and did not want to fight them.
- ◆ Abdul Muttalib went to meet Abraha. He asked him to return his stolen camels. Abraha was surprised that Abdul Muttalib was worried about his camels when the Holy Ka'ba was going to be destroyed. He replied: "I am the owner of the camels. The House too has a master who looks after it."
- ◆ The next day Abraha prepared to march towards Makka. However, Allah protected His House and sent birds holding tiny stones in their claws, who attacked the army, destroying them.
- ◆ The year in which this event happened is called 'Aamul Feel' – The Year of the Elephant. The story is mentioned in the Holy Qur'an in Suratul Feel.

**MORAL BOX**

- ❖ No power is greater than Allah's.
- ❖ They plan and Allah plans and Allah is the best of Planners.
- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_

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## TOPIC 7: THE BIRTH OF THE HOLY PROPHET (S)

**Birth:** After sunrise on Friday the 17th of Rabiul Awwal 570 A.D. in Makka. He was born in the Year of the Elephant, when Abraha tried to destroy the Holy Ka'ba.

**Parents:** *Abdullah son of Abdul Muttalib and Aamina daughter of Wahab.*



Abdullah died two months before The Holy Prophet (S) was born and he is buried in Madina.

**Family Name:** The respected family of Bani Hashim from the tribe of Quraish.

Abdul Muttalib decided to bring up the Holy Prophet (S) under his own care. On the seventh day of the birth of his grandson, he slaughtered a sheep to show his gratitude to Allah for blessing him with a healthy grandson. Many people were invited to take part in the celebrations.

In this gathering, Abdul Muttalib announced to the people that he would name the child "**Muhammad**", which means "**One who is worthy of praise**".

When the Quraish asked him why he was keeping such an unusual name, he replied that he wanted his grandson to be praised in the heavens and on the earth.

### Arabic Box

Learn to write the word "Muhammad" in Arabic.

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Before this event, the Holy Prophet's (S) mother had already named him "**Ahmad**". Allah has referred to him by both names in the Holy Qur'an.

### Arabic Box

Learn to write the word "Ahmad" in Arabic.

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The Holy Prophet (S) was breastfed by his own mother Aamina for three days only. As was the custom in those days, he was then given to a foster-mother to nurse. Two women had this honour.

They were:

1. **Suwaybah.**
2. **Halimah.**

### RESEARCH BOX

📖 Our Holy Prophet (S) has been called “Ahmad” in Surah as-Saff (Surah 61, verse 6) and “Muhammad” in Surah al-Ahzab (Surah 33, verse 40). Find both verses and write the translation below.

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### Extension Exercise

➔ Abdul Muttalib called his grandson “Muhammad” because he wanted him to be praised in the heavens and the earth which is also mentioned verse 56 of Suratul Ahzab. Write down the translation below.

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***Now you know...***

- ◆ The Holy Prophet (S) was born on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Rabiul Awwal 570 AD in Makka. The year in which he was born is called 'Aamul Feel' – The Year of the Elephant.
- ◆ His father was Abdullah son of Abdul Muttalib and his mother was Aamina daughter of Wahab.
- ◆ Abdul Muttalib named the Holy Prophet (S) 'Muhammad' which means 'One who is worthy of praise'. However, his mother had already named him 'Ahmad'. Allah has referred to him by both names in the Holy Qur'an.
- ◆ The Holy Prophet (S) was breastfed by his mother Aamina for only three days. As was the custom, he was given to a foster-mother to nurse.
- ◆ He had two foster-mothers:
  - 1) **Suwaybah**
  - 2) **Halimah**

## TOPIC 8: THE CHILDHOOD OF THE HOLY PROPHET (S)

### Halimah

- ✓ The Holy Prophet (S) lived in the desert with Halimah for five years and she looked after him very well.
- ✓ During this time he learnt about handling animals and also trained in archery. In this happy atmosphere he grew up strong and healthy.
- ✓ Halimah regarded him as very special, because ever since he had come under her care, she was showered with the blessings of Allah and became rich.



### Lady Aamina

- ✓ When he was five years old, Halimah returned the Holy Prophet (S) to the care of his mother Lady Aamina.
- ✓ Lady Aamina decided to go to Madina to visit the grave of her husband, Abdullah, and also meet some of her relatives. She took the Holy Prophet (S) along with her and stayed for one month.
- ✓ On the way back to Makka, Lady Aamina fell ill at a place called Abwa. After a short time she died and was buried there.



### Abdul Muttalib

- ✓ The Holy Prophet (S) was now an orphan and Abdul Muttalib took him under his wing.
- ✓ The young boy was very dear to his grandfather Abdul Muttalib, because he reminded him of his son Abdullah.
- ✓ Abdul Muttalib made sure that the Holy Prophet (S) did not feel unwanted.

The Holy Qur'an mentions this event as follows:

***In the Name of Allah, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful***

*Did He not find you an orphan and give you shelter?*

**(Suratu Dhuha, 93:6)**



### **Abu Talib**

- ✓ The Holy Prophet (S) was only eight years old when he lost his grandfather. Before his death, Abdul Muttalib made his son Abu Talib responsible for taking care of the young child.
- ✓ This was a duty, which Abu Talib carried out fully for the rest of his life.
- ✓ The loss of Abdul Muttalib made the Holy Prophet (S) very sad, and he kept weeping up to the very edge of the grave and never forgot his kindness.
- ✓ There were many reasons why Abdul Muttalib chose Abu Talib as the guardian of the Holy Prophet (S). Abu Talib and Abdullah were born of the same mother. He was also well known for his generous nature. He treated the Holy Prophet (S) better than his own sons, and never let him feel lonely.
- ✓ Holy Prophet's (S) aunt, Fatimah binte Asad, the wife of Abu Talib and mother of Imam Ali (A) looked after him as if he was her own son.

When the Holy Prophet (S) was twelve years old, Abu Talib took him on a trade journey. During the journey they stopped at Basra. There was an old Christian monk whose name was Bahira, who lived in an old monastery in Basra. The monk never used to speak but when he saw the Holy Prophet (S), he broke his silence and asked, "Who is this boy?" Abu Talib answered that he was his nephew. Bahira then said, "This boy has a brilliant future. He is the same Prophet whose coming has been foretold in the Heavenly Books. His religion will spread throughout the world. However, you must guard him from the Jews, because if they learn about him, they will kill him". Thereafter Abu Talib was always careful about the safety of his nephew.

***Now you know...***

- ◆ When the Holy Prophet (S) reached the age of five, Halimah returned him to the care of his mother Lady Aamina.
- ◆ Lady Aamina took the Holy Prophet (S) to Madina to visit the grave of her husband, Abdullah, and to meet some of her relatives. However, on the return journey she fell ill and died at a place called Abwa, where she was buried.
- ◆ Orphaned, the Holy Prophet (S) was taken under the care of his grandfather Abdul Muttalib. Sadly, when he was only eight years old he also lost his grandfather.
- ◆ So, the responsibility of looking after the Holy Prophet (S) was handed over to his uncle Abu Talib, who treated him better than his own sons. His aunt, Fatimah daughter of Asad also treated him well.
- ◆ At the age of twelve Abu Talib took the Holy Prophet (S) on a trade journey with a caravan of the Quraish. At Basra, an old Christian monk by the name of Bahira upon seeing the Holy Prophet (S) inquired who he was. Abu Talib said that he was his nephew.
- ◆ Bahira said that this boy was the same Prophet mentioned in the Heavenly Books. His religion would spread throughout the world. However, if the Jews found him, they would kill him.
- ◆ From then on Abu Talib took special care of the Holy Prophet (S).

**MORAL BOX**

❖ We should always look after the orphans. *Discuss this in the class and at home.*

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## TOPIC 9: THE YOUTH OF THE HOLY PROPHET (S)

As the Holy Prophet (S) grew up, the people around him noticed that this young man was not like others of his age. The people admired his character and bravery and all the Quraish liked him.

In his youth, the Holy Prophet (S) accompanied his uncle Abu Talib on trade journeys to Syria and Yemen. He soon gained a reputation in Makka for his **good business sense, his honesty and trustworthiness.**



People were so impressed by the qualities of the Holy Prophet (S), that they began to call him **as-Sadiq (the Truthful)** and **al-Ameen (the Trustworthy)**.

When the Holy Prophet (S) would pass them, people would say:

*"There goes the young man who behaves equally well with the high and the low. He is considerate to his equals, respects the elders and always shows love and affection to the children. He never speaks a lie or misuses anything entrusted to his care. He does not look at women with an evil intent and is never rude to anybody. He does not backbite or spend his time in finding faults in people."*

Such was the character of our Holy Prophet (S), and in later years even his enemies would still leave their belongings with him for **safekeeping** when they went on a trip away from Makka.

The Holy Prophet (S) also spent part of his youth as a shepherd. Thus, by the time he was 25 years of age; the Holy Prophet (S) had built himself a good reputation in Makka and had gained the **trust** and **affection** of the people around him.

### Question Box

? The Holy Prophet (S) built a good reputation in Makka. In what ways did he manage to do this?

***Now you know...***

- ◆ As the Holy Prophet (S) grew up, he stood out as an exceptional young man unlike others of his age. The Quraish admired him for his bravery and character.
- ◆ He spent part of his youth as a shepherd and he also accompanied his uncle Abu Talib on trade journey to Syria and Yemen.
- ◆ During the trade journeys he built a good reputation because of his honesty and trustworthiness. People used to call him as-Sadiq (the truthful) and al-Ameen (the trustworthy).
- ◆ Even his enemies trusted him; many would leave their belongings with him for safekeeping when they went on a trip away from Makka.
- ◆ By the age of 25, the Holy Prophet (S) had gained the trust and affection of the people around him.

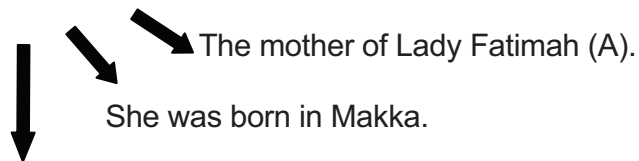
**MORAL BOX**

- ❖ The Holy Prophet (S) had the exceptional qualities of being trustworthy and honest. This is a lesson for us to learn on how we should behave with all.



## TOPIC 10: LADY KHADIJA (A) - PART 1

Lady Khadija (A) → The first wife of the Holy Prophet (S)



Her father's name was Khuwaylid bin Asad and he was a wealthy trader.

When her father died, Lady Khadija (A) continued his business of sending trade caravans to Syria and Yemen. Under her sensible management, the business expanded and with the profits she:

- ◆ helped the poor,
- ◆ the widows,
- ◆ the orphans,
- ◆ the sick and the disabled.
- ◆ If there were any poor girls, she got them married and paid their dowry.

Lady Khadija (A) preferred not to travel with the caravans and used to send her agents instead. She made such great profits that she was soon the richest trader in Makka. Her trade caravans were larger than the rest of the traders combined, and her success earned her the title "**Princess of Makka**".

Lady Khadija (A) believed in One God and did not worship idols like most other people of her time. Her reputation for being a good lady earned her the name **Tahira**, which means "the pure one." As Lady Khadija (A)'s fame grew, many men asked for her hand in marriage, but she turned them all down.

In the spring of AD 595, at the time when the summer caravans were ready to leave Makka for Syria, Lady Khadija (A) had not yet found a reliable agent to take her caravan. Meanwhile, Abu Talib was trying to find employment for his nephew, the Holy Prophet (S), who was now 25 years old. When he heard of this vacancy, he came to Lady Khadija (A) and asked her to consider his nephew for the job.

Like most people in Makka, Lady Khadija (A) had heard a lot about the Holy Prophet (S). Already he had earned a reputation for his trustworthiness and honesty. Although he lacked experience, she had no hesitation in hiring him, saying that she would send along her slave Maysara, who was already an experienced traveller.

That year the trade caravan of Lady Khadija (A) made **unusually high profits**. The Holy Prophet (S) learnt the business quickly and in Syria he impressed the traders with his clever but fair dealing.



On their return to Makka, the Holy Prophet (S) reported back to Lady Khadija (A) and then returned to his home. Maysara then told her about all the details of the trip. He was very impressed with the manner of the Holy Prophet (S) and spoke highly of his character and personality.

That is why, when Abu Talib sent his sister Safiya to the house of Lady Khadija (A) with a **marriage proposal** from the Holy Prophet (S) Lady Khadija (A) agreed immediately. Abu Talib himself took charge of the preparations for the marriage of his beloved nephew. On the day of the wedding he dressed the Holy Prophet (S) in the cloak of Abdul Muttalib and made him wear the ring of Hashim. The sermon of marriage was recited by Abu Talib at the agreed Mahar of 400 pieces of gold. The marriage was a cause of **great celebration** amongst the Quraish.

Three days after the marriage, Abu Talib arranged for a feast in which every resident of Makka was invited for a meal. This practice is known as "**Walimah**" and Islam later made it a recommended part of the marriage ceremonies.

At the time of their marriage the Holy Prophet (S) was **25 years old** while Lady Khadija (A) was **40 years of age**.

#### Question Box

? Why do you think the Lady Khadija (A) accepted the proposal of the Holy Prophet (S)?

***Now you know...***

- ◆ Lady Khadija (A) was the first wife of the Holy Prophet (S).
- ◆ She owned a caravan business, which she continued to expand. With the profits she helped the poor and the sick.
- ◆ She did not travel on the trade journeys to Syria and Yemen herself, as she preferred to send her agents instead. Soon she became the richest trader in Makka. Her trade caravans were the largest and her success earned her the title “Princess of Makka”.
- ◆ Lady Khadija (A) unlike most of the Makkans believed in One God. She was a good lady and was often called Tahira, which means “the pure one.”
- ◆ When the Holy Prophet (S) was 25 years old, Abu Talib was looking for employment for his nephew. Lady Khadija (A) had still not found a reliable agent to take her summer trade caravans. So, Abu Talib asked her to consider his nephew for the job.
- ◆ She had heard of the Holy Prophet (S)’s good reputation and although he lacked in experience she had no hesitation in hiring him. That year the profits were unusually high. When Maysara, her slave returned to Makka, he spoke very highly of the Holy Prophet (S)’s character and personality.
- ◆ That is why Lady Khadija (A) immediately agreed to the marriage proposal from the Holy Prophet (S).
- ◆ Abu Talib took charge of the marriage preparations.
- ◆ At the time of their marriage the Holy Prophet (S) was 25 years old and Lady Khadija (A) was 40 years old.

**MORAL BOX**

❖ Allah gives us wealth with a responsibility to make sure we give some of it to the needy.

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## TOPIC 11: LADY KHADIJA (A) - PART 2

After her marriage to the Holy Prophet (S), Lady Khadija (A) settled down happily in her new life as a wife. She slowly began to cut down the size of her business and after a few years, she was no longer a trader, although she was still a very rich lady.

Lady Khadija (A) made it her duty to serve her husband and make him happy. In this she was very successful. Their marriage was blessed with happiness and children.

**Their first child was Qasim.** After his birth, the Holy Prophet (S) was called Abul Qasim - the father of Qasim - as per the custom of the Arabs.

**The second child was Abdullah.** He was also called Tahir and Tayyib.

Both boys did not survive very long and died while still very young. These losses made the Holy Prophet (S) very sad and when his **cousin Imam Ali (A) was born, he brought him up in his house as his own son.**

When the Holy Prophet (S) was finally commanded by Allah to begin his mission to preach Islam, **Lady Khadija (A) was the first woman to accept his message and become a Muslim.**

**She gave her entire wealth to serve the cause of Islam.**



→ Her money was used to buy the freedom of the early Muslims, many of whom were slaves.

→ Later on, her money also financed the migration that the Muslims made to Abyssinia to escape the cruelties of the Quraish.

As the Prophet spread the word of Islam, many of the Quraish became his enemy and began to call him names and insult him. They used to make fun of him because he had no children. This made the Holy Prophet (S) sad and Allah revealed the Suratul Kawthar in reply:

**In the Name of Allah, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful**

*Verily, We have given you (O Muhammad) the Kawthar. So pray to your Lord and offer sacrifice. Verily, your enemy shall be "Abtar."*

**(Suratul Kawthar, 108: 1 – 3)**

In these verses Allah promised the Holy Prophet (S) that he would not be childless, and soon afterwards his last child was born. She was a girl and he named her Fatimah Zahra. Lady Fatimah (A) became the mother of our Holy Imams (A).

Lady Khadija (A) was married to the Holy Prophet (S) for 25 years.

**She died on the 10th of Ramadhan in 619AD.** She is buried in Makka. In the same year the Holy Prophet (S) **lost his uncle, Abu Talib**. Saddened by these two great losses, he called that year "**Aamul Huzn**", which means "The Year of Sadness".

While Lady Khadija (A) lived, the Holy Prophet (S) did not marry another woman he always said that she was the best of his wives.

The Holy Prophet (S) had said that Lady Khadija (A) was one of the four perfect women who had ever lived. The other three are: Lady Aasiya the wife of Fir'aun, Lady Maryam the mother of Prophet Isa (A) and Lady Fatimah Zahra (A).

***Now you know...***

- ◆ After her marriage, Lady Khadija (A) made it her duty to serve her husband.
- ◆ Their marriage gave birth to two sons: Qasim and Abdullah. Sadly, both sons died at a very young age. Therefore when Imam Ali (A) was born the Holy Prophet (S) brought him up as his own son.
- ◆ When the Holy Prophet (S) was commanded by Allah to begin to preach Islam, Lady Khadija (A) was the first woman to become a Muslim. She gave her entire wealth to serve the cause of Islam.
- ◆ As the Holy Prophet (S) began to preach Islam the Quraish began to insult him because he had no children to inherit him. To comfort him, Allah revealed Suratul Kawthar in which Allah promised a child to him. Lady Khadija (A) gave birth to a daughter Fatimah Zahra. She became the mother of the Holy Imams (A).
- ◆ After 25 years of marriage Lady Khadija (A) died. In the same year Abu Talib also died. The Holy Prophet (S) called this year "Aamul Huzn" – The Year of Sadness.

**MORAL BOX**

- ❖ When we are faced with difficulties we should not lose hope but have patience and trust Allah as He is the only one who can help us.



## TOPIC 12: THE FIRST REVELATION

The Holy Prophet (S) use to spend a lot of his time in the cave Hira, which is in a mountain overlooking the Holy Ka'ba, some three miles north of Makka. Here he would think about Allah and wonder at His creations. He would also think about the actions of the people of Makka and their bad habits made him sad. It was his habit to sometimes spend a few days continuously in the cave in prayers, and his wife Bibi Khadija (A) would bring him some food and water.

One night when he was in the cave of Hira, he heard a voice calling his name and suddenly there was a dazzling light in the cave. The Holy Prophet (S) sat at his place calmly and saw that a man was approaching him. The person was none other than Angel Jibrael (A) in human form.

Jibrael (A) came very close to the Holy Prophet (S) and asked him to recite the words which were the first revelation from Allah. These later became the first five verses of Surah al-Alaq. They read:

*"In the Name of Allah the Beneficent, the Most Merciful. Read! In the Name of your Lord Who created (everything in the Universe). He created man from a clot. Read! And your Lord is the Most Honourable. (He) Who taught (to write) with the pen. (He) taught man what he knew not."*

*Alaq, 96:1-5*

When the Holy Prophet (S) had finished reciting, the angel announced, "O Muhammad! There is no doubt that you are the Apostle of Allah and I am His angel Jibrael." After saying this, the angel disappeared.

**This event told the Holy Prophet (S) that it was now time to start his mission.** At this time he was 40 years old. The date was 27th of Rajab, 610 A.D. Also at this time, Allah blessed the Holy Prophet (S) with such a memory that, whatever he heard only once from Jibrael (A), remained in his heart forever.

The Holy Prophet (S) then left the cave to return home, where he would begin his mission to preach the Unity of Allah and to invite all mankind to the path of worshipping only One God.

***Now you know...***

- ◆ The Holy Prophet (S) used to spend a lot of time in prayers in the cave of Hira on a Mountain in Makka.
- ◆ On the 27<sup>th</sup> of Rajab 610 AD, the Holy Prophet (S) was visited by Angel Jibraeel, who brought the first revelation from Allah.
- ◆ These are the first 5 verses of Surah al-Alaq which start with the word “Read”.
- ◆ The angel then announced that the Holy Prophet (S) is the “Apostle of Allah” and that he is the “Angel Jibraeel”.
- ◆ The Holy Prophet (S) was blessed with a memory such that what he heard only once from Jibraeel (A) remained in his heart forever.
- ◆ This event was the sign for the Holy Prophet (S), who was 40 yrs old, to start his mission to preach the Oneness of Allah.

**MORAL BOX**

- ❖ The Holy Prophet (S) used to spend time in the cave meditating. We should also set aside some time in the day to ponder upon the bounties of Allah and his creation, especially when we are alone.
- ❖ The mission of our Holy Prophet (S) was to tell people about the oneness of Allah, which is the first root of Islam. We must try and strengthen our belief in the oneness of Allah.

❖ \_\_\_\_\_  
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### TOPIC 13: THE FIRST PEOPLE TO BECOME MUSLIMS

When the Holy Prophet (S) returned from the cave in Mount Hira after the first revelation, he immediately went home. As well as his wife Bibi Khadija (A), his young cousin Imam Ali (A) also lived with the Holy Prophet (S) for two reasons: Imam Ali (A) lived with the Holy Prophet (S) because his father Abu Talib could not afford to support all of his four sons and his mother Bibi Fatimah binte Asad had promised to turn over Imam Ali (A) to the Holy Prophet (S), as he had already lost a son.

When he reached his home, the Holy Prophet (S) informed his wife about what had happened, and she immediately believed in his mission and became a Muslim. The next person the Holy Prophet (S) spoke to was Imam Ali (A), who was only 12 years old at the time. Imam Ali (A) also accepted Islam on hearing the experiences of the Holy Prophet (S).

**Thus Bibi Khadija (A) was the first woman to become a Muslim, and Imam Ali (A) the first man. The third person to become a Muslim was Zaid bin Harith, who was the Holy Prophet's (S) freed slave and adopted son.**

The Holy Prophet (S) received further revelations from Allah and he gradually began to spread the religion of Islam. For the first three years of his mission, he did not make a general invitation to everybody, but selected certain special people who he saw were ready to embrace the religion of Allah. As a result of his limited activity only 30 people became Muslims in these first three years.

The Quraish and their leader Abu Sufyan knew what was going on, but they were not bothered by the Holy Prophet's (S) activities at this time. They thought that this new religion would soon die out.

During the three years, the Quraish did not harm the Holy Prophet (S), and continued to respect him. In return, he did not openly criticise their idols and remained busy in keeping in contact with his small group of Muslims.

The attitude of the Quraish remained relaxed until the day when the Holy Prophet (S) began to preach the religion of Islam openly on the command of Allah.

***Now you know...***

- ◆ Imam Ali (A) lived with the Holy Prophet (S) because his father Abu Talib could not afford to support all of his four sons and his mother Bibi Fatimah binte Asad had promised to turn over Imam Ali (A) to the Holy Prophet (S), as he had already lost a son.
- ◆ Bibi Khadija was the 1<sup>st</sup> woman to become a Muslim and Imam Ali (A) was the 1<sup>st</sup> man to become a Muslim at the age of 12.
- ◆ Zaid bin Harith, the Holy Prophet (S)'s adopted son was the 3<sup>rd</sup> person to accept Islam.
- ◆ The Holy Prophet (S) continued to receive revelations and started spreading Islam to selected people – after 3 years only 30 people became Muslims.
- ◆ The Quraish leaders were not bothered about the Holy Prophet (S)'s activities and continued to respect him. In return, the Holy Prophet (S) did not openly criticise their beliefs.

**MORAL BOX**

- ❖ The Holy Prophet (S) won the trust and respect of the people by showing the best of Akhlaq. Are we fulfilling our duty of being the ambassadors of Islam by also showing good Akhlaq?
- ❖ We should learn from our Holy Prophet (S) and respect everyone including those who do not share our faith, because they are also the creatures of Allah. Living in this country we have an even bigger opportunity to do so.

- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_  
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- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_  
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## TOPIC 14: THE INVITATION OF DHUL ASHIRA

Three years after his mission had started; the Holy Prophet (S) received the following revelation from Allah:

*“And warn your nearest relatives...” Shu'ara, 26:214*

**When this command came, the Holy Prophet (S) called Imam Ali (A) and instructed him to arrange a meal and to invite the sons of Abdul Muttalib so that he could deliver to them the words of Allah.**

Following the invitation, some forty men from the children of Abdul Muttalib gathered near the mountain of Safa. Amongst them were the Holy Prophet's (S) uncles Abu Talib, Abbas, Hamza and Abu Lahab.

The Holy Prophet (S) commanded Imam Ali (A) to serve the food to the guests. Imam Ali (A) kept the food - which was hardly enough to feed even one man - in front of the assembled guests. The Holy Prophet (S) blessed the food with the Name of Allah and asked the people to eat. Every one of the forty guests had his fill and yet the food remained the same.

After the feast was over, the Holy Prophet (S) wished to speak to the assembly, but Abu Lahab said to the people that the Holy Prophet (S) had displayed great magic and so the people all left.

The next day, the Holy Prophet (S) asked Imam Ali (A) to make the same preparations as before, but again the same thing happened. On the third day, the Holy Prophet (S) again invited the same group for a meal. This time, he stood up immediately the eating was over and said to the gathering:

***“O sons of Abdul Muttalib! I swear by Allah, besides Whom there is no god, that I have been sent by Him as His Messenger. O my relatives! One day you will die as if you were going to sleep and some time later you will be brought back to life to be judged according to your deeds. The good people will live in Heaven, while those who are evil-doers will be put in Hell forever. No human being has ever brought a better thing for his people than that which I have brought for you. My Lord has ordered me to invite you towards Him. Which one of you will support me so that he may become my brother and successor after me?”***

When the speech of the Holy Prophet (S) reached this point, the entire assembly remained silent. Suddenly Imam Ali (A), who was only 15 years old, stood up and said, ***“O Prophet of Allah! I am prepared to support you.”*** The Holy Prophet (S) asked him to sit down, and repeated the question three times. Each time, however, none but Imam Ali (A) stood up to support him. After the third time the Holy Prophet (S) hugged Imam Ali (A) and holding his hand up high, he said,

***“People! This young man is my brother and successor amongst you. Listen to his words and follow him.”***

### RESEARCH box

 **Where else in history has the Holy Prophet (S) declared Imam Ali (A) as his successor?**

At this stage, the meeting came to an end and some of those present turned to Abu Talib and teased him saying, "*Muhammad has directed you to follow your own son and to take orders from him and has declared him to be your elder.*"

However, the words of the Holy Prophet (S) proved to be true and many times in his life he repeated the same words about this special position of Imam Ali (A).

#### *Now you know...*

- ◆ After receiving the commandment from Allah, the Holy Prophet (S) invited his relatives for a meal so that he could deliver to them Allah's words.
- ◆ Even though there was only enough food for one man, all 40 men ate to their fill.
- ◆ The Holy Prophet (S) was not given a chance to deliver his message as all the people left after he was mocked at by Abu Lahab.
- ◆ It was only at the third time that he managed to address them, informing them about Islam.
- ◆ The Holy Prophet (S) asked who will support him as his brother and successor three times, and all three times only Imam Ali (A) stood up.
- ◆ The Holy Prophet (S) declared Imam Ali (S) as his brother and successor after him.

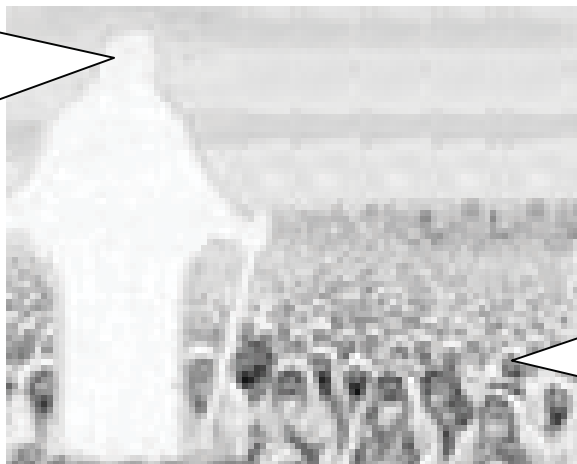
### MORAL BOX

- ❖ The Holy Prophet showed perseverance and patience in the way of Allah as it took a few attempts to address the people. The importance of Sabr is shown in the following saying: 'Sabr is half of faith.'
- ❖ When the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam (A) comes and asks us to join him, will our responses be like that of Imam Ali (A) or Abu Lahab?
- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## TOPIC 15: THE PERSECUTION OF MUSLIMS

After introducing Islam to his relatives, the Holy Prophet (S) began to tell all the people of Makka about his mission. He called all the tribes to the mountain of Safa, and then said to them:

If I tell you that an enemy is hiding behind this mountain ready to attack you all, would you believe me?



Yes, because we have never heard you tell a lie.

Then the Holy Prophet (S) said, ***“Save yourself from the punishment of Hell fire. Believe that there is no god but Allah, and you will be successful in your life.”***

When they heard this message, there was confusion amongst the people and Abu Lahab said loudly, "You have wasted our time with all this nonsense."

The people of Makka forgot that they themselves used to call the Holy Prophet (S) **“as-Sadiq”**, which means “the Truthful one”. Instead they began to call him a liar and a mad man. They began to make life difficult for him by spreading thorns on his path and getting children to throw stones at him. Sometimes they would throw rubbish on him as he passed under their windows.

All these acts had no effect on the Holy Prophet (S), and he did not give up preaching belief in One God. When the number of Muslims began to slowly increase, the chiefs of some tribes became worried, and they came to Abu Talib, the uncle and guardian of the Holy Prophet (S), and asked him to stop his nephew from preaching his religion.

They offered to give the Holy Prophet (S) money, power or anything he wanted, as long as he would give up talking against their gods. When Abu Talib told the Holy Prophet (S) about their message, he said, *“By Allah, even if these people put the sun in my one hand and the moon in the other, I would not give up what I have been commanded by Allah to do.”*

The Bani Umayyah, who were the enemies of Bani Hashim, began to harass the Holy Prophet (S) all the time. The main trouble makers included Abu Sufyan, Abu Jahl, and Utba bin Rabee'. Although they could not attack him openly because of the power and influence of Abu Talib, they took every opportunity to create difficulties for him.

The Makkans then turned their attention to the new Muslims. Some Muslims came from powerful tribes, so they were safe from trouble. However, many Muslims were poor or slaves and these began to face the most terrible cruelties at the hands of the Makkans.

**Abu Dhar Ghiffari** was one of the early Muslims. When he declared that he had accepted Islam, the Quraish beat him up so badly that he was half dead. When the uncle of the Holy Prophet (S), Abbas, passed by and saw what they were doing, he reminded the Quraish that Abu Dhar was from the tribe of Bani Ghiffar who used to live next to the route of the trade caravans. If they learnt that a member of their tribe had been tortured by the Quraish, they would not let the trade caravans pass safely. On hearing this, the greedy Quraish left Abu Dhar alone.

**Bilal Habashi** was the Mu'azzin (prayer caller) of the Holy Prophet (S). He was the slave. When Bilal accepted Islam, his cruel master was very angry and began to torture him mercilessly. He would make Bilal lie bare-backed on the hot sands of the desert and place a large stone on his chest so that he could not escape the burning sand. Despite these cruelties, Bilal continued to say "Ahad, Ahad", which means that "Allah is One". Finally, the Holy Prophet's (S) uncle Abbas bought him and then freed him.



Umar bin Khattab, who later was made Caliph of the Muslims, had a slave maid called **Lubeena Khatun**. When Lubeena became a Muslim, he would beat her so much that he himself would get tired.

Ammar bin Yasir and his parents **Yasir** and **Sumayya** were amongst the first Muslims. The unbelievers tried to make them change their minds but they refused. The three of them were taken to the desert and beaten and tortured. This was repeated many times until at one time, Yasir died. When his pregnant wife Sumayya complained to Abu Jahl about this inhuman treatment he took his spear and thrust it into her heart.

Then they turned to **Ammar bin Yasir** and beat him so terribly that he was about to die. They threatened to kill him unless he declared that he was no longer a Muslim. To save his life, Ammar had to agree. Later, the Holy Prophet (S) approved his action saying that as long as Ammar had the faith in his heart, it did not matter what he was forced to say. Despite the tortures suffered by the Muslims, none of them changed their faith and their numbers increased day by day.

### QUESTION BOX

❓ What is it called when someone hides their faith in order to save their life?

#### *Now you know...*

- ◆ After inviting the Makkans to Islam, the people began mocking and making life difficult for The Holy Prophet (S).
- ◆ The leaders became threatened by more and more people embracing Islam and tried to bribe The Holy Prophet (S), but to no avail.
- ◆ The Makkans then started to harass the new Muslims – those from powerful tribes were safe but the others were not.
- ◆ These included Abu Dhar Ghiffari, Bilal Habashi (the Mu'azzin of The Holy Prophet (S)), Lubeena Khatun (the slave maid of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caliph), Ammar bin Yasir and his parents – Yasir and Sumayya (who were the first two martyrs of Islam).

### MORAL BOX

- ❖ We should try and build our faith like that of the new Muslims who went to the extent of sacrificing their lives for Islam.
- ❖ The Holy Prophet (S) refused to give in to material temptations as he knew that the reward in the hereafter will surpass anything he could get in this life.

- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_  
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- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_  
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## TOPIC 16: THE HIJRAT TO ABYSSINIA

The unbelievers of Makka had made life very difficult for the Muslims. The Holy Prophet (S) was worried and concerned about the condition of the Muslims, so he advised a group of his followers to **migrate to Abyssinia (Ethiopia)**, which was ruled by a kind Christian king whose name was Negus.



This was the **first Hijrat** in Islam and 10 people took part in it. It happened in the fifth year of Prophethood. A second, larger group of Muslims also migrated soon afterwards, under the leadership of Ja'far bin Abu Talib, the brother of Imam Ali (A). The Muslims were welcomed with much kindness in Abyssinia and found the life there very pleasant and comfortable.

When the chiefs of Makka found out that the Muslims had migrated and were living peacefully in Abyssinia, they became worried that the Muslims might turn Negus, the king of Abyssinia, towards Islam. They sent two men after the Muslims.

When the two men reached Abyssinia, they first met the ministers and gave them expensive gifts. They convinced the greedy ministers to support their mission by backing them in the court of the king. On the following day, they met Negus, and after presenting him with gifts, they said: "A group of our young men have gone against the beliefs of our forefathers and have invented a new religion. These people have now run to your country. I request you to hand them over to us so that we can take them back to Arabia."

As soon as this speech was over, the ministers loudly declared their support for this request. However, Negus took no notice of them and asked whether the Muslim refugees had killed anyone, or stolen anybody's property or had committed any crimes in Makka. They replied that their only crime was inventing a new religion.

The king then announced, "I cannot hand over the people who are living under my protection without a proper investigation."

He sent a message to the Muslims that their leader should come to the court. Ja'far bin Abu Talib came to present the case for the Muslims. The king turned to Ja'far and asked, "Why have you given up the beliefs of your forefathers and started a new religion?"



Ja'far replied, *"We used to be ignorant people who worshipped idols. We ate dead bodies and committed bad deeds. We had no respect for our neighbours and fought amongst ourselves. The weak and helpless were bullied by the strong. We spent a long time in this manner, until a person from amongst us, who had a faultless character, invited us to worship One God. He taught us to respect other people's property, to behave well with our relatives, to respect our neighbours and women and to avoid lying. He ordered us to offer prayers, to fast and to pay religious tax on our wealth. We have believed in him and worship Allah. However, the Quraish have behaved very cruelly towards us. We resisted them for some time, but now we have come to live here to save our beliefs. The fame of your kindness has brought us to your country and we have perfect faith in your justice."*

The king was very impressed with the sincere speech of Ja'far, and he asked him to recite something from the Heavenly Book of the Muslims. Ja'far recited and explained some verses from Surah Maryam of the Holy Qur'an.

**When the king and bishops heard the words of Allah about the virtues of Bibi Maryam (A) and Prophet Isa (A), tears came to their eyes as they recognised the truth. King Negus declared that he would never surrender the Muslims to the Quraish and asked them to leave his court.**



One of the Makkans, who was a very cunning man, decided to try another approach. He knew that the Christians believed that Prophet Isa (A) was the son of God.

The next day he went to the king and said that the Muslims had special beliefs about Prophet Isa (A) that were totally different to the basic belief of the Christians, and so they were a danger to the official religion of Abyssinia.

King Negus again called Ja'far and asked him what the Muslims thought about Isa (A). Ja'far replied, *"Our belief regarding Isa (A) is that which has been taught to us by the Holy Prophet (S). He was the servant and Prophet of Allah, and the Spirit of Allah with which He blessed Bibi Maryam (A)."*

The king was pleased with this answer, and he praised the beliefs of the Muslims and allowed them full freedom to practise their religion in his country.

## RESEARCH BOX

 **What are the main differences between our belief about Prophet Isa (A) and the Christian's belief?**

He returned the presents of the Quraish back to them and said, "God has not taken any bribe from me while giving me authority over the people. It is not right that I should gather wealth by means of your bribes." The two men had no choice but to return to Makka, having totally failed in their attempt to bring back the Muslims.

The Muslims continued to live in Abyssinia peacefully for a long time and only returned after the Holy Prophet (S) had migrated to Madina.

### *Now you know...*

- ◆ As life in Makka was becoming very hard for the new Muslims, a group of them migrated to Abyssinia, which was ruled by a Christian king, Negus.
- ◆ The Makkans became worried that the Muslims would win Abyssinia over, so they bribed the King's ministers with gifts in order to take the Muslims back to Arabia.
- ◆ King Negus refused to send them back without an investigation. He called the Muslims to court and was impressed by their faith.
- ◆ One Makkan tried to cause trouble by telling the king that the Muslims had very different beliefs about Prophet Isa (A) to the Christians. However, the Muslims delivered a satisfying response.
- ◆ The Muslims remained peacefully under the protection of King Negus in Abyssinia for many years.

## MORAL BOX

- ❖ The king of Abyssinia was not taken over by the bribes of the Makkans. In the same way, we should not compromise our beliefs in return for worldly goods.
- ❖ The Christians of Abyssinia willingly accepted, and also praised, the Muslims. Through good Akhlaq, sincerity, tolerance and strong faith, we too can show the rest of the world the beauty of Islam.

- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_  
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- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_  
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## TOPIC 17: THE BOYCOTT OF BANI HASHIM

The chiefs of Quraish were very disturbed to see that the religion of Islam was gaining strength in spite of all their efforts. By now, well respected people like Hamza, the uncle of the Holy Prophet (S), and some powerful men of Quraish had become Muslims. The chiefs could not bear to stand by and watch Islam advancing in this manner and so they held a meeting to plan a way to stop it.

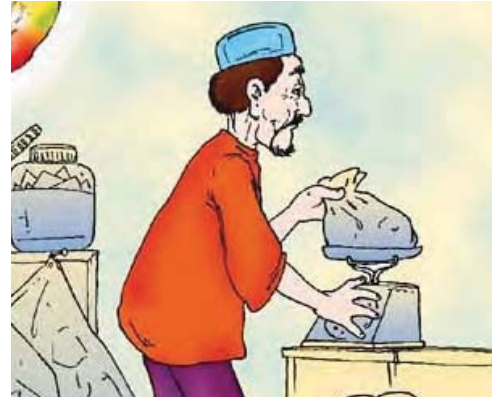
They decided to boycott all the Muslims and in this way stop their activities. An agreement was drafted and hung on the walls of the Holy Ka'ba, and the community of Quraish was told to act according to it. The agreement stated that:

1. All **trade** and **business** with the supporters of Muhammad shall be **banned**.
2. Any **association** with them is strictly **prohibited**.
3. Nobody is allowed to **marry** their daughters or sons to those of the Muslims.
4. All those who **oppose** Muhammad should be **supported** in all circumstances.

This agreement was signed by all the chiefs of the Quraish and was put into action straight away. Abu Talib, the uncle of the Holy Prophet (S), pledged the support of the entire Bani Hashim clan to his nephew. He also advised all the Muslims to move out of Makka into a valley in the mountains. Thus, the Muslims moved out of their homes into the place known as the "Valley of Abu Talib", and set up small houses and tents.

To protect themselves from a sudden attack from the Quraish, some men were posted as guards. The Muslims were forced to remain in the valley for three years. During this time they suffered terrible hardships. Food was in very short supply, and many had to survive on a single date or less per day. The Bani Hashim were only allowed out of the valley during the special months of Rajab and Zilhaj when fighting was not allowed.

During these times they came to Makka to buy food and other necessities. However some Makkans, like Abu Lahab, made things more difficult for them by encouraging the shopkeepers to raise the price of food so that the Bani Hashim could not afford to buy very much.



Throughout their difficult times, the Muslims did not lose heart and remained strongly attached to Islam and the Holy Prophet (S). Finally some of the Makkans began to regret their shameful action against the Muslims, who after all were their relatives. They became ashamed for having signed the agreement and began to look for a solution to the problem. They called a meeting of the Quraish proposing to end the boycott and allow the Muslims to return home.

Although Abu Jahl was not in favour of allowing them back, he was outvoted by the rest and had to remain quiet. The chiefs decided to tear down the agreement. When they brought it down from the Holy Ka'ba, they noticed that the entire sheet had been eaten away by termites and only the words "In the Name of our Lord" remained.



After being informed of the developments by his uncle, the Holy Prophet (S) decided to leave the valley and the Muslims returned to their homes in Makka once again.

The patience and reliance on Allah in the face of hardships by these early Muslims is a great lesson to us all.

***Now you know...***

- ◆ The Quraish were being threatened by the activities of the new Muslims and so they drafted an agreement which briefly stated that association with the Muslims by the Makkans is prohibited.
- ◆ The Muslims were advised to move to 'The Valley of Abu Talib', where they stayed for 3 years suffering many hardships.
- ◆ During the non-fighting months, the Muslims could go to Makka to buy provisions but the Makkans used to make this task very hard for them.
- ◆ The Makkans finally started regretting their actions, and after calling a meeting, the agreement for the boycott of the Muslims was taken down.
- ◆ The Muslims returned back to their homes in Makka.

**MORAL BOX**

- ❖ Through severe difficulties, the Muslims stuck strongly to their faith. We should also do this rather than blaming Allah and turning away from Him when hardships affect us.
- ❖ The Muslims showed complete trust in Allah because they realised that everything is in His power. Allah helps those who put their trust in Him.

- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_  
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- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_  
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## TOPIC 18: THE DEATH OF ABU TALIB (A) AND BIBI KHADIJA (A)

After the 3-year boycott on the Muslims had been lifted, they returned to their previous lives in Makka, and looked forward to improving their condition. However, certain events occurred that year that left the Holy Prophet (S) extremely sad and the Muslims also shared in his sorrow. In that year the Holy Prophet (S) first lost his uncle Abu Talib (A), and then one month later, his wife Bibi Khadija (A). His sorrow and grief knew no bounds and he named this year "**Aamul Huzn**", the **Year of Grief**.

Abu Talib (A) had been the **supporter** and **defender** of the Holy Prophet (S) since the death of his father, Abdul Muttalib. He treated him better than his own sons. In order to protect the Holy Prophet (S) from being murdered by his enemies, Abu Talib (A) used to make one of his sons, usually Imam Ali (A), sleep in the bed of the Holy Prophet (S).

Abu Talib (A) believed so much in the excellence of the Holy Prophet (S) that he used to request the blessings of Allah by using his nephew's name. Once, when the Quraish were faced with a terrible drought, they came to Abu Talib (A), begging him to pray for rain. Abu Talib (A) held the hand of the Holy Prophet (S), who was then only a young boy, and raised his head to the skies, saying, "O Lord, send down rain for the sake of this young boy, and favour us with your blessings". This prayer was hardly over when rain began to fall heavily.


### RESEARCH BOX

 **What is it called when we supplicate to Allah through someone else?  
What Dua do we recite on Tuesdays in which we do this?**

When the Holy Prophet (S) declared his **mission**, Abu Talib (A) stood faithfully by his side, never stepping back from the defence of his nephew.

Although Abu Talib (A) began to lose his position amongst the Quraish because of his support for the Holy Prophet (S), he did not for one moment think of asking him to hold back the message of Islam.

### QUESTION BOX

 **Abu Talib (A) let his position be under threat for the sake of the truth.  
Would we be too attached to our worldly desires to support the truth?**

The actions of Abu Talib (A) throughout his life confirm that he was a Muslim and believed in the religion of Allah. However, some people still claim that he was an unbeliever. This is actually a false accusation because we know that Abu Talib was the one who recited the marriage formula for the Holy Prophet (S) and this can only be done by a Muslim.

It is a fact of history that Fatimah binte Asad was one of the first women to accept Islam. She was also the wife of Abu Talib (A), and remained his wife till he died. If he had not been a Muslim, it would have been unlawful for her to remain his wife. It was no wonder that the Holy Prophet (S) missed his uncle so much. Abu Talib (A) had been his guardian for 50 years.

In the same year, the Holy Prophet (S) lost his dear wife Bibi Khadija (A), the mother of his beloved daughter, Fatimah Zahra (A).

Thereafter, she gave her entire wealth for the sake of Islam.

The double tragedy was a bitter blow to the Holy Prophet (S), at a time when he needed the encouragement and support of his loved ones.



***Now you know...***

- ◆ In the year after the boycott, the Holy Prophet (S) lost both his uncle Abu Talib (A) and his wife Bibi Khadija (A) and he called that year "Aamul Huzn", the Year of Grief.
- ◆ Abu Talib (A) had been his supporter and defender.
- ◆ Bibi Khadija, who married the Holy Prophet (S) at the age of 40 was the first woman to become a Muslim and gave her entire wealth for the propagation of Islam. She stood by him with firm faith till her death.

