


MILĀD (BIRTH)


Prophet Muhammad (s) was born in Makka on the **17th of Rabī' al-awwal**, 570 CE. He was born into the noble Banū Hāshim clan, a smaller clan of the larger Quraysh tribe that descended from Prophet Ismā'il (a), the elder son of Prophet Ibrāhīm (a).

His father was 'Abdullāh, son of 'Abdul Muttalib and his mother was Āmina. Sadly, **his father 'Abdullāh died** three months **before** he was even born. The birth of the Prophet brought great joy to the grieving family, especially to his mother Āmina and grandfather, 'Abdul Muttalib.

The family was grateful to God for the blessing of a baby and invited others for a special meal as a celebration of this happy occasion. People flocked to 'Abdul Muttalib's house to congratulate him on the birth of his grandchild.

'Abdul Muttalib named his grandson **'Muhammad'** which means **'praiseworthy'**. When asked about it, he said he wanted his grandson to be praised in the heavens as well as on earth.

Challenge:
 What is the special name for this joyous occasion that we celebrate every year? What are the different ways in which we can celebrate it?

Quran Challenge:
 Which sūra is named after the tribe that the Prophet was born into? Which sūra is named after the Prophet? Check Q48:29. What does it tell you about the Prophet?

THE MAKKAN SOCIETY

At the time of Prophet Muhammad's birth the society in Makka was filled with evil and injustice. The people worshipped idols. They did not care for the rights of the poor, the oppressed, women, and slaves. Those with wealth and power ruled over the rest.



This was called the time of **"Jāhiliyyah"** meaning the time of **ignorance**. It was when the artificial barriers of "class" existed, roughly dividing people into three classes:

The **arrogant & wealthy** opposed the call to Islam, fearing loss of their unjust power over Makka.

The **poor and oppressed** accepted the call of Islam because they found it to be the Truth.

The **general public** followed their leaders blindly, giving in to power and authority.

The Prophet strived for **justice and equality**.

<p>Quran Challenge:  Check Q 81:8-9. What do you know about this practice of the people of Jāhiliyyah. How did the Prophet show them it was a wrong practice?</p>	<p>Food for thought:  What problems do you think the Prophet faced with the people of Jāhiliyyah?</p>	<p>Extension:  What else do you know about the Jāhiliyyah period? Write a story or journal entry about an orphan during that time. Check Q 107:2.</p>
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THE PUBLIC CALL

Ya Sabahah Ya Sabahah


Q15:94 Read these two verses revealed to the Holy Prophet about inviting the general public to Islam, as well as the method of doing so. **Q16:125**

After some time the Prophet invited the general public openly to the religion of One God. He stood on a high rock near the Ka'ba and said aloud: **'Ya Sabahah'**

DID YOU KNOW?
 Instead of ringing a bell, the Arabs used special words to sound the alarm such as: **Ya Sabahah**

The Holy Prophet announced:
"O people of Quraysh! Save yourselves from fire! My position is like that of a watchman who upon seeing an enemy immediately runs to his people for their safety and warns them of danger by saying 'Ya Sabahah' in a particular manner."

Hearing this some people got worried. They were afraid they would lose their power. **Abū Lahab** tried to disperse the crowd by saying: "Did you really call us for this?"

Food for thought:
 Why were some people immediately attracted towards Islam while others resisted? Does the Prophet have a difficult task ahead of him? Explain your answer.

MARRIAGE

The Prophet began to assist Abū Tālib in trade. His honesty and good reputation led him to a job with one of the wealthiest and noblest women, **Khadija bint Khuwaylid**.

Khadija sent one of her workers Maysara with the Prophet on a trading trip. Maysara was very impressed with how the Prophet interacted with others during the journey.

O Khadija, I could not wait to return and tell you all about "the honest one!" There is something very different about his greatness and spirituality!

Maysara

Khadija began to admire the Prophet's intelligence and honesty. She later became the Prophet's wife. The wedding was a happy occasion for the family and Abū Tālib recited the Nikah.

Even in the days of Jāhiliyyah, Khadija was known for her nobility and kindness. Her house was a refuge for women and orphans and she never turned a beggar away.

Hadith to remember from Prophet Muhammad
 Four women are the best of the women of Paradise: **Maryam** mother of 'Isa, **Asiyah** wife of Pharaoh, **Khadija bint Khuwaylid**, and **Fātima bint Muhammad**.

DID YOU KNOW? 