



# Life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

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First Session (1/3)

NOVA Life-Long Learning (NOVA-LLI)

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**WELCOME**  
**to**  
**Life of Prophet Muhammad**  
**Class !**

# Life of Prophet Muhammad (in 3 sessions)

- Session 1: His life before becoming a prophet and the initial years of his prophethood in Makkah
- Session 2: His later years in Makkah and his migration to Madinah for establishing Islamic government
- Session 3: His last few years in Madinah and his legacy

# A Few Sayings of Prophet Muhammad

- “Kindness is a sign of faith, and whoever is not kind has no faith.” (Muslim)
- “He is not a believer who sleeps with a full stomach while he knows that his neighbor sleeps hungry.” (Baihaqi)
- “The strong and powerful is not the one who throws people down, but the one who controls his anger”. (Bukhari & Muslim)
- “He is not one of us who is not merciful to the younger ones and who does not honor the elderly .” (Tirmidhi)
- “Forgive him who wrongs you, do good to one who does evil to you, and speak the truth even if it is against yourself” (Ahmad)
- “When there are 3 people, let not 2 engage in a private conversation without the third” (Bukhari & Muslim)
- He was asked: Who are the learned? He answered: “Those who practice what they know.” (Bukhari)
- The most beloved people to God are those believers who are the most beneficial to people (Mu’jamul Awsat)
- “You are not a believer until you love for your brother what you love for yourself (Bukhari & Muslim)

# Family Background Of Prophet Muhammad

Prophet Muhammad is a descendent of Abraham

Abraham was an important prophet and messenger of God

- His life was full of trials and tribulations - passed all
- Established a model of faith in Oneness of God
- Father of monotheism
- God's promise to bless the world thru his descendents
  
- His two sons: Isaac and Ishmael
  - Isaac > Jacob (Israel) > Joseph > ... > Moses ... > Jesus
  - Ishmael > ... > Fihir (Quraish) > ... > Abdul Mutalib > Abdullah > Muhammad
  - Isaac and Ishmael grew up in 2 distinct areas: Palestine and Makkah (Mecca)

# Abraham and Makkah

- Migration of his wife (Hagar/Haajar) and his son (Ishmael/Ismaeel) to Makkah
- Building of Ka'ba by Abraham and Ishmael in Makkah

Initial phase of Ka'ba



Current form



- Prayer (Du'a) of Abraham for Makkah
  - To bless the land and raise a messenger from amongst the people of this land (see next slide)
- Start of Pilgrimage (Hajj) by Abraham
  - Development of Makkah as spiritual and economic center
- Later deviation of descendents from path of Abraham

# Abraham's prayer for Makkah and its people

- When His Lord tested Abraham with certain commandments, which he fulfilled, (His Lord) said, 'I will make you a leader of mankind.' Abraham asked, 'And will You make leaders from my descendants too?' (His Lord) answered, 'My covenant does not include those who do injustice.'
- And remember that We made this House (the Ka'bah) the center and sanctuary for mankind and enjoined the people to offer prayer in the place where Abraham used to stand for prayer, and We directed Abraham and Ismail to keep My House pure for those who would go round it (Tawaf) and those who would retreat for devotion (I'tikaf) and for those who would bow down and prostrate themselves in there for worship.
- And when Abraham prayed, "O' Lord, make this city a city of peace and security, and provide every kind of produce to those of its people who believe in Allah and the Last Day". Allah answered, "As for the disbelievers, I will also provide them with the necessities of life in this world, though in the Next World I will drag them to the torment of Hell, and that is the worst abode."
- As Abraham and Ishmael were raising the foundations of the House (they prayed), "Our Lord, accept this from us. You are the All Hearing, the All Knowing, make us Muslims (submissive servants to you) and also raise from our offspring a Muslim community (submissive to Your Will). Show us the ways of Your worship and forbear our shortcomings: You are Forgiving and Merciful."
- "Our Lord, from amongst these people raise a Messenger who shall recite Your Revelations to them and teach them the Book and Wisdom and purify their lives. You are the All-Powerful and All-Wise". (2:124-130)

# Political and Social Conditions Before Advent of Prophet Muhammad

- Loss of monotheism
- Influence of pagans and start of idol worshipping
- Ignorance, wars, bloodshed, worship of false gods, slavery, corruption, immorality, and all kinds of injustices
- There was a dire need for a prophet



# Year of Birth of Prophet

- Year of birth of Prophet known as Year of Elephant
- Its story : Attack of Abraha on Makkah
  - Huge army with elephants in front
  - People of Makkah left city
  - Getting close to Ka'ba and miraculous reaction of leading elephant
  - Ignoring those reactions and attack towards Ka'ba
  - A sudden dark sky and flock of birds coming out to defend Ka'ba
  - Birds carrying rocks in beaks and claws of foot
  - Striking of rocks on soldiers and rotting of their flesh
  - Defeat of full army and killing of Abraha
  - Later narration of this story in Qur'an (See Surah Al-Feel – Chapter 105)
- Defeat of invading army, and popularity of Makkah leadership as people of God
- Birth of Prophet in the same year (Year of Elephant)

# Birth of the Prophet

- **Abdul Mutalib** (leader of Makkah and grandfather of Prophet Muhammad)
  - Famous for his spirituality and leadership
  - One of his sons was Abdullah
- **Marriage of Abdullah with Amena**
  - Birth of their son: Prophet Muhammad (year 570 CE)
- **Mother shared special feelings and light during pregnancy**
- **Before his birth, father died during travel at Yathrib (later called Madinah)**
  - Prophet was born as an orphan

# Childhood of Prophet

- His early childhood in desert
- Suckling by Haleema and her experiences
- Returning to mother at age 4
- Mother (Amena) died at his age of 6
- Grandfather became caretaker
- Grandfather died at his age of 8
- Uncle (Abu Taaleb) became caretaker
  
- His trip with his uncle to Syria
  - Meeting with Baheerah (A Christian Monk)
  - Concluding that this child was special after observing a low-flying cloud traveling over the caravan and this child
  - Inferring his conclusions also from his knowledge of the previous scriptures

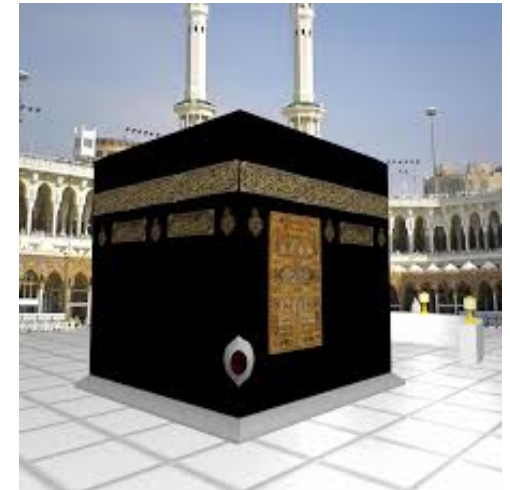
# Life before becoming a Prophet

- He worked as a shepherd for many years (as most prophets did)
- He became famous as a hard working, kind, and honest man
- A successful businesswoman in Makkah (Khadijah)
  - Offered a job to the prophet
  - Sent him for a business trip to Syria
  - Gained impressive results
- Khadijah made marriage proposal
  - His marriage with Khadijah
  - Age of Prophet: 25
  - Age of Khadija: 40
- His special status in society
- His popular character and his helping hand to others

# Life before becoming a Prophet

- His exemplary conduct and morals
- His popularity and trust of people on him
  - Title of “Trustworthy and Truthful Man”

- Story of rebuilding of Ka’ba
  - Rivalry on placing the black stone
  - Prophet’s solution (at age 35)



- His increased popularity
- However, his deep concerns for his people and society
- His society full of injustices and immorality

# Before becoming a prophet

- His contemplation and seclusion
- Annual seclusion to a mountain cave near city



Mountain of Light (Jabal Noor)



Cave of Hira

- Started to get night dreams realized during the day

# Becoming a Prophet

- At age 40 while in cave: Sudden appearance of angel
- Interaction with angel (Gabriel/Jibraeel)
- Receiving first revelation of Qur'an while in cave
  - *“Read (proclaim) with the name of your Caretaker who created (everything), He created human from a clinging substance. Read, and your Lord is the most gracious, Who imparted knowledge by means of the pen. He taught man what he did not know” (96:1-5)*
- His fear and return to home
- Comforting reaction of his wife
- Meeting with Waraqah (A Christian monk, cousin of wife)
- His appointment as a Prophet : Year 610 CE
- Receiving more revelations later
- Learning some terminology (before moving forward)
  - Allah, Islam, Muslim, Qur'an, Hadith

# Name of God

- The Arabic word for God is Allah
- Allah: God's personal name
- The word "Allah" is also used by Arabic-speaking Jews and Christians
- Jesus called God "Elah" in Aramaic language
- In Judaism, God has been referred to as Eloah, Elohai, Elah, etc.
- God has many more names and attributes, but
  - Allah is a comprehensive name covering all other names and attributes – very sacred and preferred to use



# Meaning of “Islam”

- Two root meanings of term “Islam” in Arabic language are:
  1. Submission (*aslama*)
  2. Peace (*salaam*)

Both meanings are related: Submission (to God) leads to peace
- Islam: Path of submission to The Only God of the entire universe (Allah) and resulting peace
  - A volunteer submission based on knowledge, love and trust
  - Resulting peace with oneself, with God, and with environment
  - Not a religion of violence and war
- Based on its meaning, Islam is:
  - Path of nature and universe
  - State of every human at birth and state of everyone’s nature
  - Path of all prophets of God including Prophet Muhammad
- Islam as a religion is God’s guidance given to Prophet Muhammad
  - Name of religion is not based on name of a prophet or leader or place

# Meaning of “Muslim”

A Muslim is:

- A follower of Islam
- One who submits to God, and commits to Islam as a way of life
- One who believes in all prophets of God, submits to God and obeys God
- A more technical definition: One who believes in Oneness of God and in Muhammad (as the final messenger of God), and declares the following statement (based on sincerity and conviction):
  - *“I bear witness that there is no other god except Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is the messenger of God”*

# Qur'an and Hadith/Sunnah

**Qur'an:** The primary source of knowledge in Islam

- The Qur'an is the word or speech of God revealed to Prophet Muhammad in Arabic language
- Linguistic meaning: A reading, a recitation, to be read
- Some unique aspects:
  - History of revelation, collection, and compilation
  - Qur'an and other divine scriptures
  - Preservation
  - Translations of Qur'an
  - Scientific knowledge in the Qur'an

**Hadith/Sunnah:** Secondary Source of Knowledge in Islam

- Hadith: Report of Prophet Muhammad's sayings, actions, approvals, and traditions
- Sunnah: His traditions, his methods, his way of doing things

# Focus of Initial Revelations

Teaching and reminding people about :

1. The active role of their creator in their lives
2. Accountability in next life
3. Need for justice and morality in society
4. Oneness of God and His exclusive worship
5. Disadvantages of worshipping statues and other gods

# Reactions and Opposition

- Prophet starting the mission
- Passing message to some individuals and family
- Sharing with public and inviting them
- Acceptance by a few
- Start of opposition by many
- Opposition in family
- Opposition by elite of society
- Campaign of public against the prophet
- Propaganda about the prophet

# Examples of Propaganda Against Prophet

- “He has fabricated this Qur’an”
- “He is a magician (Saahir)”
- “He is a poet”, “He is a soothsayer”
- “He gets some wild dreams, but no revelation from God”
- “He is crazy (Majnoon)”
- “He wants to reduce our multiple gods to One God”
- “His claim of another life and accountability is strange”
- “Most of his followers are from the poor”
- “Why angel came to him, and not to us?”
- “He is dividing our families and breaking our unity”
- “He is against our traditions and the way of our forefathers”
- “His teachings are fairy-tales of ancient (primitive) people”
- Etc.

# Demands and Offers of Opposition

- Demands from the prophet
  - Stop telling us about need for reform in society
  - Stop telling us about equality between us and our slaves
  - Stop inviting people to worship of One God
  - Stop talking about powerlessness of our Idols
  - Stop telling us about our accountability in next life
- Offers to him
  - Political leadership, wealth, beautiful women, etc.
- Prophet's repeated response
  - Not accepting any worldly offers
  - Declaring a firm determination to continue his mission without any compromise

# Opposition Intensified

- Gradual severity of opposition
- Serious threats to anyone accepting Islam
- Hindering pilgrims and travelers from hearing Prophet's message
- Social boycotts
- Economic boycotts
- Physical persecutions
- Beating and torture of Muslims
- Killing of first Muslim as a martyr of Islam: Sumayya (a lady)
- Death of Prophet's wife
- Death of his uncle and loss of tribal support
- Year of sadness



# Support for Prophet

- Prophet's strong belief in God and his continuous turning to God for support
- His supervision by Angel Gabriel and receiving revelations
  - Responding to propaganda and objections
  - Answering questions and providing necessary guidance
  - Condoling the Prophet and Muslims
  - Inviting them to be patient and return with good plus additional teachings
- Logic of his message and its powerful impact on people
- Long term benefits of his message
- Miraculous trip of Prophet to Heaven and Jerusalem: Night of Ascension (Mi'raaj) and his trip to Jerusalem (Israa)
- Gradual increase of Muslims and their transformations
  - For example, Omar, an important leader, becoming a Muslim
    - His interesting story
  - Pilgrims from Yathrib (Madinah) accepting Islam