

# HADRAT KHADIJA (R.A)

## BINT KHAWELID

Afif Kandi reported it to Yahya bin Furat, who quoted to Ibn-e-Saad about the Mecca in pre-Islamic days in these words:

"I came to Mecca, the times were just before the dawn of Islam. I intended to buy cloth and perfumes for my wife. I stayed with Abbas son of Abdul Muttalib. Next morning I went to Kaaba (the House of God) in the company of Abbas. After a few moments I saw a young man coming to Kaaba who looked into the skies and then stood erect. Then a young lad came and stood beside on his right. After a short interlude, a woman came and stood behind the two men. These three offered prayers and then went away. I keenly observed them and told Abbas "Some great change is ahead".

"You know, who these people are?" Abbas asked. I said 'No'. Abbas said 'This young man is Mohammad son of Abdullah who was son of Abdul Muttalib, and he is my nephew; and the woman was his wife Khadija daughter of Khawelid". And this was the beginning.

Hadrat Khadija belonged to a respectable family of Quraish tribe. Her surname was *Tahira* (The chaste woman). Hadrat Khadija and the Holy Prophet hailed from the same tribe and the ancestrol chain met at grandfather Qussaiy.

The marriage of Hadrat Khadija and the Holy Prophet Mohammad took place in very strange circumstances. It seems that this holy bondage was pre-destined. Hadrat Khadija was first married to Abu Hala, but unfortunately he died. After that she was married to Utayyiq son of Abid Makhzumi but he too died after some time and she was again a widow. Khadija was a very affluent woman but now least interested in the worldly affairs. She took to business and became very wealthy. She had many commercial agents working for her.

When the Holy Prophet (SAW) reached the age of twenty five; by then the whole of Arab had known him because of his sublime character which mattered much in those days. People called him as "the honest" and "the truthful". Khadija was looking for just such a person for her commercial operations. She sent a message to Hadrat Mohammad (SAW) that if you take my commercial consignments to Syria for business and earn good profits, I shall pay you twice more than usual. My slave Maisrah will accompany you.

The Prophet's guardian and his uncle Abu Talib had also recommended the deal and predicted good profits in the business. On his recommendation, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) accepted the offer and proceeded to Basra with Hadrat Khadija's merchandize. Soon, all the consignment was sold and after return to Makkah, the profit was found double than previous journeys. Hadrat Khadija was much impressed by Hadrat Mohammad's integrity, nobility and intellect. In the meantime, she had also learned much about Hadrat Mohammad's family affairs and she respected him because he had an enviable good repute. Time passed by, and this respect changed into keen interest and ultimately she decided to marry Hadrat Mohammad (SAW). Nafisa, the maid servant of Hadrat Khadija was entrusted with the job of conveying the proposal of marriage to Hadrat Mohammad (SAW) agreed to the proposal. Hadrat Khadija's uncle Amr bin Saad was called for making the necessary marriage arrangements because Hadrat Khadija's father had been killed in the battle of 'Fijar' many years ago. Prophet Mohammad's uncle Abu Talib and other dignitaries of the family congregated at Hadrat Khadija's place for marriage ceremony. Abu Talib recited the matrimonial sermon. The Holy Prophet Hadrat Mohammad (SAW) was twenty five years of age at the time of his marriage with Hadrat Khadija and Hadrat Khadija was then forty years old.

This marriage enhanced Hadrat Mohammad's respect in Quraish tribe and struck a beautiful combination of wealth and virtue. Hadrat Mohammad (SAW) was rich in character and Hadrat Khadija was rich in money, so this combination created a powerful marital bond. Hadrat Khadija was a very loyal and loving wife and she provided all the domestic comforts to her husband. But the Holy Prophet was all the time mentally perturbed because of the deteriorating social and moral conditions in the Arab society. It was but natural of a Prophet. He was pondering over some cogent solution of the moral problems of the society. In the forthcoming years, he got so much engulfed in his meditations that he sought refuge, from the mundane problems in the Hira cave near Makkah. He made it a routine to visit Hira and stay there for weeks altogether for deep meditation and spiritual purification. Hadrat Khadija stood by her husband during this critical period and extended all help. She was the only source of solace for the Holy Prophet (SAW) in those days.

When the Holy Prophet (SAW) received his first message from Allah, he was troubled and anxious. Its impact was so nervewrecking that he rushed home shivering. The divine light illuminated his face. He said, "Khadija, I do not know what it is? I do not know what is going to happen. Wrap me in a blanket. Wrap me in a blanket".

Hadrat Khadija said "Don't worry, you are a truthful person. You care for others and are kind to all. You are honest and hospitable. Allah will not forsake you".

After sometime, she took the Holy Prophet (SAW) to her cousin Warqa bin Naufil, who was a great scholar of the Bible (old and new testament) and renowned intellectual. Warqa inquired about the whole incident from the Holy Prophet. The Holy Prophet gave full details about the appearance of a strange angel in Hira cave. He said that simultaneously with the appearance of the angel, the whole cave illumined with a bright light. The angel asked me to recite. I could not, because I never went to school. But when he embraced me, I could recite the holy verses." Warqa listened and understood the whole situation. He explained.

**'By God, this is the same angel who came to Moses I wish I could be strong enough to help you in those days when your people will oust you from their city.'**

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After a few days Warqa died and true to his prediction, the Makkans unanimously turned against the Holy Prophet. They started teasing him. In these tortuous days, Hadrat Khadija stood by her husband. She was his lone follower and companion. She helped him all she could. She was loving, obedient, confirming and co-operative with her husband. She solved the problems he was facing. She used her social status to minimize the opposition against the Holy Prophet. Due to these factors she was his most beloved wife. He loved her so much that while she was alive, he did not marry another woman. In the later years of his age he used to recall the sweet memories of times passed with Hadrat Khadija. Hadrat Ayisha (R.A.) said about Hadrat Khadija, "I envied her the most of all the wives of the Holy Prophet. One day I expressed this feeling in front of the Holy Prophet in these words, "Oh, she was an old woman, now God has given you better wives". On hearing this, the Prophet got so angry that the hair of his body stood on their roots, and he said, "No by God, I could not find a better wife. She embraced Islam when all opposed it. She believed in me when the whole society opposed me. She helped me financially when every body deprived me. And she bore me children by the grace of God. Ayesha (RA) said that I promised to myself that in future, I will never utter any thing negative against Hadrat Khadija".

Hadrat Khadija (RA) was the only wife, who bore children to the Holy Prophet (SAW). After Hadrat Khadija, it was only the bond maid Mariya Qibtiya who gave birth to a son, named Ibrahim, who died very young at the age of sixteen months. Before the announcement of apostleship, Hadrat Khadija gave birth to two sons Qasim and Abdullah who died soon after. Their sun-names were 'Tahir' and 'Tayyab'. In addition to these two sons, she gave birth to four daughters. Their names are Hadrat Zainab, Ruqqiya, Umme-e-Kulsoom and Fatima.

Hadrat Khadija (RA) passed twenty four years of her married life with the Holy Prophet (SAW). In the tenth year of his prophethood and three years before the Holy Prophet's migration to Medina, Hadrat Khadija died in the month of

Ramadan. By that time offering of funeral prayers was not made obligatory so no funeral prayer was offered and she was laid to rest by the Holy Prophet (SAW). She was buried at a place called 'Hajoon'.

Abu Talib the loving uncle and the guardian of the Holy Prophet (SAW) too died in the same year. The Holy Prophet (SAW) declared that year as the "year of grief and sorrow" as he had lost two personalities who always gave him full support and backing in every test and trial of his life.

Hadrat Khadija was a very kind hearted woman. She was a loving mother too. Though very rich, she was a reputed philanthropist. She kept an eye over her business and managed her household affairs equally well. Due to these qualities the Holy Prophet called her 'Mother of children and respect of the house'.

Throughout her life, she was obedience personified for the Holy Prophet (SAW). She followed him at every phase and step of the life before and after the declaration of his apostleship. It is reported, that one day she come out of her house in search of the Holy Prophet (SAW). These were the days, when whole of the Arab society was pitched against Hadrat Mohammad (SAW). On the way, Gabriel, the arch-angel met her, personified as a human being, and asked about the whereabouts of the Holy Prophet (SAW). She got scared that the stranger might not be an enemy looking for Hadrat Mohammad (SAW) to kill him. So she kept quiet. At home, on the arrival of the Holy Prophet (SAW), she narrated the incident. The Holy Prophet (SAW) listened, and said smiling, Oh, he was Gabriel who has given a message, that I should congratulate Khadija that she has been blessed with a house in paradise made of pearls, free of noise and hard work".

During this period, the opposition to Islam in Makkah was so strong that the Holy Prophet (SAW) and his wife Hadrat Khadija (RA) used to offer prayers secretly at their home instead of Kaaba, the house of God.

Hadrat Abu Huraira has reported that the Holy Prophet remarked one day at Medina:

"Four women are better than the rest of the woman-kind, Maryam, daughter of Imran and mother of Christ, Aasia wife of Pharaoh of Egypt, Fatima daughter of Mohammad and Khadija daughter of Khawelid".

It is also reported that the Holy Prophet (SAW) praised none more than Hadrat Khadija among his wives. Ibn-e-Ishaq says that she was a very sincere advisor to the Holy Prophet. According to one report, once the Holy Prophet (SAW) come to his daughter Hadrat Fatima (RA) wife of Hadrat Ali (RA) while she was ailing and asked,

"My daughter, how are you?"

"I am ailing and do not have anything to eat", she replied. "Dear daughter, don't you like the status of being the leader of women of the whole world", the Holy Prophet (SAW) said.

"Father ! Then what about the status of Mary daughter of Imran", Hadrat Fatima exclaimed!

**"You are the leader of your era, Mary was the best woman of her age and Khadija is the best woman of the present age till it lasts", the Holy Prophet replied.**