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**The First Issue**

# **Khadijah Bint Khuwaylid**

**The Best Woman of Mankind**  
(May Allah be pleased with her)



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**The Series of: Men and Women Around Muhammad**  
*(prayers and peace of Allah be upon him)*

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As if the world was created but only for people who struggled and fought for the sake of the true religion, and has endured suffering and pain, until Allah guided people, thus they entered Islam in crowds.

**The** world is inspired with them, and have written their situations, including what they have done over the ages and times, repeated through days and narrated through years, just as an inscribed book, followed as an example, and wandered by every fond who reflected his love of Allah in fidelity to Him. Likewise, following the Sunnah and the approach of His Prophet May Allah bless him and grant him peace, dedicated to adhere to his orders, self-sacrificing as well as all precious possessions until he meets Lord Almighty with pure and sincere faith, bearing a deep conscious of .. why this world is created? And who is the winner at the end? And the greatest reward of loyalty, love, and sacrifice.

**This** life is a combination of emotion and mentality, when emotion is reasonably accompanied with mentality by following the commands of God and clinging to His guidance, then unprecedented happiness will be attained. How pleasant is the Faithfull's emulation, who are trying to follow the right path and hooked up with the sincere formers who performed their messages to Allah just for the sake of His good pleasure. They sacrificed all the pleasures of this world in order to increase their profit, and reach the highest position in the Hereafter.

**The** biography of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad (prayers and peace be upon him) represents the model, the instance, the method, and the right path to follow, may Allah be pleased with them all. Thus, the biography of the first Mother of the Believers Khadijah Bint Kuwaylid comprises the best route for those seeking goodness and happiness in this world and the Hereafter. In each phase of their life there is a bright cresset, and guidance for those faithful hearts and pure souls.

**It** is the biography of the greatest woman in history, who acted upon her mission the best way possible. Sponsored the prerogative of the Creator the Almighty, and followed all His commands revealed to the Prophet Mohammad (prayers and peace be upon him). She followed the right path towards herself and towards those under her guard, assuming full responsibility, what a great responsibility! She did a great endeavor toward her husband (the Prophet Mohammad prayers and peace be upon him), toward his mission, and toward her home and her pure progeny.

**We** present this eternal biography as the first issue of this series, aiming at elucidating and explicating some of its feature to be an inspiration and model deeply required to find the right way towards our religion.

## **Khadijah Bint Khuwaylid: Ancestry and Attributes**

**She** was the Mother of the Believers and the leader of the women of all the world of her time. She was the mother of Al-Qasim, the daughter of Khuwaylid bin Asad from the Quraish tribe and from the Asad clan. Khadijah was the mother of the children of Allah's Messenger, she was the first person to have an abiding faith in the utterances of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and to accept Islam as her religion and her way of life.

**Khadijah** was born in Makkah in the year 555 CE\ 68 BH. Her mother's name was Fatimah bint Zayd, and her father's name was Khuwaylid bin Asad. She came from a noble family, and she was raised on praiseworthy characteristics and was well-known and praised for her intelligence, firmness, chastity, and prudence.

**Her** virtue were many, as she is one of the women who attained perfection. She was intelligent, honorable, devoted, virtuous, and generous. She is from the people of Paradise. The Prophet (prayers and peace be upon him) used to praise her above the rest of the Mothers of the Believers.

## **Khadijah bint Khuwaylid in Pre-Islamic Society**

### **Her Early life:**

**Khadijah** grew up in the lap of luxury, purity, and generosity. Her father Khuwaylid was a very popular leader among the tribe of Quraysh, and a very prosperous businessman. He died while fighting in the famous battle of 'Fujjar'. She married Abu Halah bin Zarrarah and they got two children, Halah and Hind. She wanted to see her husband prosper and financed him in setting up a big business. But unfortunately he passed away. Sometime later the young widow married 'Atique Al-Makhzumi, and she gave birth to a daughter named Hindah, but soon her second husband passed away.

**Khadijah** (may Allah be pleased with her) has a good fortune and a widespread business, which was incessant between Makkah and Madinah. Thus, above her noble state she was a wealthy well known businesswoman in Makkah. In pre-Islamic era, and before meeting with prophet Mohammad (prayers and peace be upon him), Khadijah was a successful businesswoman. Her policy was to employ hard working, honest and distinguished managers, who traveled far and wide on her behalf. She exported her goods to far away markets like Syria, and her managers bought goods from those markets to be sold at home.

**Khadijah** had heard of the integrity, honesty and principled behavior of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and sent a job offer to him to head her trading caravans. He gladly accepted the offer and started working for her. Khadijah sent him on a business trip; her old and trusted slave Maysarah being delegated to accompany and serve him.

**Maysarah** was impressed by the Prophet's integrity, strength of character, adherence to principles, his amicable dealings and his business abilities. On the way back from Syria, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) lay down under a tree to rest for a while. Nestora, a Jewish monk, noted for his knowledge of religion and for his insight saw him and asked Maysarah who he was. Maysarah told him all about Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) and his reputation for honesty and intelligence. Nestora then told him that this man would be elevated to Prophet hood in the future, as no man had ever rested under that particular tree but Prophets.

**Maysarah** also saw two angels bearing a cloud over Prophet's head to protect him from the glare and heat of the sun. When he returned home Maysarah reported to Khadijah all that had taken place on the trip to Syria.

## **Khadijah "The Pure" and "The Lady of Quraish"**

Her wide virtues were not limited to wealth and beauty, as her biography surpasses to be an instance for every woman. Khadijah was well known as "the pure" and "the Lady of Qiraish" , and these are the blessings of Allah. Khadijah was prepared to be the first one to enter Islam, the first Mother of the Believers, the best woman of mankind, and the struggling tolerant wife.

**Many** of the leading chiefs of Quraish desired to marry Khadijah but she declined and rejected all their proposals. However, she found what she sought and desired in our leader Mohammad (prayers and peace be upon him). She disclosed what she was turning in her mind to her friend, Nafisah.

**Nafisah** went straight to the noble Prophet to speak to him about marrying Khadijah. She said: "O Mohammad! What prevents you from marrying?" He replied: "What do I have with which to marry?" Nafisah further said: "Won't you respond if you were invited to marry someone who is beautiful, rich, honorable and suitable?" He asked: "Who is she?" "Khadijah", she replied. "How am I going to accomplish that?" He asked. "Leave that to me," Nafisah said. "In that case, I shall do it (i.e. marry her)," the Prophet said.

**Nafisah** returned to Khadijah bearing the news of her success in her endeavor and she informed her of the news of Mohammad's acceptance of the marriage proposal. Khadijah sent to her uncle Amer bin Asad requesting him to attend this event, and he came. The Noble Mohammad (Prayers and peace be upon him) also came to Khadijah's house with the family of Abdul Muttalib.



**Abu Talib** got up and delivered a delightful speech. We cite an extract from it. He said:

"Praise be to Allah who made us from the descendant of Ibrahim and the seed of Ismail. He also made us (to live in the) the presence of His House and managers of His sacred precinct that is secured. Furthermore, verily, this son of my brother, Mohammad bin Abdullah is not measured against any man of Quraish in terms of nobility, distinction and excellence except that he outstrips him. Mohammad is someone you all know his pedigrees, he has interests in Khadijah bint Khuwaylid and she also has similar desire for him. Whatever you would like (to take) as dowry is upon me to pay."

**Her** uncle agreed to the marriage and he was a very old man. He said: "He is the stallion whose nose cannot be ringed." [It is a traditional proverb, i.e. Mohammad is an efficient and generous man].

**In consequence**, the blessed marriage took place, fifteen years before the Mission. The Prophet (prayers and peace be upon him) was 25 years old, while Khadijah (may Allah be pleased with her) was about 40 years old. The couple spent a happy contented life, and Allah Has blessed them with six children: Al-Qasim, Abdullah, Zainab, Ruqayah, Umm Kulthum and Fatimah.

## Her Acceptance of Islam

Aishah the Mother of the Believers (May Allah be pleased with her) narrated: "The first (form) in which the revelation to the messenger of Allah was started was the true vision in sleep. And he would not see any vision but it came true like the bright gleam of dawn. Then solitude became dear to him and he used to seclude himself in the cave of Hira', where he would engage in *tahannuth* ( and that is a worship for a number of nights) before returning to his family and getting provisions again for this purpose. He would then return to Khadijah and take provisions for a like period, till Truth came upon him while he was in the cave of Hira'.

**There** came to him an Angel and said: "Read", to which he replied: "I am not lettered". "He took hold of me," Mohammad said, and "pressed me, till I was hard pressed. Then he let me go and said: 'Read.' I said: 'I am not lettered'. He then again took hold of me and pressed me for the second time till I was hard pressed and let me off and said: 'Read', to which I replied: 'I am not lettered'. He took hold of me and pressed me for the third time, till I was hard pressed and then let me go and said:

***{Read! in the name of your Lord Who has created (all that exists) \* He has created man from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood) \* Read! And your Lord is the most Generous \* Who has taught (the writing) by the pen \* He has taught man that which he knew not} (Al-Alaq: 1-5)."***

**Then** the Prophet (prayers and peace be upon him) left the cave immediately going straight home with his heart trembling until he entered upon Khadijah bint Khuwaylid saying: "Wrap me up, wrap me up!" So she wrapped him till the fear left him. He then said to Khadijah: "O Khadijah! What has happened to me?" and he informed her of the incident, saying: "I fear for myself."

**She** said to him: "It can't be. Be happy. I swear by Allah that He shall never humiliate you. By Allah, you join ties of kinship, you speak the truth, you bear people's burden, you help the destitute, you entertain guests, and you help against the hardships which affect people."

**Khadijah** then took him to Waraqa bin Naufal, Khadijah's cousin, who had embraced Christianity in the days of ignorance (i.e. before Islam) and he used to write books in Arabic and, therefore, wrote the Bible in Arabic as Allah willed that he should write. He was very old and had become blind. Khadijah said to him: "O uncle! Listen to the son of your brother." Waraqa said: "O my nephew! What did you see?" The Messenger of Allah informed him what he had seen, and Waraqa said to him: "That is the Angel that Allah sent down to Musa. Would that I were then (during your Prophethood career) a young man. Would that I were alive when your people would expel you!" The Messenger of Allah said: "Will they drive me out?" Waraqa said: "Yes. Never came a man with a like of what you have brought but met hostilities. If I live to see your day I shall help you wholeheartedly." It was not long thereafter when Waraqa passed away and revelation ceased.

**The** status of his wife Khadijah (may Allah be pleased with her) was one of the noblest status that could be used to praise any woman past or present. She smoothed him when he was perturbed. She made him rest when he was exhausted and she reminded him of the virtues of his character, emphasizing that righteous people like himself could never be humiliated and that when Allah molded a man with the most excellent traits of character, it was to bestow honor and kindness on him. With this well-balanced opinion and purity of heart, Khadijah deserved the best salutation sent to her by the Lord of the world through the faithful Spirit (Angel Gabriel ).

## **Her Virtues**

Anas narrated that the Prophet (prayers and peace be upon him) said: "It suffices to say that the best of the women of the world are Maryam bint Imran, Khadijah bint Khuwaylid, Fatimah bint Mohammad, and Asiyah wife of Fir'awn (Pharaoh)."

Furthermore, Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated: "Gabriel came to the Prophet and said: 'Here is Khadijah coming to you with a bowl of condiment or food or drink. When she comes to you, convey to her the greeting of peace from her Lord and from me, and promise her with a house in Paradise built of gold wherein there will be neither clamor nor tiredness.'"

## **The Patient Khadijah**

The mother of the believers set an example of patience and she earned by that resounding success in the very first steps toward advancing the prophetic message. The Prophet (prayers and peace be upon him) never heard anything detesting to him from rejection and belying that grieved him except that he was consoled by her.

**When** the Prophet (prayers and peace be upon him) came out with his call in the open, the Quraish excommunicated Banu Hashim. The crisis came to a head and the effects of the banishment became fatal. Affairs degenerated between the message of Allah's Messenger (prayers and peace be upon him) and the oppression of idolatry personified by the aristocrats of the Quraish. Their intellect became befuddled in their empty heads except for injustice, oppression, and subjugation of the weak ones. Their idle minds shuddered except for corruption and idol worshipping. However, the Muslims exercised graceful patience.

**Khadijah** remained solidly behind the Messenger of Allah, girding his side and sharing with him in bearing the harm of his people with patience and equanimity in expectation of reward until Allah implemented His Decree on this oppressive and persistent boycott which was fatal for the believers who were under siege.

**When** the siege ceased, the Pure Khadijah came out triumphantly with the outgrowth of her patience, prosecuting with the Messenger of Allah, her journey through life as a faithful wife.

**Khadijah** (may Allah be pleased with her) spent close to a quarter of a century under the patronage of Allah's Messenger. Throughout that period she discharged her obligation as a righteous wife to her husband. She shared with him his moments of joy, caring for his pleasures and happiness and devoted to what brings life to them.

**It** is clear from her generosity that when the people were afflicted with a period of drought after her marriage to Allah's Messenger, Lady Halimah As-Sadiyyah, foster mother of the Prophet, visited Makkah. She went back with camels loaded with water and forty heads of goat from the wealth of Khadijah.

## **The Departure to the Hereafter**

**After** she came out of the blockade, Khadijah lived only for a little while before she answered the call of her Lord. Her pure soul soared to the heavens well-pleasing and well-pleased unto Allah.

**Orwah said:** "She died three years before the Migration to Madinah, and she was buried in Makkah at Hujun." True is the statement of the one who said:

*If women were like the one we missed,  
women would have been given preference above men.*

**Her** death left an indelible mark in the heart of the Messenger of Allah. She was always remembered by him and her name was constantly mentioned. He loved those who loved her and he honored those who honored her.

**Aishah** (may Allah be pleased with her) said: "Allah's Messenger mentioned Khadijah one day and I said something about her. I said: 'Such and such old woman! Allah has replaced her for you with someone better!' He responded: 'Allah has not replaced her for me with someone better. She believed in me when the rest of people disbelieved. She gave me a share in her wealth when the rest of the people denied me (theirs). Allah provided me children from her while He denied me other than her.' I said: 'I shall not blame you regarding her anymore.'"



**Once** an elderly woman from the friends of Khadijah came to the Prophet after her death and the Prophet (prayers and peace be upon him) greeted her warmly and honored her. He spread his cloth for her to sit on. He kept inquiring about her condition. Then Ishah said after she had left: "How come you received her with such warmth?" And the Prophet responded: "She used to visit us in the lifetime of Khadijah and being good in remembering covenant is part of faith."

**With** that ends the shining page of her glorious history. However, her scented biography and noble deeds remain a guiding light for those who seek guidance.

**May Allah be pleased with the Mother of the Believers Khadijah bint Khuwaylid and may Allah bliss her.**

### **Khadijah bint Khuwaylid in Brief:**

**The** Mother of the Believers and the leader of the women of all the world of her time. She was the mother of Al-Qasim, the daughter of Khuwaylid bin Asad from the Quraish tribe. Khadijah was the mother of the children of Allah's Messenger, she was the first person to have an abiding faith in the utterances of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and to accept Islam as her religion and her way of life.

**Khadijah** was born in Makkah in the year 555 CE\ 68 BH. She came from a noble family, and she was raised on praiseworthy characteristics and was well-known and praised for her intelligence, firmness, chastity, and prudence. As she was called "the pure". Her virtue were many, as she is one of the women who attained perfection. She was intelligent, honorable, devoted, virtuous, and generous. She is from the people of Paradise.

**The** mother of the believers Khadijah set an example of patience and she earned by that resounding success in the very first steps toward advancing the prophetic message. Khadijah (may Allah be pleased with her) spent close to a quarter of a century under the patronage of Allah's Messenger. Throughout that period she discharged her obligation as a righteous wife to her husband. Due to her noble character and purity of heart, Khadijah deserved the best salutation sent to her by the Lord of the world through the faithful Spirit (Angel Gabriel ). Besides, she deserved to be the best woman of all mankind.

She died three years before the Migration to Madinah.

May Allah be pleased with her and bliss her.

## PROJECT - Just One Message



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