

The
of **WIVES**
THE PROPHET
MUHAMMAD

صَلَّى اللّٰهُ
عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

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INTRODUCTION



WHAT IS THERE THAT A WOMAN MAY NOT DO? SHE CAN DO everything except what Allah has forbidden. The teachings of Islam tell us what the limits of behaviour are. Anyone who goes beyond these limits is likely to meet trouble, both in this world and in the next world.

The best of women have lived their lives within the limits of Allah and have achieved greatness, often through actions which even the best of men could not have equalled. They have gained the love and respect not only of those who knew them, but also of those who came to hear about them long after they had died.

Among the best of women were the wives of the Prophet Muhammad, may the blessings and peace of Allah be on him and on his Family and Companions, for he ﷺ was the Best of Creation, *Al-Quthum*, the one who has all good virtues and characteristics gathered together in him, and accordingly Allah granted him the best of women in marriage.

Today, even hundreds of years later, young girls still learn a little about them and then, as they grow up and become women, they follow their example, seeking the pleasure of Allah.

This small book is for you, so that, *insh'Allah*, you will learn something that you did not know before.

It has been related by Anas ibn Malik ؓ that the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, “Of all the women in all the worlds, these are enough for you [meaning that they were the best of women]: Maryam the daughter of ‘Imran [and the mother of Jesus, peace be on them]; and Khadija the daughter of Khuwaylid [and the first wife of Muhammad, may the blessings and peace of Allah be on them]; and Fatima the daughter of Muhammad [and of Khadija, may Allah be pleased with them]; and Asiyya the wife of Pharaoh [who rescued Moses from the River Nile when he was a baby and brought him up as her son, peace be on them].”

Anas also related that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Love Allah for the gifts that He gives you; love me for the sake of Allah; and love the People of my House for I love them.”



KHADIJA

BINT KHUWAYLID



KHADIJA, MAY ALLAH BE PLEASED WITH HER, CAME FROM A NOBLE family. Her father Khuwaylid had been one of the most honoured leaders of their tribe until he was killed in battle. Her husband had also died, leaving her a very wealthy woman. When Muhammad ﷺ was still a young man, she entrusted him with some of her wealth, asking him to trade with it in Syria on her behalf. He was already well known for his honesty, truthfulness and trustworthiness. He returned from Syria after having made a large profit for Khadija.

After hearing his account of the journey, she decided that he would make the best of husbands, even though many of the most important nobles of the Quraysh had already proposed to her and been refused, and in due course she proposed to him. After the Prophet's uncle, Abu Talib, had given the proposed marriage his blessing, Muhammad and Khadija were married. At the time of the marriage, Muhammad was twenty-five years old, while Khadija was forty years old.

For the next fifteen years they lived happily together, and Khadija bore several children. Their first child, a son whom they named Qasim, died when he was only two years old. One more son, called Tayyib or Tahir, was also born, but he too died in his infancy. However Muhammad and Khadija also had four daughters who survived: Zaynab, Ruqayya, Umm Kulthum and Fatima.

No-one – except Allah of course – knows more about a man than his wife, both his good and his bad qualities, his strengths and his weaknesses. The more Khadija came to know about her husband, the more she loved and respected him. Everyone in Makka called him ‘*al-Amin*’, which means ‘the trustworthy one’, and she, more than anyone else, knew how fitting this name was.

It became Muhammad’s custom each year to spend the month of Ramadan in seclusion and reflection in a cave on the mountain of Hira, which is on the outskirts of Makka. Khadija would always make sure that he was provided with food and drink during his retreat. Towards the end of one Ramadan, when he was forty and Khadija fifty-five, Muhammad suddenly appeared at their house in the middle of the night, trembling with fear and saying, “Cover me up, cover me up!”

Khadija was very alarmed to see him in such a state. Quickly she wrapped a blanket around his shoulders, and when he had calmed down, she asked him to describe exactly what had happened. He told her how a being whom he had never seen before – in fact it was the angel Jibril – had suddenly appeared to him while he was asleep and had said, “Read!”

“But I cannot read,” he had replied, for he was unlettered and could neither read nor write.

“Read!” the angel had repeated, clasping Muhammad close to his chest.