

The Life of Muhammad

Muhammad is a very important prophet to Muslims. A prophet is a messenger from God (Muslims call God 'Allah') and they believe that Muhammad, though not the only prophet, was the final and most significant. Muslims follow the faith of Islam. Islam is one of the most popular religions in the world (second to Christianity) and is followed by nearly ¼ of the world's population which is almost 2 billion people.

Muhammad was born in the city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia in 570. Both of his parents had died by the time he was 6 and he was then brought up by his grandfather and uncle who taught him to be respectful, kind and honest.

Once he became an adult he married Khadija. They had 6 children but 2 died in childhood. He was a very quiet man who often spent time alone meditating in the hills of Mount Hira. He was disturbed by what he saw in Mecca as it had become lawless and was dominated by criminals, the greedy and the selfish. During a number of these meditations in 610, Muhammad said that he was visited by an angel who helped him to understand Allah's message and he believed that he should teach it to others.

KEY EVENTS IN MUHAMMAD'S LIFE

- Visited by angel Jibril in a cave on Mount Hira in 610. The event is now called the 'Night of Power'.
- Viewed with suspicion by some people in Mecca for teaching the Islam faith as his popularity increased.
- Escaped Mecca to avoid a plan to assassinate him and travelled to Medina in 622.
- On the journey, it is said that the cave he was hiding in grew a tree in front of its entrance and was covered in cobwebs to conceal him from his potential attackers. They did not discover him.
- Found a new home for all Muslims in Medina where they could be safe.
- Built the first Mosque (a place for Muslims to come together and pray to Allah) called the Quba Mosque.
- Within ten years Muhammad had gained so many followers that he was able to return and conquer Mecca, spreading the word of Islam to many. The word of Islam was written down and can now be read in the holy book called the Quran.
- He died in 632 aged 62.



DID YOU KNOW?

When Muslims say Muhammad's name they also say "alayhi as-salām" which is Arabic for 'Peace Be Upon Him' as a mark of respect.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zympvcw>

Questions:

- 1. Where was Muhammad visited by the angel Jibril?**
- 2. Who cared for Muhammad after his parents' deaths?**