

# UMM AL-MU'MININ SAYYIDAH KHADĪJAH ﷺ

The Prophet ﷺ, who was about to undergo the greatest difficulty, was in need of a figure of support in his life. Allah ﷻ selected the Mother of the Believers Sayyidah Khadijah bint Khuwaylid رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا for this mammoth task.

## HER LIFE PRIOR TO ISLAM

There is consensus among the historians that she belonged to a very noble and elite family. Suffice to say: from all the spouses of Rasūlullāh ﷺ, she was the second closest to him in lineage. She was well-known amongst her people and referred to as al-Tāhirah (the pure one) and the queen of the women of the Quraysh, during the Days of Ignorance. [Al-Rawd al-Unf]

She was first married to Abū Hālah al-Tamīmī and had a son with him, Hind ibn Abī Hālah, who accepted Islam, participated in the Battle of Badr, and rendered a great service to the Ummah by describing the physical features of Rasūlullāh ﷺ. After Abū Hālah's demise, she married Atīq ibn Ābid, who also passed away. Many prominent men of the Quraysh later sought her hand in marriage on account of her nobility, beauty, and wealth. However, she rejected all of their offers.

## KHADĪJAH EMPLOYS AL-AMĪN

Khadijah would employ men to do business on her behalf. Disappointed with the disloyalty of those she employed, she was in search of a trustworthy individual. At the time, Rasūlullāh ﷺ was acclaimed for his honesty and excellent traits and known by the title al-Amīn (the trustworthy one) in Makkah. She offered to pay him double what she normally pays if he conducts business on her behalf. He sealed the deal and travelled to Syria to conduct business on her behalf with her slave, Maysarah.

## THE MARRIAGE PROPOSAL

Maysarah witnessed the absolute honesty and lofty character of Rasūlullāh ﷺ and related that to Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا. Hearing of this left her greatly impressed. She now opted to marry this embodiment of nobility. Furthermore, she did not wait for him to propose, and doing away with meaningless customs, with the motive of securing the best spouse, she initiated the discussion on marriage, through her acquaintance Nafisah.

## THE MARRIAGE

Rasūlullāh ﷺ then consulted with his uncle, Abū Tālib, and they agreed to the marriage, with the dowry of five-hundred silver coins. [Ibn Hishām] At the time of their marriage, Rasūlullāh ﷺ was twenty-five years old while Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا was close to the age of forty. [Uṣd al-Ghābah]

## BLESSINGS OF THE PERFECT MARRIAGE

They remained married for twenty-five blissful years until Khadijah's رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا demise. Six children were born from this blessed wedlock; two sons: al-Qāsim (hence, Rasūlullāh's ﷺ agnomen, Abū al-Qāsim) and 'Abd Allāh and four daughters: Zaynab, Ruqayyah, Umm Kulthūm, and Fātimah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا.

## SUPPORTING HIM PRIOR TO NUBUWWAH

The first form of wahi (revelation) received by Rasūlullāh ﷺ was true dreams. On one occasion, he saw that a panel from the roof of his house was removed and a ladder made of silver was placed in the exact spot. Thereafter, two men descended towards him. He attempted to call out for help, but he was unable to speak. Eventually, they removed his heart, praised the purity thereof, purified it even further, and then replaced it. Rasūlullāh ﷺ related this to Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا, who dispelled all possible worries by saying, "Be glad! Indeed, Allah only does good to you. This is goodness, so be happy." [Al-Khasā'is al-Kubrā]

Rasūlullāh ﷺ would go into seclusion for a number of days in the Cave of Hirā' where he would worship Allah. Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا did not stand in his way or complain about this. Rather, she sought his pleasure by packing for him provisions that would last him until his return. Sometimes, she herself would deliver more provisions to him.

## THE BEGINNING OF NUBUWWAH

After the passing of some time, Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام appeared before Rasūlullāh ﷺ whilst he was in the Cave of Hirā' and instructed him to recite. Rasūlullāh ﷺ expressed his inability to read. Jibrīl embraced him intensely. This occurred three times and on the third time, Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام instructed, "Read in the name of your Rabb," reciting the opening five verses of Sūrah al-Alaq.

## KHADĪJAH: THE PILLAR OF SUPPORT

Rasūlullāh ﷺ immediately rushed home to Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا. Once Rasūlullāh ﷺ regained his composure, she asked him what had transpired, whereupon he narrated to her the details of his meeting. Rasūlullāh ﷺ informed her that he feared for his life. She responded, "Never! By the oath of Allah, Allah will never put you to shame! You join ties, help the weak, give to the poor, serve the guest, and help when natural calamities befall." [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī]

## THE FIRST TO EMBRACE ISLAM

Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا believed in Rasūlullāh ﷺ without any reservations and immediately embraced Islam. Ibn al-Athīr affirms, "Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا was the first of Allah's



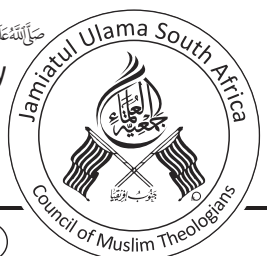
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creation to accept Islam, according to the consensus of the Muslims. Neither did a man nor a woman precede her.” [Usd al-Ghābah] She supported Rasūlullāh ﷺ with her wealth and self, and comforted him whenever he was perturbed. Allah lightened his difficulties through her. Even during the years of the Boycott against the Muslims, she remained by his side and was instrumental in easing the harsh effects of this Boycott by securing food for those affected by it.

### RASŪLULLĀH ﷺ RECOUNTS HER ATTRIBUTES

Rasūlullāh ﷺ appreciated her support and recounted her favours, telling ‘Ā’ishah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا about her, “She accepted me (my message) when people rejected me, believed me when people belied me, supported me with her wealth when people deprived me, and Allah granted me her children while He kept me away from the children of other women.” [Musnad Ahmad]

‘Ā’ishah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا acknowledges, “I was not envious of any of the wives of Rasūlullāh ﷺ except Khadijah. I did not get to see her but Rasūlullāh ﷺ would remember her excessively. At times, he would slaughter a sheep, cut it up into portions, and send them to the friends of Khadijah. Once I said to him, ‘As if there was no woman in the world besides Khadijah!’ He responded, ‘She was an extraordinary (woman) and I had children from her.’” [Sahih al-Bukhārī]

### THE HOME OF ISLAM

Every member of Khadijah’s fortunate home embraced Islam at the very beginning. Her daughters: Zaynab, Ruqayyah, Umm Kulthūm, and Fātimah; their adopted son, Zayd ibn al-Hārithah; and the cousin whom they nurtured, ‘Alī رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ embraced Islam making it the first home of Islam.

### GREETINGS BY ALLAH AND JIBRĪL

Abū Hurayrah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ reports, “Jibrīl appeared before the Nabī ﷺ and said to him, ‘This is Khadijah. She has arrived with a container in which there is gravy (food or drink). When she reaches you, convey to her greetings (of peace) from her Exalted and Glorified Rabb and from me, and also give her glad-tidings of a house in Jannah made from jewels, in which there will neither be noise nor toil.’” [Sahih Muslim]

She has the unique virtue of receiving greetings from Allah—the Exalted and Mighty.

### SHE WAS THE BEST WOMAN OF HER TIME

‘Alī رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrates that Rasūlullāh ﷺ confirmed, “The best woman of her time was Maryam bint ‘Imrān and the best woman of her time was Khadijah bint Khuwaylid.” [Sahih Muslim]

Rasūlullāh ﷺ also confirmed, “The most superior women of Jannah are four: Maryam bint Imrān, Khadijah bint Khuwaylid, Fātimah bint Muhammad,

and Āsiyah bint Muzāhim. [Musnad Ahmad]

### RASŪLULLĀH’S ﷺ LOVE FOR HER WAS DIVINE

‘Ā’ishah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا narrates from Rasūlullāh ﷺ, “Her love had been nurtured in my heart by Allah Himself.” [Sahih Muslim]

Rasūlullāh ﷺ loved her so intensely, that he did not take a second wife while being married to Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا. [Sahih Muslim] Thus, for twenty-five years, Sayyidah Khadijah (rah) was the beloved and only wife of Rasūlullāh ﷺ. Their marriage, founded on love, loyalty, and unwavering support, remained exclusive throughout her lifetime, a bond of devotion and trust that endured until her passing.

### RASŪLULLĀH ﷺ SHUDDERS WHEN HE IS REMINDED ABOUT HER

‘Ā’ishah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا reports, “Hālah bint Khuwaylid, the sister of Khadijah, sought permission (to enter). Rasūlullāh ﷺ recognised (this as) the way Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا would seek permission and thus shuddered.” [Sahih al-Bukhārī]

It is profoundly remarkable that the virtues of Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا were preserved and transmitted to this Ummah chiefly through the beloved of Rasūlullāh ﷺ, Umm al-Mu’minīn Sayyidah ‘Ā’ishah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا, whom Allah Himself declared chaste and pure. That the pure beloved was chosen to relate the virtues of the Pure One, for whom Rasūlullāh ﷺ was divinely granted love, is a beautiful manifestation of Allah’s perfect wisdom.

### THE YEAR OF SORROW

Barely three months had passed since Rasūlullāh ﷺ lost his uncle Abū Tālib in the tenth year after Nubuwwah, when he was afflicted with an even greater calamity: Sayyidah Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا passed away on the tenth of Ramadān of the same year. This occurred three years prior to the emigration to Madīnah. [Tabaqāt Ibn Sa’d] Rasūlullāh ﷺ was overcome with grief at her passing, shaken by the loss of his devoted companion and unwavering support. The Ummah, too, mourned the departure of their “Mother of the Believers”, who had stood by them as a pillar of strength and generosity in their darkest days. So profound was this loss that the year came to be known as ‘Ām al-Huzn—the Year of Sorrow. [Al-Isābah]

### RASŪLULLĀH’S ﷺ GRIEF UPON HER DEMISE

Rasūlullāh ﷺ was devastated to such an extent that those around him began fearing that this grief might result in his death. Khawlah bint Hakīm visited him, enquiring of his uneasiness after his loss. He sighed, “She was the mother of the family and the custodian of the house.” [Tabaqāt Ibn Sa’d]

May Allah be pleased with her and grant all her children (i.e. the entire Ummah) the ability to develop true love for her and follow in her noble footsteps.



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