

Khadijah bint Khuwaylid

رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا

The First Believer

The Mother of the Ummah

The Resolute Pillar of Support

Rasūlullāh ﷺ said about Khadijah ﷺ,

“Her love had been nurtured in my heart by Allah Himself.” [Sahīh Muslim]

Khadijah ﷺ was known in Makkah as *al-Ṭāhirah* (the Pure One) and was of noble descent and lofty ancestry. Twice widowed, she chose to devote herself to her flourishing trade, and declined proposals from the most prominent men of Quraysh who sought her hand in marriage owing to her nobility, intelligence, beauty, and wealth.

After disappointing experiences with the men she had previously employed for trade, Khadijah ﷺ resolved to entrust her business to someone whose integrity was beyond question. Having heard of the exemplary character and unmatched trustworthiness of Rasūlullāh ﷺ, she approached al-Amīn — the trustworthy — with a compelling proposal; offering him double her usual remuneration to conduct trade on her behalf. Nabī ﷺ accepted, and journeyed to Greater Syria accompanied by her servant, Maysarah.

The trade journey proved profitable, yet what pleased Sayyidah Khadijah ﷺ even more was Maysarah's account of Rasūlullāh's ﷺ sublime character and absolute integrity. Eager to unite herself with this embodiment of nobility, she sent a proposal through her confidante, Nafisah. Nabī ﷺ consulted his uncle Abū Ṭālib, who approved, and her guardian, ‘Amr ibn Asad, gladly solemnized the marriage with a dowry of five hundred silver coins. Rasūlullāh ﷺ was twenty-five years old at the time. Allah blessed their union with twenty-five serene years and six noble children: al-Qāsim (from whom he was known as Abū al-Qāsim), ‘Abd Allāh, Zaynab, Ruqayyah, Umm Kulthūm, and Fāṭimah ﷺ. Thus, for twenty-five years, Khadijah ﷺ 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 — truly a connection unmatched in its depth and significance.

The first stirrings of revelation came in the form of true dreams. On one occasion, he saw in a dream that his heart was removed, purified, and returned. Khadijah ﷺ reassured him tenderly, “Rejoice! By Allah, He intends only good for you.” Thus began her lifelong, unwavering support. When he would retreat to the Cave of Ḥirā’ for worship, she prepared provisions for him and ensured his comfort.

When Jibrīl ﷺ first appeared in the cave commanding him to read, and Nabī ﷺ returned home trembling, it was to Khadijah ﷺ — his sanctuary — that he fled, asking to be covered. As he expressed fear, she responded with unshakeable certainty, “Never! By Allah, He will never disgrace you. You maintain family ties, bear the burdens of the weak, give to the poor, honour the guest, and assist in every noble cause.” She then took him to Waraqah ibn Nawfal, who confirmed that the same Angel sent to Mūsā ﷺ had come to him.

Without hesitation, she embraced Islam — becoming the first of Allah's creation to believe in Nabī ﷺ by consensus. She supported him with her wealth and her very being. Allah eased his burdens through her, even during the harsh years of boycott, when she spent generously to relieve the suffering of the believers.

Nabī ﷺ never forgot her sacrifices, “She believed in me when people rejected me, supported me with her wealth when people deprived me, and Allah granted me children through her.” ‘Ā'ishah ﷺ admitted she felt no jealousy toward any wife of Nabī ﷺ except Khadijah ﷺ, though she had never met her, because he remembered her so often and honoured her friends.

Her rank is lofty and her virtues beyond measure. Jibrīl ﷺ once conveyed to Nabī ﷺ greetings of peace for her from Allah and glad tidings of a palace in Jannah made of jewels, free from toil and noise. Nabī ﷺ also declared her among the greatest women of all time.

She passed away at the age of sixty-five in the tenth year of Nubuwwah — a year forever remembered as ‘Ām al-Ḥuzn, the Year of Sorrow. Nabī ﷺ was devastated, mourning her as the heart of his home and the pillar of his life. May Allah ﷻ be pleased with her and grant this Ummah the ability to love her sincerely and follow in her radiant footsteps.



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