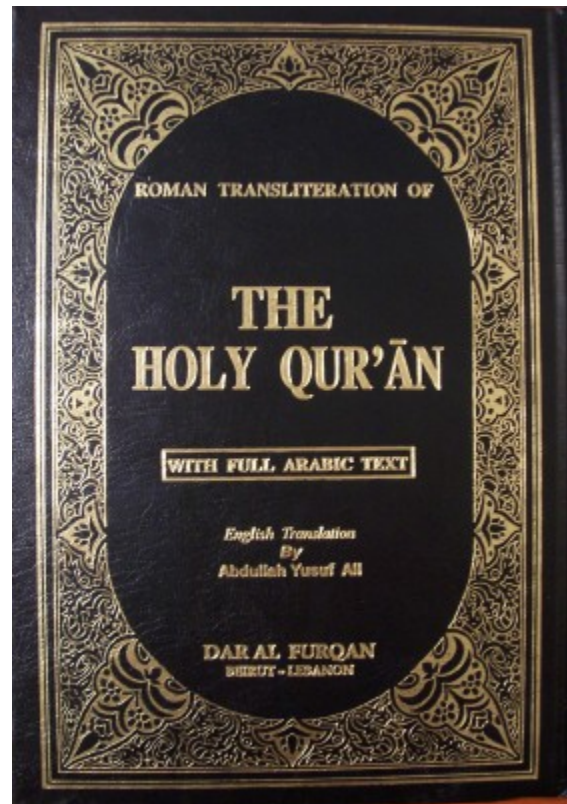


MUHAMMED & THE QUR'AN



THE BIRTH OF MUHAMMAD

Muhammad was born in a city called Mecca, in what is today called Saudi Arabia. He was born in about 570CE/AD. Muhammad had a very hard childhood, his father died before he was born and his mother died when he was only six years old.

As a young man, **Muhammad was already well known for his honesty and goodness.** He worked in Mecca for a wealthy woman called Kadijah. He married Kadijah when he was 25. They were very rich and very happy.

However, **Muhammad became more and more worried about the things** that were happening in Mecca. He saw rich people cheating the poor, and people spending their time gambling, drinking and fighting. **Idol** worship was common, and often included **sacrifices.** Muhammad was sure that these things were wrong and went off to the mountains outside Mecca so that he could **meditate.**

MUHAMMAD'S VISION

One night, Muhammad was **meditating** in a cave on Mount Hira when he had a vision. In his vision, an angel came to him carrying words written on a piece of cloth. **The angel said 'recite!'** **Muhammad said that he could not read, but then found himself able to understand the words and read them aloud.** He stood up and walked out of the cave, and heard the angel saying, 'Muhammad! You are Allah's messenger!' Muhammad then went back to the people and recited what he had been told by the angel.

Muhammad was terrified by this experience and went home to tell Kadijah about it. **She comforted him and was the first person to believe his message came from Allah.** Muhammad began preaching to the people in Mecca, but he became unpopular. Although a few people believed what Muhammad was telling them, **most of the people did not like being told they were sinners.** **Many people were against him,** so in 622 Muhammad accepted an invitation from the people in the nearby town of Medina. They had heard about his preaching and had asked him to go and teach them. *This was the beginning of the spread of Islam.*

WHAT IS THE QUR'AN?

Muslims believe that the Qur'an was revealed from God to Muhammad through the angel Jibril (Gabriel) from 610 to 632 CE, the year of his death.

Muhammad recited the Qur'an to his followers, who recited after him, until they had memorized it. He also dictated it to his scribes (Remember Muhammad was illiterate) who wrote down its verses during his life. **Shortly after Muhammad's death the Qur'an was established as a single book.**



WHAT DOES THE QUR'AN DO?

- The Qur'an teaches Muslims how to worship.
- It teaches Muslims how to live good lives.
- It also teaches Muslims how to treat other people.

Video:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks2-my-life-my-religion-the-quran/z4p8mfr>



HAFIZ

- Some special Muslims called, Hafiz, learn the verses of the Qur'an by heart so they can recite them to others.
- Many Muslims do this today as a way of praising Allah.
- Hafiz are highly regarded and respected.



EVERYDAY LIFE

- The Qur'an is an essential part of everyday life at home and in the Mosque.
- It is read and recited through daily prayers, and at times of need when someone is ill or unhappy.
- The Qur'an tells people to dress modestly. Many Muslim women wear long clothing and veils over their heads to cover as much of their body as possible. Men and boys should not wear silk or gold jewellery.





QUESTIONS

1. Where did the Qur'an come from?
2. Why do you think the Qur'an is important to Muslims?
3. Is this similar to any other religion? Why or why not?