

Lessons From The Biography Of The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)
Taught by: Abū ‘Ammār ‘Alī Ḥudhayfah (حفظه الله)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

Class 06

3rd Ṣafar 1445

19th August 2023

Class 06: The Birth Of The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

A Brief Review Of Last Weeks Episode.

Scholars differed over whether the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was born circumcised or not. What is authentic is that the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was not born circumcised because it is reported that his grandfather ‘Abdul Muṭṭalib circumcised him (صلى الله عليه وسلم) on the seventh day after his birth and made a big meal to celebrate and gave him the name Muḥammad.

The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) Was A Human Being Like Other Human Beings.

The prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was a human being and suffered from what other human beings suffer from except what has been specified by proofs and evidences in the religion of Allāh (سبحانه و تعالى). Meaning there is no exception except if it is mentioned through authentic proofs and evidences with regards to the virtues and special characteristics of the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم). Allāh (سبحانه و تعالى) said about the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم),

﴿ قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ أَنَّمَا إِلَهُكُمْ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ ۚ ﴾

“Say (O Muḥammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم): "I am only a man like you. It has been inspired to me that your Ilāh (God) is One God i.e. Allāh.” [Sūrah Al-Kahf 18: 110]

So the origin here is that the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) is a human being as mentioned in the Qur’ān and the Sunnah with proofs and evidences.

The prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said,

وَلَكِنْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ، أَنَسَى كَمَا تَنْسَوْنَ، فَإِذَا نَسِيتُ فَذَكِّرُونِي،

“I am a human being like you and I am liable to forget like you. So if I forget remind me.” [Bukhārī]

The scholars of the Sunnah that agree that the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was not born circumcised are Al-Ḥāfiẓ Ibn ‘Abdil Barr, Al-Ḥāfiẓ Al-Dhahabī, Al-Ḥāfiẓ Ibn Al-Qayyim, Ibn Kathīr (رحمهم الله) and others.

The Midwife Of The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

In the Arabic language, the midwife is called qābilah. The word qābilah comes from the physical action of facing the woman giving birth since the midwife is literally facing the woman giving birth, and the midwife receives the infant when it is born.

Al-Shifā’ Umm ‘Abd Ar-Ra’ḥmān Ibn ‘Awf was the midwife that helped with the birth of the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

The Nanny Of The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

Umm Ayman Barakah the Abyssinian was the nanny that helped after the birth of the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and helped with the day to day affairs of the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) as a baby. Umm Ayman was a slave owned by the father of the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم), ‘Abdullāh ibn ‘Abdul Muṭṭalib.

How The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) Was Named Muḥammad.

When the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was born, his mother Āminah sent for his grandfather ‘Abdul Muṭṭalib to give him the glad tidings. ‘Abdul Muṭṭalib came happily and gave the baby the name Muḥammad. During that time, the name Muḥammad was

not common or well known amongst the Arabs, however it was the will of Allāh (سبحانه و تعالی). From the wisdom of Allāh and His predecree, ‘Abdul Muṭṭalib gave the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) the name Muḥammad. Allāh (سبحانه و تعالی) wanted to fulfill His prophecy that He mentioned in previous books of the Tawrāt and Injīl, so Allāh inspired ‘Abdul Muṭṭalib to give the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) this name.

It was also said that the prophet’s mother Āminah gave the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) the name Muḥammad after she saw herself naming the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) Muḥammad in a dream. But the most authentic opinion is that the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was named by his grandfather.

The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) Was Born As An Orphan.

There is consensus amongst the scholars that the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was born and grew up as an orphan. The proof for this is the āyah where Allāh (سبحانه و تعالی) says,

﴿ أَمْ يَجِدُكَ يَتِيمًا فَآوَى ﴾

“Did He not find you (O Muḥammad) as an orphan and gave you shelter (with your grandfather and uncle)?” [Sūrah Al-Ḍuḥá 93: 6]

The Death Of The Father Of The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

There is a difference regarding the timing of the death of the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم). It has been said that the prophet’s father died while he (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was still a fetus in his mother’s stomach, meaning the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was not born yet when his father died.

Another opinion is that the prophet’s (صلى الله عليه وسلم) father died a short while after he was born, while he (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was still an infant. This is the opinion of the majority of the people of knowledge, however **what is correct and given more weight according to the proofs and evidence is that the prophet’s (صلى الله عليه وسلم) father died while the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was still in the womb of his mother.** This is more severe than just being an orphan.

The scholars say that the person whose father dies before the person is even born is on the highest level of orphanage as Ibn Sa'd (رحمه الله) mentions in his book Al-Ṭabaqāt. Ibn Al-Qayyim (رحمه الله) also mention this in his book Zād Al-Ma'ād. Ibn Kathīr (رحمه الله) also mentioned this in his book Al-Bidāyah wa Al-Nihāyah and Ibn Ḥajr also mentioned this. Ibn Kathīr mentioned it in the introduction of Al-Bidāyah wa Al-Nihāyah and this is more prevalent and it is the strongest level of orphanage when the father dies before the baby is born.

The Wisdom Behind The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) Being Born As An Orphan.

It is possible that the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) became an orphan before he was born due to a great wisdom. There are lessons that can be learnt from that. Because he may turn out to be a great man through which Allāh (سبحانه و تعالى) guided entire nations or rectifies the affairs of so many people through his (صلى الله عليه وسلم) hands. The believer could turn out to be a great man, yet cannot reach the level, status, or power and being a great man except after passing through the phases of weakness and being looked down upon. Allāh (سبحانه و تعالى) says,

﴿وَتُرِيدُ أَنْ نَمُنَّ عَلَى الَّذِينَ اسْتُضِعُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَنَجْعَلَهُمْ أَئِمَّةً وَنَجْعَلَهُمُ الْوَارِثِينَ﴾

“And We wished to do a favor to those who were weak (and oppressed) in the land, and to make them rulers and to make them inheritors.” [Sūrah Al-Qaṣaṣ 28:

5]

The fact that the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was born on the highest level of Prophethood is strongest in his sīrah (life history) and is a stronger proof and evidence of his Prophethood. From here we learn that the prophet's (صلى الله عليه وسلم) father died before his birth, while he was still in his mother's stomach.

The First Wet Nurse Of The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

The women that breastfed the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) along with his mother were,

1. **Āminah, the mother** of the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

2. **Thuwaybah.** She was the slave girl of his uncle Abu Lahab. Thuwaybah only breastfed the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) for a few days.

Thuwaybah also breastfed:

- Abu Salamah ‘Abdullāh Ibn Asad Al-Makhzūmī
- her son Masrūḥ the son of Thuwaybah
- Hamzah Ibn ‘Abdul Muṭṭalib, the uncle of the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)

2. **Ḥalīmah Al-Sa‘dīyah** breastfed the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) along with,

- Abu Sufyān Ibn Al-Ḥārith Ibn ‘Abdul Muṭṭalib, the prophet’s (صلى الله عليه وسلم) cousin.

- Hamzah Ibn ‘Abdul Muṭṭalib (who shared 2 wet nurses with the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم), i.e, Thuwaybah and Ḥalīmah Al-Sa‘dīyah).

وصلى الله على نبينا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه وسلم