

## **Muhammad**

### **The Reception of the Qur'an**

'Aisha, the mother of the faithful believers: The commencement of the (Divine) Revelation to Allah's Messenger was in the form of good dreams which came true like bright day light, and then the love of seclusion was bestowed upon him. He used to go in seclusion in the cave of Hira' where he used to worship (Allah Alone) continuously for many days before returning to (or his desire to see) his family. He used to take with him the journey food for the stay and then come back to (his wife) Khadija to take his food likewise again till suddenly the Truth descended upon him while he was in the cave of Hira'. The angel came to him and asked him to read. The Prophet replied, "I do not know how to read."

'The Prophet added, "The angel caught me (forcefully) and pressed me so hard that I could not bear it any more. He then released me and again asked me to read and I replied, 'I do not know how to read.' Thereupon he caught me again and pressed me a second time till I could not bear it any more. He then released me and again asked me to read but again I replied, 'I do not know how to read (or what shall I read)?' Thereupon he caught me for the third time and pressed me, and then released me and said, 'Read in the name of your Lord, who has created (all that exists) has created man from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood). Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous.'"' (Al-Bukhari 1997, 1:46-47)

'Then Allah's Messenger returned with the Revelation, his neck muscles twitching with terror till he entered upon Khadija and said, "Cover me! Cover me!" They covered him till his fear was over and then he said, "O Khadija, what is wrong with me?"' (Al-Bukhari 1997, 9:83-84)

'But after a few days Waraqa died and the Divine Revelation was also paused for a while and the Prophet became so sad as we have heard that he intended several times to throw himself from the tops of high mountains and every time he went up the top of a mountain in order to throw himself down, Gabriel would appear before him and say, "O Muhammad! You are indeed Allah's Messenger in truth" whereupon his heart would become quiet, and he would calm down and would return home.' (Al-Bukhari 1997, 9:84-85)

### **Muhammad's Character**

#### **Women**

'Aisha: My marriage (wedding) contract with the Prophet was written when I was a girl of six (years). We came to Al-Madina and we dismounted at the place of Bani Al-Harith bin Khazraj. . . . My mother, Umm Ruman, came to me while I was

playing in a swing with some of my girl friends. She called me, and I went to her, not knowing what she wanted to do to me. She caught me by the hand and made me stand at the door of the house. I was breathless then, and when my breathing became normal, she took some water and rubbed my face and head with it. Then she took me into the house. There in the house I saw some Ansari women who said, “Best wishes and Allah’s Blessing and a good luck.” Then she entrusted me to them and they prepared me (for the marriage). Unexpectedly Allah’s Messenger came to me in the forenoon and my mother handed me over to him, and at that time I was a girl of nine years of age.’ (Al-Bukhari 1997, 5:139-140)

‘Behold! Thou didst say to one who had received the grace of Allah and thy favour: “Retain thou (in wedlock) thy wife, and fear Allah.” But thou didst hide in thy heart that which Allah was about to make manifest: thou didst fear the people, but it is more fitting that thou shouldst fear Allah. Then when Zaid (Muhammad’s adopted son) had dissolved (his marriage) with her, with the necessary (formality), We joined her in marriage to thee: in order that (in future) there may be no difficulty to the Believers in (the matter of) marriage with the wives of their adopted sons, when the latter have dissolved with the necessary (formality) (their marriage) with them. And Allah’s command must be fulfilled. There can be no difficulty to the Prophet in what Allah has indicated to him as a duty. It was the practice (approved) of Allah amongst those of old that have passed away. And the command of Allah is a decree determined.’ (Quran 33:37-38)

### **Cruelty**

“Allah’s Messenger said, ‘The Hour will not be established until you fight against the Jews, and the stone behind which a Jew will be hiding will say, “O Muslim! There is a Jew hiding behind me, so kill him”’” (Al-Bukhari 1997, 4:113).

“The Apostle of Allah, may Allah bless him, sat with his Companions and they were brought in small groups. Their heads were struck off. They were between six hundred and seven hundred in number” (Ibn Sa’d 1993, 286). Ibn Sa’d adds that Muhammad took a Jewish woman whose husband had just been killed as part of his spoils: “The Apostle of Allah, may Allah bless him, chose Rayhanah Bint ‘Amr for himself and ordered the booty to be collected. One-fifth portion of the goods and captives were separated and the remainder was sold to the highest bidder” (*Ibid.*).

‘When the Prophet returned from (the battle of) Al-Khandaq (i.e., the Trench) and laid down his arms and took a bath, (angel) Jibril (Gabriel) came and said (to the Prophet), You have laid down your arms? By Allah, we angels have not laid them down yet. So set out for them.’ The Prophet said, “Where to go?” Gabriel said,

“Towards this side,” pointing towards Banu Quraiza. So the Prophet went out towards them.’ (Al-Bukhari 1997, 5:269)

## **Heretical Teachings**

### **The Lord Jesus**

‘That they said (in boast), “We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Apostle of Allah”—but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not—Nay, Allah raised him up unto Himself; and Allah is Exalted in Power, Wise.’ (Quran 4:157, 158)

### **The Muslim Assurance of Heaven**

‘Therefore, when ye meet the Unbelievers (in fight), smite at their necks; At length, when ye have thoroughly subdued them, bind a bond firmly (on them): thereafter (is the time for) either generosity or ransom: Until the war lays down its burdens. Thus (are ye commanded): but if it had been Allah’s Will, He could certainly have exacted retribution from them (Himself); but (He lets you fight) in order to test you, some with others. But *those who are slain in the Way of Allah—He will never let their deeds be lost. Soon will He guide them and improve their condition, And admit them to the Garden which He has announced for them.*’ (Quran 47:4-6, emphasis mine)

‘Allah hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; *for theirs (in return) is the garden (of Paradise): they fight in His cause, and slay and are slain: a promise binding on Him in truth, through the Law, the Gospel, and the Quran: and who is more faithful to his covenant than Allah? Then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded: that is the achievement supreme.*’ (Quran 9:111, emphasis mine)

“As to the Righteous (they will be) in a position of Security, Among Gardens and Springs; Dressed in fine silk and in rich brocade, they will face each other; So; and *We shall join them to Companions with beautiful, big, and lustrous eyes.* There can they call for every kind of fruit in peace and security; Nor will they there taste Death, except the first death; and He will preserve them from the Penalty of the Blazing Fire—As a Bounty from thy Lord! That will be the supreme achievement!” (Quran 44:51-57, emphasis mine)

“O ye who believe! When ye meet the Unbelievers in hostile array, never turn your backs to them. If any do turn his back to them on such a day—unless it be in a stratagem of war, or to retreat to a troop (of his own)—he draws on himself the wrath of Allah, and his abode is Hell—an evil refuge (indeed)!” (Quran 8:15-16)

## **Works Cited**

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