



# Muslimah Gems

part of [www.MuslimahOnline.org](http://www.MuslimahOnline.org)

Bismillah ar'Rahman ar'Raheem (In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful)

1 December 2007 Volume 1, Issue 1

## Inside this issue:

History of Hajj 1

Khadijah bint Khuwaylid (RA) 1

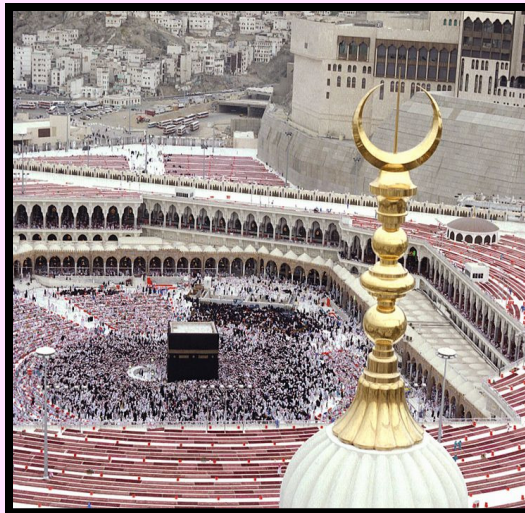
A Woman Performing Hajj Without a Mahram 2

What Do We Gain From Hijab? 3

The Status of Women in Islam 3

They ask thy instruction concerning the women: Say: Allah doth instruct you about them: And (remember) what hath been rehearsed unto you in the Book, concerning the orphans of women to whom ye give not the portions prescribed, and yet whom ye desire to marry, as also concerning the children who are weak and oppressed: that ye stand firm for justice to orphans. There is not a good deed which ye do, but Allah is well-acquainted therewith. (Holy Qu'ran, An-Nisa 4:127)

## History of Hajj



"Hajj" means literally "to set out for a place". For a Muslim, that place is the Holy City of Makkah.

The rites of the Hajj were laid down by Allah to mark historic events in the life of Prophet Abraham, which show his absolute and total submission to the will of Allah.

When Abraham (pbuh) left his people's land, he asked his Lord to bless him with a pious son. Ismael was born to him when he was eighty-six years old. When Ismael was

old enough to walk, Abraham had a dream that he sacrificed his son. The Qu'ran says, "He [Abraham] said; 'O my dear son, I have seen in a dream that I must sacrifice you, so look, what do you think?'"

Ishmael replied, "O my father! Do what you have been commanded. Allah willing, you shall find me of the steadfast." As they submitted to Allah's will and began to carry out his commandment, Allah sent angels with glad tidings.

The Qur'an says, "We called out to him, 'O Abraham! Thou hast already fulfilled the vision!' Thus indeed We reward those who do right. This was obviously a trial. And We ransomed him with a momentous sacrifice. And We left (blessing) for him among generations (to come) in later times. Peace and salutation to Abraham. Thus indeed do We reward those who do right. For he was one of Our believing servants."

The Holy Qur'an tells us that the Prophet

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Khadijah bint Khuwaylid (RA)

The first person and also a woman to follow the religion of Islam was Khadijah bint Khuwaylid. No study of Islam would be complete without knowing about this woman. She played an important part in the life of the Prophet (pbuh) and was a great

role-model and continues to be to this day.

The Prophet said: "The best women in all the world are four: the Virgin Mary, Asiyaa the wife of Pharaoh, Khadijah, Mother of the Believers, and Fatimah, daughter of Muhammad."

Khadijah was born in the year 555 C.E. to Khuwailid ibn Asad ibn Abdul-'Uzza ibn Qusayy and Fatimah bint Zaidah and was from the Banu Hashim clan of the tribe of Banu Asad. Khadijah was well-known

*(Continued on page 5)*

## From the Editor

As'salamu alaikom wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu (May peace, mercy and blessings be upon you).

Islam is a misunderstood religion, not only by non-Muslims but Muslims as well. Many base what they know about Islam on what they see on television and in the movies, and many Muslims are born into the religion without anyone explaining it to them and their behavior and actions show their lack of understanding. There are also those who twist the words of the Qu'ran in order to serve their own purposes. This leaves a lot of confused people with a lot of confusion on what Islam teaches.

On October 21, 2007 we launched a website with the intention of creating a community and resource center for Muslim women and anyone interested

in learning about Islam.

Muslim women have been, and continue to be, a vital part of the Muslim community despite the stereotypes. Women have been activists (both social and political), preachers, scholars, warriors and writers since the advent of Islam 1400 years ago. In each edition of our newsletter we will feature the achievement of one woman in our history that will not only educate us, but should serve as an inspiration.

We welcome your suggestions on how to better serve our community. If there is a topic you would like to see on our website or have us explore in one of our newsletters, please email us at: [muslimah@muslimahonline.org](mailto:muslimah@muslimahonline.org).

A special thank you to our forum members, whose loyalty has given us the courage and capability to provide



information that is accurate and helpful. We look forward to your feedback as we continue on our path, setting new goals and striving for more.

As'salamu 'ala man ittaba 'al'huda (Peace be upon him who has followed the guidance).

*Layla*

*"Sometimes  
Allah  
takes you  
to troubled  
waters  
not to  
drown you  
but to  
cleanse you."*

## A Woman Performing Hajj Without a Mahram

A woman, in Islam, is not permitted to travel without a mahram. A woman needs someone who can protect her from those who have bad intentions.

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "A woman should absolutely not travel unless she has a mahram with her." A man stood up and said, "O Messenger of Allaah, I have enlisted in such-and-such a military campaign, and my wife has set out for Hajj." He said, "Go and do Hajj with your wife." (al-Bukhaari, al-Fath, 3006)

What indicates that a mahram is obligatory is the fact that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) commanded this man to give up the idea

of jihaad (on this occasion), even though he had enlisted for a campaign and his wife was traveling for the purpose of worship, not for some frivolous or suspicious reason. In spite of all this, he told him to go and do Hajj with his wife.

A woman who does not have a mahram and wants to perform Hajj (which is the fifth pillar of Islam and obligatory for those who are able to perform it), does not have to go and in this case Hajj is not obligatory to her. If she goes without a mahram she will be a sinner.

*Almaha*

Reference source: [islam.qa](http://islam.qa)

## What Do We Gain From Hijab?

Bismillah ar'Rahman ar'Raheem.

In Islam, women are valued and appreciated according to their piety, knowledge, wisdom and contribution to society. Therefore, a woman is not assessed by her physical traits but her mind. When women wear hijab, it can be seen that the most beautiful don't have to be the most popular. For this reason, hijab cuts down the competition over women. They do not sacrifice financial savings and health for plastic surgery or cosmetics.

Moreover, Muslim women do not try to impress men and gain self-esteem through these measures. She is not concerned if men find her attractive out of the home. Hijab allows her to keep her attention on the tasks she has

set out to do. Also, a hijabi woman is less likely to be harassed by men for her femininity. It is like a screen between Muslim women and evil. It can be said that hijab is a sign of purity and dignity. It sets Muslim women apart from immoral behaviour associated with women who dress immodestly.

With all these benefits hijab has, it eases things upon us

(women) over this complex, confusing world. Like every other Islamic value, hijab has its opposition all around the world, including some Muslim countries.

"Hijab Ban" is a trendy issue nowadays.

May Allah give strength to all of us to keep our hijab until the last day sisters.

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu.

Meryem

Ref. source: [www.jannah.org](http://www.jannah.org)



## The Status of Women in Islam

The status of the Muslim woman in Islam is a very noble and lofty one, and her effect is very great in the life of every Muslim. Indeed, the Muslim woman is the initial teacher in the building of a righteous society, providing she follows the guidance from the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Prophet *sallallahu alayhi wa salam*. Since adherence to the Qur'an and the Sunnah distances every Muslim - male or female - from being misguided in any matter...

The secret of her importance lies in the tremendous burden and responsibility that is placed upon her, and the difficulties that she has to shoulder - responsibilities and difficulties some of which not even a man bears. This is why one of the most important obligations upon a person is to show gratitude to the mother, and kindness and good com-

panionship with her. And in this matter, she is to be given precedence over and above the father.

A man came to Allah's Messenger *sallallahu alayhi wa sallam* and said: O Messenger of Allah! Who from amongst mankind warrants the best companionship from me? He replied: "Your mother". The man asked: Then who? So he replied: "Your mother". The man then asked: Then who? So the Prophet replied again: "Your mother". The man then asked: Then who? So he replied: "Then your father". (Related by *al-Bukhaaree* (no.5971) and *Muslim* (7/2), from *Abu Hurayrah radiallahu 'anhu*). So this necessitates that the mother is given three times the like of kindness and good treatment than the father.

As regards the wife, then her status and her effect in making the soul tranquil and

serene, has been clearly shown in the noble ayah (verse), saying: "And from amongst His Signs is this: That He created for you wives from amongst yourselves, so that you may find serenity and tranquility in them. And He has put between you love and compassion. Indeed, in this are signs for those who reflect." (*Surah ar-Rum* (30): Verse 21).

...And do not forget about 'Aishah *radiallahu anhaa* - and her great effect. Since even the great Sahabah (Companions) used to take knowledge of hadith from her, and many of the Sahabiyat (female Companions) learn the various rulings pertaining to women's issues from her...

Author: Shaykh Abdul-Azeez Ibn Abdullaah Ibn Baz

Source: *Majmoo' Fataawaa wa Maqaalaat Mutanawwi'ah*

## History of Hajj cont.

*Continued from page 1)*

Abraham was given the task of leading mankind. And remember that Abraham was tried by His Lord with certain commands which he fulfilled: He said: "I will make thee an Imam to the Nations."

Prophet Abraham was ordered to go to Makkah. When he reached Makkah, he was commanded by Allah to abandon his second wife, Haajar, and his first-born son Ishmael in this barren, rocky, uninhabited valley. "O our Lord! I have made some of my offspring to dwell in a valley without cultivation, by The Sacred House; in order, O our Lord, that they may establish regular Prayer. So fill the hearts of some among men with love towards them, and feed them with fruits so that they may give thanks." (Surah 14:37)

Soon Haajar's meager provisions of dates and water were exhausted and both mother and child became thirsty. Seeing the suffering of her son, Haajar became desperate to find water. She ran to the hill of Safa but found nothing. She then ran to the hill of Marwah. But again she was disappointed. Seven times she ran between the two hills. Suddenly, close to where Ishmael lay, water sprang from the earth by the command of Allah. This source of water was to become known as the well of Zamzam.

Allah commanded the Prophet Abraham, on one of his visits to see Haajar and Ishmael, to build the House of God (the Holy Ka'aba). With the help of his son Ishmael, Abraham built the House of God on the ground where the Ka'aba stands to this day.

The Archangel Gabriel brought from Paradise a stone, known as the Black Stone (Al-Hajar Al-Aswad), which was set into one corner of the Ka'aba. Behold! We gave the site to Abraham, of the (Sacred) House, (saying): "Associate not anything (in worship) with Me; and sanctify My house for those who compass it round or stand up or bow, or prostrate themselves



(therein in prayer).

"And proclaim the Pilgrimage among men: they will come to thee on foot and (mounted) on every kind of camel, lean on account of journeys through deep and distant mountain highways; that they may witness the benefits (provided) for them, and celebrate the name of God, through the Days Ap-

pointed, over the cattle which He has provided for them (for sacrifice): then eat ye thereof and feed the distressed ones in want. Then let them complete the rites prescribed for them, perform their vows, and (again) circumambulate the Ancient House." (Surah 22: 26 – 29)

In the Holy Qur'an, the Ka'aba is described as follows: The first House (of worship) appointed for men was that at Bakka (Makkah) full of blessing and of guidance for all kinds of beings. (Surah 3: 96)

The starting point for the circumambulation of the Holy Ka'aba is where Abraham, by the command of Allah, placed the Black Stone in the eastern corner of the Ka'aba. In order to complete the upper part of the walls of the Ka'aba, Abraham stood upon a large stone block which he moved along when each section was completed. When the Ka'aba was finished, the large stone block was left outside the Ka'aba, close to the eastern wall of the sanctuary. It became known as the Maqam Abraham (the station of Abraham).

As constructed by Abraham and his son, the Ka'aba was a roofless, rectangular building, with two doors at ground level for access and with a semi-circular back wall. Each year, Abraham returned to Makkah to perform the Hajj.

*Courtesy of the Ministry of Hajj  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
www.hajjinformation.com*

## Khadijah bint Khuwaylid (RA) cont.

(Continued from page 1)

as a kind-hearted, giving woman who would frequently assist the poor and needy and those who could not financially afford marriage.

In 595 A.D., Khadijah began seeking an agent to travel to Syria for trade. A relative, Abu Talib, recommended her distant relative Muhammed ibn Abdullah (pbuh). Khadijah had heard about Mohammed's reputation for being an honest and upright young man. She sent him a proposal to ask him to handle some of her business affairs and on return from one trip to Syria, he reported a profit that doubled that which anyone else had done for her.

It was through their work arrangement that Khadijah came to know Muhammad and became so impressed by his honesty and sincerity that she desired to marry him.

She confided this desire to her friend, Nufaysah, who in turn approached Mohammed. This confused him. How could such a noble woman, who had turned down the marriage proposals of the noblest and wealthiest Quraysh men, desire to marry him?

Mohammed's uncle Abu Talib and Khadijah's uncle 'Umar ibn Asad sat down to arrange the completion of the marriage. Allah bestowed upon them six children. They were given two boys, Qasim and 'Abdullah, but neither survived infancy. They were also given four daughters, Zainab, Ruqaiyyah, Umm Kulthum, and Fatimah.

Mohammed would often go to Mount

Hira for meditation. In 610 A.D., at the age of 40, Muhammad received his first revelation and was given instructions on his prophethood from the Angel Gabriel. On returning home, Khadijah could see he was quite shaken. She asked about this and he told her what had happened. He had thought that he was possessed and was going mad. Khadijah tried to console her terrified husband by saying:

"Rejoice, O son of my uncle, and be of good heart. Surely by Him in whose



hand is my soul, I have hope that you will be the prophet of this people. You have never done any wrong to anyone. You are kind to others and you help the poor. So Allah will not let you down."

He then asked for a blanket and she quickly fulfilled his request. Shortly thereafter, he fell asleep. When Mohammed woke, Khadijah took him to her cousin, Waraqah bin Nawfal. He was Christian and quite knowledgeable of the scriptures of the Torah and Bible. He confirmed Mohammed's

prophethood and said: "This is the same one who keeps the secrets (angel Gabriel) whom Allah had sent to Moses. I wish I were young and could live up to the time when your people would turn you out."

A few months later Gabriel came again and ordered him to start warning the people. Khadijah helped him in this by financially supporting the family and his teaching. She was content to raise the children and handle the family affairs so that he could preach.

During the next ten years, she proved herself to be a loving wife. She supported him when no one would, consoled him through rough times and comforted and encouraged him when the Quraysh did all they could to stop him from preaching. She remained his only wife until her death at the age of sixty-five. She died on 10 Ramadan 620 C.E., in the tenth year of his prophethood, from a high fever. Long after her death, Mohammed remembered and honored her.

We can all learn from Khadijah. She was the love of Mohammed's life and his strongest supporter and confidante. She was the first to embrace Islam after only the first revelation. This not only made her the first Muslim but also a role-model for women today. She showed us how to forget the desires of this life and work only for the good of Islam. Khadijah truly was a righteous woman.

*Layla*

Rf source: Stories of the Prophet  
Written by Al-Imam Ibn Khathir

## Editorial Team

### Editor

Layla

### Associate Editor

Meryem

### Contributors

Almaha

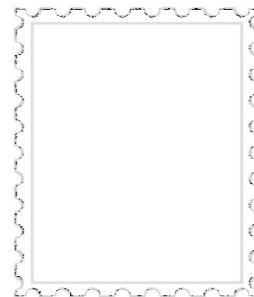
If you would like to contribute to our website or newsletter, send your articles, questions, comments and news to: [muslimah@muslimahonline.org](mailto:muslimah@muslimahonline.org)

All original works contained in this newsletter are copyrighted and owned by the authors unless otherwise stated. Articles may not be used or reproduced without prior consent of the editor, authors, publishers or their representatives. Any reproduction must acknowledge this newsletter and the author and must not be edited or changed in any way.

© 2007 MuslimahOnline.org

**Muslimah Gems** part of MuslimahOnline.org

Say: He Is Allah, The One And Only. Allah, The Eternal, Absolute. He Begetteth Not, Nor Is He Begotten. And There Is None Like Unto Him. [Holy Qu'ran, Surat 1 12]



To:



## Attitudes Towards Women:

O ye who believe! Ye are forbidden to inherit women against their will. Nor should ye treat them with harshness, that ye may take away part of the dower ye have given them, except where they have been guilty of open lewdness; on the contrary live with them on a footing of kindness and equity. If ye take a dislike to them it may be that ye dislike a thing, and Allah brings about through it a great deal of good. (An-Nisa 4:19)