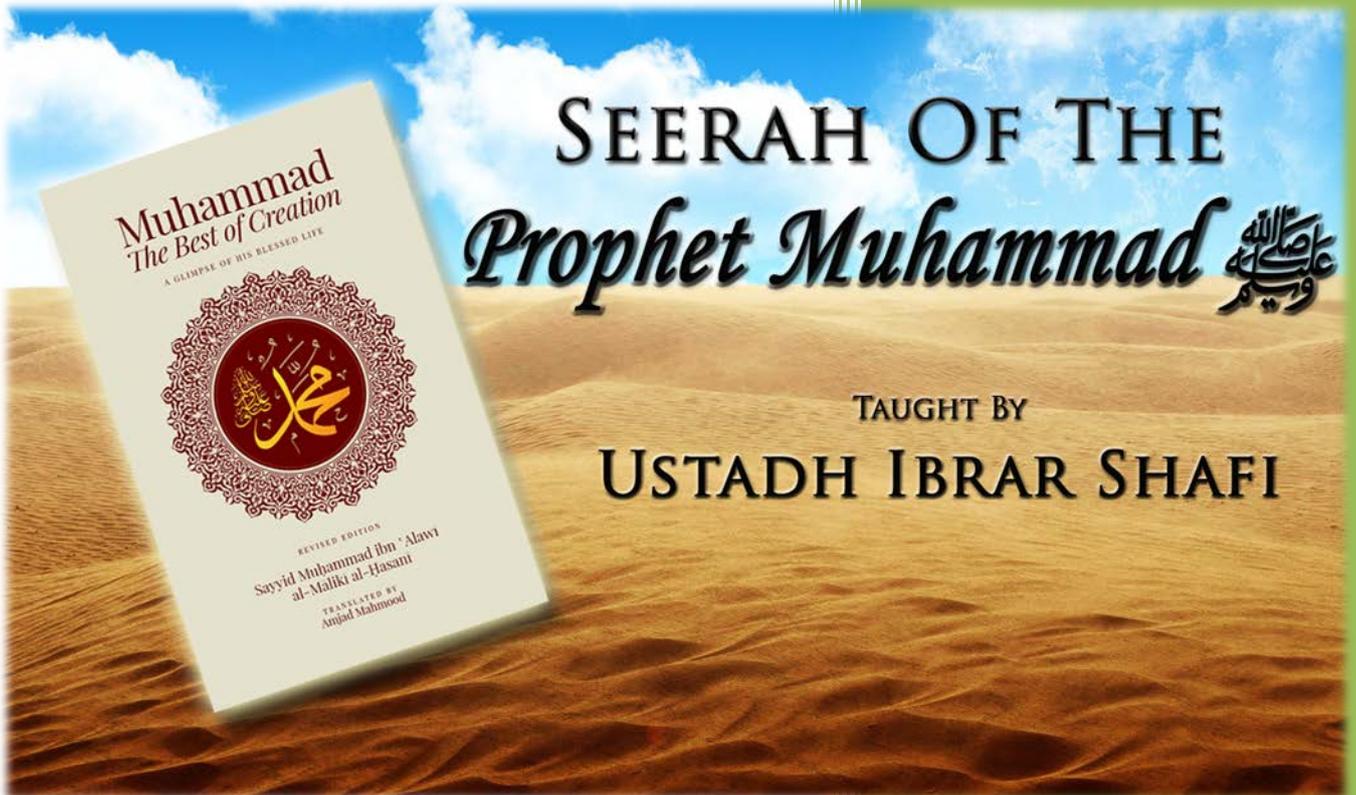


2017

# JOURNEY THROUGH THE SEERAH



The Year Of The Elephant | The  
Prophet's ﷺ Birth

Videos On

[Youtube.com/AhleSunnaTV](https://www.youtube.com/AhleSunnaTV)

Lecture 2 Notes

# Major Events Surrounding The Birth Of The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

## The Year Of The Elephant

The christian king of Yemen Abrahah أبرهة tried to attack the Ka'bah 55 days before the birth of the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ.

He had built a cathedral known as al Qulays in San'āi in Yemen. He had intended to prevent people going to the Ka'aba and instead visit his cathedral for worship. An arab had thus defecated inside the cathedral. In response to this, Abrahah vowed to destroy the Ka'abah and so he gathered an army of approximately 60,000 soldiers and with them elephants. Before reaching Makkah, they stopped and found some animals grazing at the local pastures. Abrahah decided to steal them, of which approximately 200 camels belonged to Abdul Muttalib, the grandfather of the Prophet ﷺ. Abdul Muttalib (radi Allahu anhu) went to meet Abrahah to ask for the return of his camels. This came as a surprise to Abrahah as he'd thought Abdul Muttalib would be more concerned about the Ka'abah as opposed to the stolen camels. He warned Abrahah that his plan to destroy the Ka'abah would fail. It soon became apparent that the lead elephant would no longer proceed in the direction of the Ka'abah, even after being struck very hard. Subsequently an army of birds appeared from the direction of the coast, each with a baked clay stone inside their beaks and claws and launched these towards the elephant army causing their destruction. This year was subsequently referred to as Ām al-Fīl. The destruction of this elephant army (As-hāb al-Fīl) is mentioned in Sūrah 105 of the Qur'ān (Sūrah al-Fīl).

## Passing of the Father & Mother of the Prophet ﷺ

Sayyidunah Abdullāh ibn Abd al-Muttalib married Sayyidah Āminah bint Wahb at the age of 24. While returning from Syria, Abdullah fell ill and eventually passed away at the age of 25, in Madīnah.

When he was 6 years of age his mother passed away and was buried at al-Abwā' (الأبواء). Perhaps one of the wisdoms behind these tragic losses was the preparation of the Prophet ﷺ for the difficulties that would be encountered later in the propagation of the message of Islām.

The Prophet ﷺ was born on Monday of 12th Rabī al-Awwal

## Many irhāsāt (إرهاصات), (miracles before the declaration of Prophecy) took place at the time of the Blessed Birth including:

- Idols of the Ka'abah fell flat on their faces at the time of the blessed birth.
- The Fire of the Magians (fire worshippers) which had been burning for a thousand years had extinguished.
- It is reported Kisrah (the title of the Persian king) had seen in his dream several significant events. These included witnessing fourteen towers from his palace collapsing and the extinguishing of the fire of the Magians. His adviser had seen a dream where a camel lead Arabian horses over the Dajla river (known today as the river Tigris). All these events did subsequently take place.
- The lake of Sāwah (located in the direction of Persia), which was a place of much polytheism (shirk) had become dry at the time of the blessed birth.
- In contrast, the valley known as Samāwah, in the direction of al-Shām, which had been dry for approximately a thousand years, had begun flowing with water.
- The Prophet ﷺ would inform the companions of his own birth. He told them that he is the fulfilment of the dua of his great grandfather, Sayyiduna Ibrahim (peace be upon him). The dua of Sayyiduna Ibrahim is mentioned in Surah Al-Baqarah Verses 127-129. He also told them he is the glad tidings of Sayyiduna Isa (peace be upon him) as mentioned in Surah al-Saff Verse 6.
- A light emanating from the mother of the Prophet ﷺ which lit up for her the palaces of as-Shām, following the blessed birth. This was the prophetic light which was the vision of Sayyidah Āminah.
- When he was born, he supported himself up with his own hands without any external aid, and he would point with his index finger like one supplicating. He was born with his umbilical cord already cut. Sayyidah Āminah did not feel the usual pains of pregnancy experienced by woman when she was carrying the Messenger of Allah ﷺ.
- The prophet ﷺ indicated the significance of his own birth by mentioning the reason for doing an act of goodness (fasting on Mondays) to mark the occasion. It is a fact that the birth occurred on Monday. However there is a difference of opinion of the exact date but the majority view is the 12<sup>th</sup> of Rabi' ul Awwal.
- Abū Lahab freed Sayyidah Thuwaybah al-Aslamiyyah, his slave girl who gave him the news of the birth of his nephew the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. It is narrated that Abu Lahab is given light relief from his punishment due to this act of happiness of freeing of Sayyidah Thuwaybah. **[In addition to his mother, the prophet ﷺ was suckled by Sayyidah Halīmah Sa'diyyah from Banū Sa'd and Sayyidah Thuwaybah].**

## The Early Years

Life inside of Makkah wasn't ideal. Makkah was highly populated; diseases would spread easily, lots of pollution etc. Therefore the practice of the Arabs was to send their new born babies out to a more suitable climate to ensure a better upbringing of the child, both physically and in terms of their command of the Arabic language. Children were given in custody to other families who would raise them. In return, they would receive some form of a reward. On this occasion, every family had passed on the opportunity to take home with them the Prophet [ﷺ] as his father was not alive and they did not feel his mother would be able to give much wealth in return for them looking after him. Sayyidah Halīmah Sa'diyyah did not find a child and she then chose to take the Messenger of Allah [ﷺ]. When she'd taken the Prophet [ﷺ] closer to herself, milk began to flow from her breast, which previously she was unable to produce. The weak donkey they rode upon arrival had suddenly become reenergised, and went ahead of the rest of the donkeys on their route back. Their camel had started producing much milk. It was evident to Sayyidah Halīmah and her husband that the Prophet [ﷺ] was a child of great blessing. They initially kept him for approximately two years and this then increased up to the age of 4. During this time, the Prophet took up shepherding. The task of Shepherding required keeping control of a large flock, protecting them, rearing them, raising them etc. Allāh had chosen this for the Prophet [ﷺ]. From this it is understood that many qualities and characteristics were developed within the Messenger [ﷺ] due to shepherding and this would serve as a form of training for the prophet to be the leader of an entire ummah.

**Shaqq e Sadr** (The opening of the blessed chest of the Messenger of Allāh) [ﷺ] occurred on 4 occasions

- 1) 4 years of age (while still living with Sayyidah Halīmah)
- 2) 10 years of age
- 3) 40 years (Cave of Hirā)
- 4) Night of Isrā and Mi'rāj

Sayyidah Halīmah feared the Prophet [ﷺ] may have been possessed or some magic had befallen him. The Prophet [ﷺ] was thereafter immediately returned to Sayyidah Āminah who after hearing of the experience was not afraid but actually reassured Sayyidah Halīmah of the greatness of the Holy Prophet [ﷺ]. Now in the care of his mother, Sayyidah Āminah had taken him to visit the maternal relatives of Sayyiduna Abdul Muttalib in the city of Madinah. On the journey back to Makkah, she had passed away, leaving the messenger of Allah as an orphan at the tender age of just six. Sayyidah Umm Ayman Barakāh al-Habashiyyah (أم أيمن بركة الحبشي) took him to Makkah.

At this point, 'Abd al-Muttalib, his grandfather had taken guardianship of him. He himself passes away shortly after when the prophet [ﷺ] is eight years old.

He is then looked after by Abū Tālib, the father of Sayyiduna Ali (Radi Allahu Anhu), and his wife Fatimah bint Asad. While under their care, many significant events took place. One such event was the occurrence of a major drought. The Prophet [ﷺ] was taken to the Ka'abah, he raised his finger and then it began to rain.

When he was 12 years of age he journeyed with his uncle Abū Tālib to Busrā in Shām and encountered the monk Bahīrā بحير. Bahīrā was continuously on the lookout for the last Prophet of Allāh to pass by, the signs of whom were foretold by the Prophet Isa (peace be upon him). He had come out of his hermitage as he noticed that there was a cloud over one of the people in the caravan of Abu Tālib. Bahīrā thus invited them all to a meal. After questioning Abu Tālib, he established the prophecy of the messenger of Allah [ﷺ] and noticed the seal of prophethood.