

A decorative border in yellow and black outlines, featuring stylized floral and leaf motifs. The border is symmetrical and frames the central text. At the top center, there are small decorative elements including a crescent moon and star, and a small floral ornament. A single teardrop is positioned between the top and bottom floral sections.

# Khadijah

MAY ALLAH BE PLEASED WITH HER

By Mujib Abdur Rahman

# *Khadijah*

(May Allah be pleased with her)

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Today we hear many people talking about women's rights and see the celebration of International Women's Day, fighting for the right to vote. Step into history and see different aspects concentrating on women. Why has there been such attention to women over many years?

Women play a big role in society, in history and in our existence. Women are equally important in Islam. There's a Surah (Chapter) of the Qur'an named An-Nisa (The Women). The first martyr in Islam, Sumaya (ra) was a woman. There are many rights about women outlined in the laws of Islam. Best of all, the first person to accept Islam was a woman, our subject, Khadijah Bint Khuwaylid (May Allah be pleased with her).

Khadijah (ra) was born to Khuwaylid from the tribe of Quraysh of Bani Asad. Her lineage takes her back to Qusay ibn Kilab the one who made permanent settlement of Makkah.

Khadijah (ra) was a businesswoman. When one thinks of the richest people on Earth, we think of the likes of Bill Gates, Richard Branson, Roman Abramovic.... How often does the name of a woman come to mind?

Well nearly everyone knew about Khadijah (ra) being the richest woman in Makkah. Evidently many men asked for her hands in marriage, which she obviously rejected, having been previously married twice.

Then one day she appointed a young man for her company. He was a really trustworthy individual and Khadijah (ra) was highly impressed.

She decided to send him on a business trip to Syria with her slave Maysarah.

Having returned from Syria, the young man bought back profit and success. Khadijah was overwhelmed by his great character.

This man was none other than the 25 year old Muhammad (PBUH), who in his fortieth year received the Prophethood.

Khadijah (ra) saw him as an ideal husband and after recommendation from her friend, Nafisa Bint Munabbih, and after a discussion with Muhammad (saw) himself the marriage was arranged by the two uncles of Muhammad (saw), Abu Talib and Hamza ibn Abdul Muttalib.

The wedding ceremony was a joyous one and amongst the invitees was Halima Sa'diyyah, the one who suckled the baby Muhammad. Khadijah's (ra) gift to her was forty sheep, for taking care of her husband when he was young. Imagine a bride gives gifts on her wedding day, that doesn't happen nowadays!

Khadijah (ra) was forty years old while Muhammad (saw) was twenty five years old. However they were a perfect match for each other, in many ways.

Khadijah (ra) proved to be the perfect match. She bore Muhammad (saw) four daughters Zaynab, Ruqayya, Umm-Kulthum and Fatima (May Allah be pleased with them all). She also bore him boys namely Al-Qasim. Other names which have appeared in books are Tayyib, Tahir and Abdullah.

As a young man, Muhammad (saw) wasn't inclined to the idol worshipping which was the belief of the majority in Makkah. He liked to keep himself in solitude and would often head for the Mount Hira. There he would stay in a cave for around a month, contemplating. Khadijah would often take food and provisions for him and climb the great mountain of Hira. One may think that this job was quite easy, however through my own observations, walking all the way from Makkah, past the rocky hills and mountains and the climbing up the steep mountain isn't an easy task. However it was the love of Khadijah (ra) for her husband that kept her strong. A point to ponder, that reading about the life of Khadijah (ra)

and especially this particular scene of Seerah, there is no mention that Muhammad (saw) told her to bring provisions for him. This is a lesson to be learnt for all of us. Today many women show their displeasure at doing a favour for their husbands, yet when it comes to their managers at work, there's always the smiling face and enthusiasm. Why? Because the consequences at showing displeasure to the managers is the sack which means no money! But to a husband, although he has given her a shelter, food, clothing, money and a life... It continues. Why did Khadijah (ra) become one of the greatest women in history? Contemplate on her love for her husband.

The husband has to return home from a tiring and hard days of work only to see the gloomy face of the wife, who is going on about her rights and wants. He also has to come home to see his wife, sleeping away because she is 'tired' from work, but neglecting her duty to her husband. Similarly, some men go over board and act like tyrants in the house. There always has to be a balance in our lives. One man came to Imam Suhaib Webb (USA/Egypt) and told him that he was looking for a 'Khadijah', meaning he was looking for someone with the same qualities found in Khadijah (ra) as she was the example of a successful woman. Imam Suhaib replied to him that he needs to be a 'Muhammad' first, meaning if you can bring the qualities and character of Rasulullah (saw) in yourself, you will find a Khadijah as she was the reflection of her husband.

There should always be concerns for our spouses, which is an ingredient for a happy, successful and tranquil marriage like we mentioned about Khadijah (ra) willing to climb mountains for her husband. Let my sisters climb metaphoric mountains to reach their husbands for a peaceful and harmonious life.

One day Muhammad (saw) came in hurry to Khadijah (ra) and

said “Cover me, Cover me”. She asked him what happened and he related to her that an angel came and told him to “Read”. Muhammad (saw) was an illiterate man, who neither could read nor write. This was really unusual for him and the events left him shaking and frightened. The angel continued to command Muhammad (saw), each time receiving the answer “I cannot read”. Then the angel embraced him, very tightly, upon which the Prophet (saw) replied “What shall I read”. The first verse of the Qur’an was revealed:

Read with the name of your Lord who created (every thing),

He created man from a clot of blood.

Read, and your Lord is the most gracious,

who imparted knowledge by means of the pen.

He taught man what he did not know

What was the response of Khadijah? Her husband, life term partner, the father to her children is here, shaking, frightened, what is she going to respond with? She didn’t say that he was making this up. Instead, without further questions, she believed him and replied:

"Allah (swt) will never disgrace you, You keep good relations with your kin, you help the poor and destitute, serve your guests generously, and assist the deserving". Such counselling words, the support, the sacrifice were appreciating by the Prophet Muhammad (saw) later in his life. Another point to ponder over. Out of all his family members, his uncles, his aunts, his foster mother, his friends, that the Prophet Muhammad (saw) could have gone to, he chose to go to his wife, with all the trust and confidence. This shows how men of today should be. That with the real love

exchanging between the husband and wife, both will benefit each other, not only for self desires, but for their families, their children and in this instance, for the whole Ummah. This will help decrease the number of divorce cases within the Muslim community and help the whole community in general. Mufti Abdur Rahman ibn Yusuf was asked, how many divorce cases do you deal with on average. He said every two weeks. And the discussions doesn't end in one meeting, the process is long. Sometimes it takes years to settle a divorce case. Just contemplating on the life of Prophet Muhammad (saw) and Khadijah (ra), life will be much easier, the future and present generation will have a lot of harmony in their lives and there will be more time to glorify and praise Allah, making our path to Jannah a little easier.

Khadijah (ra) took her husband to her cousin Waraqah, who had great knowledge in the holy scriptures, being one of the four who disliked the idol worshipping of Makkah and decided to follow the religion of Ibrahim (as). She narrated to him what had happened. The old man listened attentively, he said. "If what you are telling me is the truth, then this will be the same Angel who came to Moses (as) and Jesus (as). He is the Prophet of this Ummah and tell him to stand firm."

Khadijah (ra) was filled with joy. Only the day before she had been the wife of an honest, good mannered man of Quraysh. But today she was the wife of a Prophet. What an honour! What belief came into her heart, that such a position made her heart feel at ease? No managing director with a million pound salary, no individual with ten Ferraris and Porches, no husband with acres of land... But a Prophet of Allah. It took us thousands of years to accept the Prophethood, we had to have scholars narrating stories to us, the greatness of Allah etc... But to Khadijah, it was like the click of fingers, she accepted his message.

The prophetic mission had began! Khadijah (ra) was to play a huge part in supporting her husband all the way to her own death. She witnessed the persecution, the oppression her husband was receiving at the hands of the Quraysh. They left no stones unturned in the manner of punishment they enforced upon the believing Muslims. All this oppression, for believing that 'There is no god but Allah and Muhammad (saw) is His messenger'.

At one point the Quraysh increased their persecution and exiled the Muslims to the Valley of Abu Talib where they stayed for three years. No one was allowed to sell them goods, buy from them, marry them, they were being boycotted by everyone. Except for few individuals who sympathised with their plight, the rest were arrogant enough to write up this command on the Ka'ba.

Then sadness descended upon the Muslims. It was announced that the first person to become a Muslim, the first wife of the Prophet (saw), the mother of his children, the brave, courageous and a Heroine, Khadijah (ra) had breathed her last. What went through the mind of the Prophet (saw), losing the woman he dearly loved? The year she passed away was named 'The Year of Sorrow' because not only did Khadijah (ra) pass away, but the great supporter of the Prophet (saw), his Uncle Abu Talib also died, though the grief was severe because he died as a disbeliever.

Even with all the oppression, there is no work in history to say that Khadijah (ra) ever complained about the troubles. In fact, because of her steadfastness, her love for the Prophet (saw), the Lord of the Worlds sent His Salaam to her via the Angel Jibrail who also gave his Salaam. Such was the greatest women the Sahabah have seen and one of the most perfect women. The Prophet (saw) would

often talk about her qualities in front of his young wife, our beloved Mother, Aisha (May Allah be pleased with her). Upon one occasion, Aisha (ra) felt a little jealous (naturally the nature of women) towards these statements. She said to the Messenger (saw) "What makes you remember one of the old women of the Quraysh with a toothless mouth of red gums, who died long ago, and in who's place Allah has given you someone better than her?"

The Prophet (saw) face changed at this and he replied, "No, by Allah, He has not given me a better one in her place. She believed in me, when people ridiculed me, she consoled me with her money when people deprived me, and from her alone i have children." A'ishah (ra) was silent and regretted saying that about Khadijah (ra).

On occasions, The prophet (saw) would distribute meat to the friends of Khadijah (ra), this is how much he loved her.

Such a woman has become a great example for the women of our age. She has outweighed the women we read and marvel about in our history books. Any woman who wants to be good to her husband, must look at Khadijah (ra), any woman who wants to be a good mother to her children, must look at Khadijah (ra), any woman who wants to be good to her In-laws i.e. The gift Khadijah (ra) gave to the Prophet's (saw) foster mother, must look at Khadijah (ra), she is even a great example for men.

I ask Allah to keep us steadfast in his religion and remember Him at all times and I make the following statement for Khadijah:

**MAY ALLAH BE PLEASED WITH HER**