



LADY KHADIJA

THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S ROCK

I used the title of rock for Lady Khadija (may Allah's mercy and peace be upon her) as it symbolises very much what role she performed in Prophet Muhammad's life (may Allah's mercy and peace be upon her). One also finds that the role she played doesn't receive the publicity and recognition it truly deserves.

My aim is to raise awareness about this great individual whose role is undeniably the biggest anybody, man or woman, has achieved in history. Not only that but the loving and caring manner in which it is done highlights the love between Prophet Muhammad and Lady Khadija.

Prophet Muhammad married Lady Khadija when he was twenty-five years old and she was forty years old. Neither of them had practised idol-worship before the Prophet's declaration of Prophethood – this clearly illustrates her ability to determine truth from falsehood. Whilst he worked for her she realised the qualities he possessed and knew he would make a great husband – this clearly illustrates her ability to detect individuals of high quality. She spent the next fifteen years of her life with Prophet Muhammad in relative ease and comfort and they were blessed to have six children.

When revelation did come to the Prophet and after his experience in the cave of Mount Hira – where did the Prophet go to seek peace and consolation? He went to his place of peace and strength – none other than his wife's arms. The following hadith which can be found in the Sahih of al-Bukhari in his Chapter on the initiation of Revelation narrates the event. We pick it up from the point when Prophet Muhammad arrives back to his house from the Cave;

Then the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, returned with that and his heart was quaking. He came to Khadija bint Khuwaylid, may Allah be pleased with her, and said, 'Wrap me up! Wrap me up!' (Arabic – *zammiluni, zammiluni*)

His first point of call after experiencing a heavy spiritual and physical occurrence is to none other than Lady Khadija's arms.

They wrapped him up until the state of terror had left him and then he told Khadija what had happened and said, 'I am afraid for myself.'

Prophet Muhammad had feared the worst; was he losing his mind? Was it real what he experienced? How could he carry on with life as 'normal'? This was the time when the Prophet needed comfort, console and words of strength, encouragement and stability. Read how Lady Khadija replies,

Khadija said, 'No, by Allah, Allah would never bring disgrace upon you. You maintain ties of kinship, bear people's burdens, help the destitute, give hospitality to your guests and help those who have been afflicted by calamities.'



Once the fear and terror had evaporated and the Prophet was calm. She declared her faith in her husband and in the words he had brought from the cave. This declaration of faith and confidence in her husband shows her belief in him even though he was questioning his state of mind. But she didn't stop at words but took pragmatic steps to set about understanding what her husband had experienced.

"Khadija then went with him to Waraqa ibn Nawfal ibn Asad ibn 'Abdu'l-'Uzza, Khadija's cousin, who had become Christian during the *Jahiliyya*. He could write in Hebrew and wrote in Hebrew as much of the Gospel as Allah willed. He was an old man who had gone blind. Khadija said to him, 'Cousin! Listen to your nephew.' Waraqa said to him, 'Nephew, what have you seen?' The Messenger of Alla, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, told him what he had seen. Waraqa said to him, 'This is the Namus [Jibril] which Allah sent to Musa. I wish that I were still young. I wish I might still be alive when your people drive you out!' The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, asked, 'Will they drive me out?' He said, 'Yes, no man has brought anything similar to what you have brought without being treated with hostility. If I am still alive on that day, I will give you my strong support.' Shortly after that, Waraqa died and there was a pause in the revelation."

For the next ten years Lady Khadija would support her husband the Prophet Muhammad with everything at her disposal. She used her finances to further the work of Islam. She never ceased to provide the Prophet with moral support and be there for him at his times of need. She stood by him through thick and thin and suffered greatly because of the stance she took. She passed away approximately ten years after that original incident. When revelation had started she was considered as one of the wealthiest women of the Quraysh, at the time of her passing she had no wealth left as it had all been spent supporting her husband in the service of Islam. The year was regarded as the Year of Sorrow.

The Prophet never forgot Lady Khadija for the remaining years of his life upon the earth. He would recall her fondly, give charity in her name, look after her relatives and friends and had utmost respect for anything associated to her.

The following song aptly describes our spiritual mother and the Prophet's wife and rock, Lady Khadija (may Allah's mercy and peace be upon her)

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8-OcMkKaXQ>

May Allah reward fully for all the support, effort and sacrifice our blessed mother Khadija made - Amin

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