

Quraysh

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The **Quraysh** (Arabic: قريش‎, *Qurayṣ*; other transliterations include **Qureish**, **Quraish**, **Quresh**, **Qurish**, **Kuraish**, and **Coreish**) were a powerful merchant tribe that controlled Mecca and its Ka'aba and that according to tradition descended from Ishmael.

The Islamic prophet Muhammad was born into the Banu Hashim clan of the Quraysh tribe.^[1]

Banu Quraysh <div>(Arabic: بنو قريش‎)</div>	
Adnanite, Ishmaelite	
Nisba	Qurayshi (also spelled Qureshi)
Location	Mecca, Saudi Arabia
Descended from	An-Nadr ibn Kinanah
Religion	Idolatry and later Islam

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Ancestry

The tribe traditionally traces a genealogical history backwards from their eponymous ancestor Mudhar to Adam, Abraham and Ishmael:

According to this tradition, Quraysh is Nadhr^[2] ibn ("son of") Kinanah ibn Khuzaimah ibn Mudrikah ibn Ilyas ibn Mudhar ibn Nazar ibn Ma'ad ibn Adnan ibn Add ibn Sind ibn Qedar^[3] ibn Ishmael^{[4][4][5]} ibn Abraham^[6] ibn Azar^{[7][8]} (Terah) ibn Nahur^[9] ibn Serug^[10] ibn Reu^[11] ibn Peleg^[12] ibn Eber ibn Salah^{[13][14][15]} ibn Arpachshad^[16] ibn Shem ibn Noah ibn Lamech^[17] ibn Methuselah ibn Idris (Enoch) ibn Jared ibn Mahalalel ibn Kenan ibn Enos ibn Seth ibn Adam.

Early history

According to Arabic history books, the Quraysh tribe was a branch of the Banu Kinanah tribe, which descended from the Mudhar. For several generations they were spread about among other tribal groupings. About five generations before Muhammad the situation was changed by Qusai ibn Kilab. By war and diplomacy he assembled an alliance that delivered to him the keys of the Kaaba, an important pagan shrine which brought revenues to Mecca because of the multitude of pilgrims that it attracted. He then gathered his fellow tribesmen to settle at Mecca, where he enjoyed such adulation from his kin that they adjudged him their *de facto* king, a position that was enjoyed by no other descendant of his. Different responsibilities were apportioned between different clans. There were some rivalries among the clans, and these became especially pronounced during Muhammad's lifetime.

The Quraysh's main god was Hubal. According to *The Oxford Handbook of Late Antiquity*, "The Qurayshite pantheon was composed principally of idols that were in the Haram of Makka, that is, Hubal (the most important and oldest deity), Manaf, Isaf, and Na'ila."^[18]

Opposition to Muhammad

Some clan leaders did not appreciate Muhammad's claim of prophethood and tried to silence him by putting pressure on his uncle, Abu Talib. They rejected Islam's conception of monotheism; while they agreed that there was a single higher God, they also worshipped many lesser Gods they believed were intermediaries between mankind and the one higher God.^[19] Many of the clans also began to oppose the followers of Muhammad, for example by boycotting them. A number of early Muslims took refuge with the Christian king of Abyssinia,^[20] while Muhammad himself would later emigrate to Yathrib, now Medina. The Quraysh fought many battles against Muhammad. One major clash, the Battle of Badr in 624 C.E., where the Quraysh were defeated, was later seen as a turning point for Muslims.^[21] After Muhammad died, clan rivalries reignited, playing central roles in the conflicts over the caliphate and contributing to the Shia-Sunni divide.

Conflict with Muhammad

Muhammad ordered the Batn Rabigh Caravan Raid in 623 against the Quraysh. This was the first military operation against them ^{[22][23][24][25]}

The second operation against the Quraysh was in May/June 623 called the Kharar Caravan Raid [22][23][24][25][26]

This was followed by the Invasion of Waddan in August 623 [27][28]

In October 623 Muhammad ordered an attack against Quraysh caravans in Buwat known as the Invasion of Buwat [29][30]

Then in December 623 another Quraysh caravan was attacked in the Invasion of Dul Ashir [31]

He then ordered Muslims to gather intelligence against the Quraysh in January 624 in an operation known as the Nakhla Raid, 1 member of the Quraysh was killed and 2 were captured. This was the first time someone was killed in an operation [32][33][34]

A major operation was then launched in March 624 known as the Battle of Badr.[35] In this operation 14 Muslims were killed and 70 Quraysh members were also killed, 30-47 were captured [36]

Clans and the Caliphate

After the introduction of Islam by Muhammad, the Quraysh gained supremacy and produced the three dynasties of the Ummayyad Caliphate, the Abbasid Caliphate and the Fatimid Caliphate. The split between the Shi'a and Sunni branches of Islam centers over the succession to Muhammad.[37] The Sunnis believe Abu Bakr was elected as Muhammad's successor while the Shi'a (literally "supporters [of Ali]") believe Muhammad appointed `Ali ibn Abi Talib as his successor.

`Ali was a member of Muhammad's clan, the Banu Hashim, and His son-in-law. Abu Bakr, while a close companion and the father-in-law of Muhammad, came from the Banu Taym clan.[37]

The second caliph, `Umar ibn al-Khattab, was from the Banu Adi clan. He was also the father-in-law of the Prophet.[37]

The third caliph, `Uthman ibn `Affan, was from the Banu Umayyah clan. He too was the son-in-law of the Prophet.[37]

When `Ali was made Caliph after the death of `Uthman, the Caliphate was in the hands of the Banu Hashim, but he was almost immediately challenged by Muawiyah, who was a member of the Umayyad clan.[37] After `Ali's assassination at the hands of the Kharajites, those who had sworn allegiance to 'Ali hoped his son Hasan, the Grandson of the Prophet, would become Caliph, but he deferred the position to Mu`awiyah, in hoping to quell the long-lasting civil war between the Muslims at that time.[37]

After the death of Mu`awiyah, his son Yazid became ruler but was almost immediately challenged by `Ali's younger son, Al-Husayn ibn 'Ali. Hussayn would not swear allegiance to Yazid when he received letters from the people of Al-Kufah that speak of Yazid's wrongdoing against Islam, and Hussayn's acknowledgment of the caliphate's non-hereditary lineage, which Yazid had breached. Al-Husayn was martyred by the stronger forces of Yazid at the Battle of Karbala.

Clans

Quraysh branched out into various sub-clans, who in turn branched out into yet further sub-clans. Roughly the division corresponded to the family lines of the current chieftain of that clan having sons.

- **Banu Quraysh** — Quraysh was divided into several sub-clans.
 - Banu Abd-al-dar — sub-clan of Quraysh
 - Banu Abd Manaf — sub-clan of Quraysh
 - Banu Nawfal — sub-clan of Banu Abd Manaf, clan of Mut`im ibn `Adi^[38]
 - Banu Muttalib — sub-clan of Banu Abd Manaf
 - Banu Hashim — sub-clan of Banu Abd Manaf, clan of Hashim, the Prophet Muhammad's great-grandfather.
 - Banu Abd Shams — sub-clan of Banu Abd Manaf, parent clan of Banu Umayyah.
 - Banu Umayyah — sub-clan of Banu Abd Shams, clan of Abu Sufyan and Uthman ibn Affan
 - Banu Makhzum — sub-clan of Quraysh, clan of Khalid ibn al-Walid
 - Banu Zuhrah — sub-clan of Quraysh, clan of Sa'ad ibn Abi Waqqas
 - Banu Taym — sub-clan of Quraysh, clan of Abu Bakr
 - Banu Adi — sub-clan of Quraysh, clan of Umar ibn al-Khattab
 - Banu Asad — sub-clan of Quraysh, clan of Abd-Allah ibn al-Zubayr and Khadijah
 - Banu Jumah — sub-clan of Quraysh
 - Banu Sahm — sub-clan of Quraysh, clan of Amr ibn al-As

Leaders

The leaders of the Quraysh (Arabic: *Sadat Quraysh*), who formed Mecca's aristocracy upon the appearance of Muhammad, included:

- Al-'As ibn Wa'il (Banu Sahm)
- Amr ibn Hishām (Banu Makhzum)^[39]
- Abu Lahab ibn 'Abdul Muttalib (Banu Hashim)
- Abu Sufyan ibn Harb (Banu Umayya)
- Akhnas ibn Shariq (Banu Zuhrah)^[40]
- Hakim ibn Hizam (Banu Asad)
- Mut`im ibn `Adi (Banu Nawfal)

- Mughirah ibn Abd-Allah (Banu Makhzum)
- Nabeeha ibn Hujaj (Banu Jumah)
- Nazar ibn Harris (Banu Abd ad-Dar)
- Suhayl ibn Amr^[40]
- Umayyah ibn Khalaf (Banu Jumah)^[39]
- Utba ibn Rabi'ah (Banu Abd-Shams)
- Abu Bakr al-Siddiq ibn Abi Quhafah Banu Taym)

Related tribes

- Banu Kinanah
- Banu Hothail
- Banu Sulaym
- Banu Taym
- Bani Assad
- Thaqif
- Banu Hawazin
- Banu Ghatafan

See also

- Abbasid Caliphate
- Alaouite dynasty
- Banu Hashim
- Quraish (video game)
- Awan
- Ba 'Alawiyya
- Hashemite
- Sayyid
- Treaty of Hdaybiyyah
- al-Ubaid (tribe)
- Muse
- Hawk of Quraish
- List of expeditions of Muhammad against the Quraysh

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7. Qur'an 6:74
8. Qur'an 37:99–111
9. Luke 3:35
10. Book of Genesis 11:20-23
11. Genesis 11:20
12. Genesis 10:25
13. Genesis 10:24
14. Genesis 11:12-13
15. Luke 3:36
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