**Prophet Muhammad (saw)'s Life**

**Introduction**

Prophet Muhammad (saw) is the last and final prophet of Islam. There are no other prophets after him. He was born in 571 CE in a noble family (known as Quraysh) in Makkah, Saudi Arabia. He died in 632 CE in Madinah. During his 63-year lifetime, Muhammad (saw) spent 53 years of his life in Makkah and almost 10 years in Madinah. Prophet Muhammad (saw) did some very notable things such as: built a mosque in Madinah, taught people about Islam, won in the battles of Badr, Uhud, and Trench. Finally established a peaceful islamic society in Madinah. In this essay I will give a brief description of prophet Muhammad (saw)’s life in Madinah.

**Life in Makkah**

Muhammad PBUH accompanied his uncle Abu Talib on a merchant journey to Syria when he was twelve years old. On the trip, a Christian monk Bahira met Muhammad(saw) at Busra during this journey. He looked at Muhammad PBUH and told Abu Talib that he is indeed the final Prophet (A.D. 583). When Muhammad PBUH was twenty-five years old, he traveled once more to Syria to carry the business of Khadijah, with her slave Maysarah. During this journey, they met another christian monk by the name of Nastoorah. He also bore testimony to his prophethood (A.D. 596). Khadijah wished to marry with Prophet Muhammad PBUH due to his honesty and truthfulness. When they married, Prophet Muhammad PBUH was twenty-five years old and Khadijah was forty years old (A.D. 596). This marriage lasted for 25 years and 2 months. Prophet Muhammad PBUH did not marry any other woman during her lifetime. With Khadija, Prophet had 4 daughters and 2 sons. Khadijah was the first woman to accept Islam and Hazrat Abu Bakr the first man.

**Journey to Madinah**

Before Muhammad (saw) became a prophet, he (saw) used to go to the cave of Hira to pray and wonder why the people of Makkah used to worship idols. One day in the cave he met angel Jibreel, who taught him Islam and brought him the first verses of surah Alaq of the Holy Quran. Then Muhammad (saw) started teaching people secretly about Islam, but the Quraysh, the tribe that Prophet Muhammad (saw) was born to, hated his teachings. Back then, the Quraysh filled the holy Kaaba with about 360 idols, and encouraged people to worship the idols. What’s really interesting was, the Quraysh and the people of Makkah were prophet Ibrahim (aws)’s followers. But they forgot about Islam over the years. They associated the idols with the almighty God Allah and believed that the idols could help them when they are sick and could make them rich. But the prophet Muhammad (saw) taught them that there is no God except Allah and Allah knows everything. That’s why the Quraysh wanted to kill prophet Muhammad (saw). But Allah (SWT) informed Muhammed (saw) through angel Jibril. Prophet Muhammad (saw) became prepared to leave Makkah and migrate to Madinah. One night, prophet (saw) was sleeping in his house noticed that some people from the tribe of Quraysh were about to attack him. He told his cousin Hazrat Ali (RA) to sleep in his bed so that he can return some goods that some people left to prophet (saw) as amanah. Then he escaped the Quraysh and left Makkah with Abu Bakr (RA) in the dark-night, but they still had to worry about the quraysh chasing them. They had been told the Quraysh would give anyone 500 dirhams or 100 camels if they captured them alive or dead. So prophet Muhammad (saw), and Abu Bakr (RA), hid in a cave nearby. His enemies reached the opening of the cave, but there enemies did not enter the cave because they noticed a spider’s web covering the opening of the cave. They thought that it was impossible for Muhammad to have entered that cave and they left. This miracle is mentioned in the Quran (33:39). After they left the cave, they headed toward Madinah which is about 210 miles from Makkah. It took even longer since they were walking. They got hungry so they stopped at an old lady’s house to ask for some food. She said that her goat was too weak to give milk, so prophet Muhammad (saw) asked if he could try and the lady said yes. Muhammad (saw) wiped the goat with his hands and said a dua and and milk started coming.The lady thanked prophet Muhammad (saw) and they left with their stomachs full and ready to go.

**Entering Madinah**

When the prophet (saw) with his followers (called Muhajirun) entered Madinah, the Ansar sang a song called “the full moon has risen amongst us”. The Ansar welcomed the Muhajirun into their homes like brothers. They shared everything with them. Everyone wanted Muhammad (saw) to stay at their home. Prophet (saw) freed his camel to choose a home for him (saw) to stay in. It went to the shade of a date tree where later he built Baitul Masjid al Nabawi, also known as the Prophet’s mosque. The prophet lived near to this mosque. After his death in 632 C.E his dead body was near to this mosque.

**Life in Madinah**

Prophet Muhammad (saw) spent his last 10 years of his life in Madinah. The city of Madinah was distinctly different from the city of Makkah in many ways. It had more diverse communities with Jewish, Christian and Muslim people. It was called Yathrib but Muhammad (saw) changed its name to Madinatul-Munawwarah or Madinah which means Light-Filled City. Muhammad (saw) changed its name because the city was mostly Jewish populated who later converted to Islam. Most of them liked Muhammad (saw)’s teachings.

**The Battle of Badr**

The battle of Badr, held in 624 CE was the first war the Madinah people had with the Makkans. The reason for that war was because Muhammad (saw) and his army tried to take back some of the stuff that the Quraysh took from the Muhajirun. The Quraysh declared war because they got mad at the Muslims. The Muslims still won the battle. They got a lot of goods from the Quraysh.

**The Battle of Uhud**

The battle of Uhud, held in 625 CE, took place at the mount of Uhud. It was like a sequel of the battle of Badr because after the Muslims won in the battle of Badr, the Quraysh became so angry that they declared another war against the Muslims. At that time the Quraysh had more than one thousand soldiers but the Muslims had only about three hundred soldiers. Muslims believed that they had the Angels and Allah (swt)’s support on their side. Thus they won that battle too.

**The Battle of the Trench**

The battle of the Trenches, began on March 31, 627 CE. It was a siege of Madinah by Arab and Jewish tribes. The strength of the armies is estimated around 10,000  men with 600 horses and a few camels. While Medinan defenders numbered only about 3,000 people. In the Muslims defeated the Quraysh while they suffered very few injuries. The Quraysh effort to defeat the Muslims failed, and Islam became popular in the region. As a consequence for the disbelievers, the Muslim army sieged the Banu Qurayza tribe, leading to their surrender. The defeat also made the Makkan Quraysh to lose their trade and their prestige.

**The Treaty of Hudaybiyyah**

The Treaty of Hudaybiyyah, was an important event, took place during the beginning of Islam in March 628 CE. It was the treaty between Muhammad (saw), who was representing Madinah, and Suhayl ibn Amr of Quraysh of Makkah. They had agreed to stop fighting. No attacks shall be done between them, whoever wishes to enter into a treaty with Muhammad can do so, and whoever wishes to enter into a treaty with the Quraysh can do so. If a Quraysh comes without the permission of his guardian to Muhammad, he shall be delivered up to the Quraysh, but if one of Muhammad (saw)'s people comes to the Quraysh, he shall not be delivered up to Muhammad (saw). That year, Muhammad (saw) and his companions, could not come to Makkah, but next year, they could come to Makkah and stay for three days. The treaty helped to decrease tension between the two cities. It also gave Muhammad (saw) and his companions a 10-year peaceful life in Madinah with no attacks.

**Last Hajj and the final sermon**

In the tenth year of hijrah, in 632 CE, during the month of Dhu al-Qadah, Muhammad (saw) let all of his companions know that he intended to perform Hajj. On two previous occasions he had performed Umrah but not Hajj. Muhammad (saw) felt that the rituals of Hajj should be established and demonstrated to the Muslims because until this point some of the rituals of Hajj were corrupt. For example, the Quraysh felt that certain parts of Hajj were not necessary for them because they were the custodians of the Kabah. They also required that Pilgrims coming from outside of Makkah to wear ihram garments made in makkah or else be naked during tawaf. Muhammad (saw) thought that the message of Islam would not be complete if he (saw) did not show everyone how to properly do Hajj. Hajj is an important part of Islam and everyone who is in good shape and has the right amount of wealth must do it. So the prophet (saw) told everyone of Madinah that he (saw) is going to Hajj and anyone who can go, to go with him (saw). Shortly after the announcement for Hajj was made, surprisingly a large number of people began to gather in Madinah. About 130,000 people wanted to go with him (saw) to Hajj. On the 25th day of Dhu al-Qa’dah in the tenth year of the islamic calendar, he (saw) left Madinah accompanied by all of Muhammad (saw)’s surviving wives and children. Muhammad (saw) also brought several sacrificial camels with him (saw). When the group arrived at Dhul Hulayfah, a place right outside Madinah, Muhammad (saw) entered the state of ihram by wearing two pieces of cloth-one to cover his upper body and one to cover his lower body and one to cover his upper body, then he made his intention to offer Hajj and Umrah in a combined manner. This method of Hajj is known as the Qiran method. After that, they went to Makkah and started Hajj and then he Muhammad (saw) finished Hajj and he (saw) gave the Final Sermon. The Final Sermon, or the last khutbah was given by Muhammad (saw) when he went to Makkah for Hajj. He stood at Mount Arafat and gave the khutbah he said “O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as Sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your Lord, and that He will indeed reckon your deeds. God has forbidden you to take interest. Beware of Saitan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things.” “O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with any one of whom you do not approve.” “O People, listen to me, worship God, perform your five daily prayers, fast during the month of Ramadan, and offer Zakat. Perform Hajj if you have the means.”All mankind is from Adam and Eve. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab; a white has no superiority over a black, nor does a black have any superiority over a white. Every Muslim is a brother to each other. Remember, one day you will appear before Allah and answer for your deeds. So do not go away from islam after I am gone.” “O People, no prophet or messenger will come after me, nor will a new faith will be born.” Reason well, therefore, “O people, I leave behind me two things, the Quran and my the Sunnah, and if you follow these, you will never go astray. All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again; and it may be that the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly.” “O God, I have conveyed your message to your people."

**Death**

This was a sad time for the Muslims because it was when Prophet Muhammad (saw) passed away. He died on 12 Rabiul Awal, Monday 632 CE at the age of 63 in Madinah. It was his time to go back to Allah (swt) like all of us one day. He (saw) is the last prophet that Allah (swt) will send to us. He (saw) has left the Quran and his Sunnah to follow. His grave is at Masjid ul Nabawi in Madinah. Every year many Muslims go to see and pray for his grave.

**Conclusion**

The prophet's mission was accomplished, he had done many things in his life in Madinah.

He spent 10 years of his life in Madinah. He was successful in establishing islam in Madinah and Arabia. Muhammad (saw) was the last prophet, he left us the Quran and his Sunnah.

**THE END**