

# Islam's Perfect Man

Koran Chapter 33:21 states that Muhammad is the perfect man for Muslims to imitate if they want to meet Allah in paradise:

*Indeed in the Messenger of Allah (Muhammad) you have a good example to follow for him who hopes for (the Meeting with) Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah much.*

## 11 wives, 9 at one time

It is generally accepted that Muhammad consummated marriages with eleven women during his life. During the time of his first marriage, he had only one wife, Khadija. During the last three years of his life, he had nine wives at one time. Here are his eleven wives:

**Khadija bint Khuwaylid b. Asad** - Married to Muhammad in 595. Died in 619.

**Sawdah bint Zam'ah b. Qays** - Married to Muhammad in 619 after Khadija's death.

**Aisha bint Abi Bakr al-Siddiq** – Married to Muhammad in 620, when she was only six years old, and he consummated the marriage in 623, when she was nine.

**Hafsa bint 'Umar b. al-Khattab** - Married to Muhammad in March 625.

**Zaynab bint Khuzaymah** - Married to Muhammad in March 625 and died eight months later.

**Hind bint Abi Umayyah (Umm Salamah)** - Married to Muhammad in May 625.

**Zaynab bint Jahsh** - Married to Muhammad in January 626.

**Ramlah bint Abi Sufyan (Umm Habibah)** - Married to Muhammad in May 627.

**Juwayriyyah bint al-Harith** – Married to Muhammad in December 627. Juwayriyyah, whose first name had been Barraah, was 20 years old and among the captives taken when the Muslims defeated the Bani Al-Mustaliq tribe in December 627. Juwayriyyah had been married to Musafih bin Safwan, who was killed in the battle, and she was the daughter of Al-Harith bin Abu Dirar, the leader of the Bani Al-Mustaliq. She was originally given to one of the Muslim warriors. But because of her status, she was then given to Muhammad, who married her and changed her first name to Juwayriyyah.

**Safiyah bint Huyayy** - Safiyah was among the captives taken when the Muslims conquered Khaybar in June 628. Muhammad married her after ordering the torture and beheading of her husband, Kinanah b. al-Rabi'. Safiyah's father had also been killed during the battle.

**Maymunah bint al-Harith** - Married to Muhammad in March 629.

During the last three years of Muhammad's life he had nine wives at one time. But the Koran states that a Muslim man can only have up to four wives at a time; this is found in 4:3:

*And if you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly with the orphan girls then marry (other) women of your choice, two or three, or four;...*

However, Koran verse 33:50 was later "revealed," and it provided an exemption from this limitation of four wives, but only for Muhammad:<sup>1</sup>

*O Prophet (Muhammad)! Verily, We have made lawful for you your wives, to whom you have paid their Mahr (bridal money given by the husband to his wife at the time of marriage), and those (slaves) whom your right hand possesses - whom Allah has given to you, and the daughters of your 'Amm (paternal uncles) and the daughters of your 'Ammat (paternal aunts) and the daughters of your Khal (maternal uncles) and the daughters of your Khalat (maternal aunts) who migrated (from Makkah) with you, and a believing woman if she offers herself to the Prophet, and the Prophet wishes to marry her - a privilege for you only, not for the (rest of) the believers. Indeed We know what We have enjoined upon them about their wives and those (slaves) whom their right hands possess, in order that there should be no difficulty on you. And Allah is Ever Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.*

## **Additional**

Muhammad had actually married two additional women, but the marriages were never consummated. He married Asma' d. al-Nu'man, a Kindite woman; before the marriage was

consummated he found out that she had leprosy and she was returned to her people “with a suitable gift.” He married ‘Amra d. Yazid, a Kilab woman.

*When she came to the apostle she said, “I seek God’s protection against you,” and he replied that one who did that was inviolable so he sent her back to her people.<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> *Tafsir Ibn Kathir*, Vol. 7, p. 724; *Tafsir Al-Jalalayn*, p. 907; *Tafsir Ahsanul-Bayan*, Vol. 4, pp. 401-402; and *Tafsir Ibn ‘Abbas*, p. 551.

<sup>2</sup> *The Life of Muhammad (Sirat Rasul Allah)*, p. 794.