**The Prophet Muhammad**

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**Who was Muhammad?**

* **Muhammad** is the founder of Islam.
* He was born in **Mecca** in 570 AD.
* He became an **orphan** at the age of 6 and was raised by his uncle.
* He worked for his uncle as a shepherd.
* He married his **wife Khadija** when he was 25 years old and they had a very happy marriage.

**The Night of Power**

* In **610 AD** Muhammad visited a cave on

**Mount Hira** where he liked to be

alone to think and find peace.

* Muhammad says that while in the cave

the **Angel Gabriel** appeared to him

and told him to:

*‘Proclaim: Your Lord is the Most Generous,*

*Who teaches by the pen; Teaches man what he knew not.’ (Qur'an 96:1-3)*

* He had been chosen as the **messenger of Allah** and began to proclaim Allah’s message.
* He rushed back to his wife to tell her this amazing story. She was the first person to believe him and became the first follower of Islam.
* Muhammad began to tell everyone to stop believing in false God’s and only **believe in one true God, Allah**.

**The Night Journey**

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* Muhammad’s wife **Khadija died** in **619 AD** and he became very sad.
* He liked to visit the **Ka’ba** late at night. He would stand there and pray during the night.
* One night he was very tired and fell asleep and the **Angel Gabriel** came back to visit Muhammad again.
* He shook Muhammad and woke him up and took him on a journey from **Mecca to Jerusalem** to visit the farthest **Mosque Al-Aqsa** on a **white beast** called **Buraq**.

*“a beast unlike any other, something between a donkey and a mule. It had a face like that of a human and its body was that of a horse. It was a finer beast than any other on earth”*

* After visiting Jerusalem Muhammad went up to the **heavens**, paradise and hell. He met many of the **prophets** (Abraham, Moses, and Jesus are the most frequently mentioned) and talked to God.
* Here, God told him that Muslims only need to **pray 5 times a day**.

**The hijira**

* + - * + Mecca the town where he grew up was full of people who wanted to be **rich** and people who **worshipped false Gods**.
        + After his Night Journey to the heavens and Jerusalem Muhammad began to teach people about Islam and prayer.
        + When Muhammad began to teach people about Allah he **upset a lot of people** and his followers were persecuted. This led to **violence** against Muhammad’s followers.
* Muhammad however, received good news. He was told that a lot of people were beginning to follow him in a town called **Yathrib**. This city is now **Medina**.
* Muhammad fled from Mecca to Yathrib where he was welcomed with open arms. This event is known as **the Hijira**.
* The year in which it occurred, **622 AD**, is the date at which the Muslim calendar begins.