

Khadijah bint Khuwaylid

خديجة بنت خويلد

Considered by the prophet Mohammed to be one of four perfect women, Khadijah bint Khuwaylid (daughter of Khuwaylid) was Mohammed's first wife. Widely known to be a very virtuous woman, she earned the title "*Al-Tahira*" (The Pure One) because of her kindness and generosity. Throughout her life she never believed in, nor worshipped, idols. She was also known to use her vast material resources to help family members who were in need, as well as those who were less fortunate than her. Her resources were indeed vast; in fact they earned her another title "*Ameerat-Quraysh*" (Princess of the Quraysh tribe). According to some Islamic traditions when all the Quraysh caravans gathered to begin their long journeys to Syria in the winter, or Yemen in the summer, the caravan of Khadijah was equal in size to all of the other caravans combined.

It was actually through these trade caravans that Khadijah first met Mohammed. Having been married twice before, she was quite determined never to marry again. She did not believe that she would find another man who was worthy of her. When she was looking for an agent to send along with her

caravans, a family member recommended a distant cousin named Mohammed. He was a young man of 25 years with no experience in this type of business, but Khadijah chose to give him the opportunity. He took her caravan and earned more profits than she had expected. Khadijah was appropriately impressed by his success and decided to initiate a marriage proposal.

While Mohammed was married to Khadijah, he took no other wives out of his love for her. She was equally devoted to him. When he received his first revelations, she played an important role in convincing him that he was becoming a prophet. She even used her wealth to help promote Islam, to the point of being persecuted for her support of her husband. The year of her death so marked Mohammed that it is called the Year of Sorrow.

Khadijah was the mother of Fatima (born in 605 AD), who was the mother of Hussein and Hassan through Ali. (see Day 19) The dates of Khadijah's birth and death are not clear but it is probable that she was born in 555 AD and she probably died in 619 AD. It is believed by some that her death partly motivated Mohammed to move to Medina.



A caravan near Aqaba by the Red Sea

▶ Prayer REQUESTS

Around the world literally hundreds of thousands, even possibly well over a million, Muslim women are named Khadijah. Many of them know very little about the wife of Mohammed or her positive example in many aspects of life.

▶ *Pray for the living Khadijahs that they will discover the Messiah through friends, radio, literature, television and other media.*

▶ *Pray for those among your acquaintances, or who live in your area, that they may discover and apply the traits of a virtuous wife described in Proverbs 31 and come to know the purity which is from the Messiah.*