**MUSLIM HEROES**

 **HAZRAT KHADIJA R.A**

Hazrat Khadija (R.A), also known as Tahira, or the pure was the daughter of Khuwaylid bin Asad and Fatima bint Za’idah. She belonged to a noble and prosperous Banu Asad clan of Quraish family. She inherited a large business from her father. She had an earlier marriage with Abu Hala bin Zurarah and bore him two sons i.e. Hala and Hind. After the death of her first husband, she was married to Ateeq bin A’idh Mukhzumi, who died leaving her a widow again. She had a daughter from him who was named Hindah.

After the death of her father in the battle of Fijar, Hazrat Khadija (R.A) needed an honest person to manage her trade. She found the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) as the perfect choice. She sent her merchandise with him to Syria. Her slave Maisra was also accompanied in the journey. The expedition was very successful followed by other subsequent tours. After some time she sent a proposal of marriage to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) that was accepted after consultation with the elders of the family. At the time of their marriage, the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) was twenty-five years old, while Hazrat Khadija (R.A) was forty years of age. They had two sons and four daughters. Hazrat Khadija (R.A) died in the tenth year of Prophethood at the age of sixty-five. She was buried at Makkah.

When the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) came home, shivering after his first experience of revelation, Hazrat Khadija (R.A) comforted him and took him to her cousin Warqa bin Naufil, who confirmed that Allah has chosen him as the Last Messenger. Hazrat Khadija (R.A) was the first convert to Islam and suffered the persecution at the hands of the Quraish, but stood firmly and faithfully by the Holy Prophet (S.A.W). She always comforted him after the disappointments he faced with the Quraish. Whenever he came home depressed, rejected by his own people, he always found her there to console him. She always inspired him with renewed hope and courage. She also placed all her wealth at the disposal of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W).

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) loved Hazrat Khadija (R.A) so much that he did not marry again as long as she lived. After her death, he always remembered and admired her services. Once he said, ***“She hailed my mission at a time when everyone was against it and supported me when there was hardly a believer.”*** According to the traditions of *Bukhari* and *Muslim*, ***“The noblest women of the world are Maryam and Khadija.”***

**HAZRAT ALI R.A**

Hazrat Ali's (R.A) father Abu Talib was the custodian of the Ka`bah and a leader of the Banu Hashim, an important branch of the powerful Quraish tribe. His mother, Fatima bint Asad, also belonged to Banu Hashim.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) had a close relationship with Hazrat Ali's (R.A) parents. When he was orphaned and later lost his grandfather Abdul Muttalib, Abu Talib took him into his house. Hazrat Ali (R.A) was born in 600 AD. When he was five or six years old, a famine occurred in and around Makkah, affecting the economic conditions of Abu Talib, who had a large family to support. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) took Hazrat Ali (R.A) into his home to raise him.

Hazrat Ali (R.A) was the first child to accept Islam. He supported the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) when he was commanded to invite his closer relatives to come to Islam. During the persecution of Muslims and boycott of the Banu Hashim in Makkah, Hazrat Ali (R.A) stood firmly in support of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W).

At the time of migration, Hazrat Ali (R.A) risked his life by sleeping in Holy Prophet's (S.A.W) bed to impersonate him and spoil an assassination plot so that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) could migrate in safety. He restored all the goods and properties that had been entrusted to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) for safekeeping to their owners.

Hazrat Ali (R.A) was 22 or 23 years old when he migrated to Madinah. When the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) was creating bonds of brotherhood among his companions, he selected Hazrat Ali (R.A) as his brother.

Hazrat Ali (R.A) married to Hazrat Fatima (R.A), the youngest daughter of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W). They had four children; Hasan, Husain, Zainab and Umm-e-Kulthum.

With the exception of the Battle of Tabuk, Hazrat Ali (R.A) took part in all battles and expeditions fought for Islam during the lifetime of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W). At the Battle of Badr, he killed Walid ibn Utba as well as many other Makkan soldiers. He had the special role of protecting the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) when most of the Muslim army fled from the battle of Uhud. He was commander of the Muslim army in the Battle of Khyber. Following this battle the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) gave him the name *Asadullah*, which in Arabic means "Lion of God". He also defended the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) in the Battle of Hunain.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) designated Hazrat Ali (R.A) as one of the scribes who would write down the text of the Qur’an. He was also assigned the task of writing the Treaty of Hudaybiyah by the Holy Prophet (S.A.W). After the Conquest of Makkah, the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) ordered Hazrat Ali (R.A) to break all the idols.

Hazrat Ali (R.A) was present at the time of the Holy Prophet’s (S.A.W) demise, and also took active part in the funeral rites. He became the fourth Caliph in 36 AH and ruled for four years. He was martyred in 40AH.

**HAZRAT BILAL (R.A)**

Hazrat Bilal (R.A) was born in Makkah in the year 580 AD. His father Rabah was an Arab slave while his mother, Hamamah, was from Abyssinia who was captured in a war and put into slavery. Being born into slavery, Bilal had no other option but to work for his master, Umayyah ibn Khalaf.

When the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) announced his prophethood and started to preach the message of Allah, Hazrat Bilal (R.A) would listen to what was being conveyed. The message attracted him towards Islam and he was among the earliest converts. He renounced idol worship and as a result was subjected to torture. When his master, Umayyah ibn Khalaf found out, he began to torture him violently. With Abu Jahl instigating, Umayyah tied Hazrat Bilal (R.A) up and had him dragged around Makkah as a means to break his faith. Although the extent of torture was painful, Hazrat Bilal (R.A) never renounced Islam. Even when the torture was taken to the extreme, he would repeat ***"Ahad Ahad"*** (God is absolute/one). Frustrated upon his refusal to denounce Islam, Umayyah ordered that Bilal (R.A) to be lying down flat on desert sand, so that he could feel the intensity of the sun and the Arabian heat. Constantly refusing to denounce Is lam, Umayyah became frustrated and ordered that a large boulder/stone be placed on Bilal's (R.A) chest. The boulder heated by the sun burned Bilal's (R.A) body while also crushing him. However, he remained firm in belief and continued to say ***"Ahad Ahad"***. After such punishments, news of this slave reached to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) who sent Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) to negotiate a deal with Umayyah. Eventually, Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) purchased Hazrat Bilal (R.A) and set him free.

In 622 AD, the year of the Hijrah, Hazrat Bilal (R.A) along with the other Muslims migrated to Madinah. Over the next decade, he accompanied the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) on all his military expeditions. After Madinah emerged as a well established state, the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) appointed Hazrat Bilal (R.A) as the secretary of treasure of the Islamic State of Madinah. He was given a prominent position within the Islamic State, as he became the first treasurer of Islam who was in charge of the Bayt al-Mal (Treasury).

The Adhan (call to prayer) was established by the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) in 1 AH. He chose Hazrat Bilal (R.A)

as the first muezzin, because of his deep, melodious, and echoing voice.

Hazrat Bilal (R.A) participated in the Battle of Badr and killed his former master, Umayyah. He was also present in all of the major events and battles, including the Battle of Uhud and the Battle of the Trench. After the conquest of Makkah, Hazrat Bilal (R.A) ascended to the top of the Ka’bah to call the Adhan.

After The Holy Prophet’s (S.A.W) death, Hazrat Bilal (R.A) left Madinah and accompanied the Muslim armies to Syria. He never called the Adhan again. However, when Hazrat Umar (R.A) visited Jerusalem during his caliphate, the Companions requested him to ask Hazrat Bilal (R.A) for the Adhan. Hazrat Bilal (R.A) agreed and this was his last Adhan. He passed his last days in isolation and died in Damascus in the age of sixty-three.

 **HAZRAT HAMZA (R.A)**

Hazrat Hamza (R.A) was a companion, paternal uncle and foster brother of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W). He had the titles ***Asadullah*** (Lion of God) and ***Sayyid-ush-Shuhada*** (Chief of the Martyrs).

Hazrat Hamza (R.A) was skilled in wrestling, archery and swordsmanship. He was so much fond of hunting that he took little notice of Islam for the first few years. Upon returning to Makkah after a hunting trip in the desert, he heard that Abu Jahl had attacked the Prophet (S.A.W) and abused and insulted him. Filled with rage, Hazrat Hamza (R.A) went out at a run. He entered the Ka’bah, where Abu Jahl was sitting with the elders, stood over him and struck him a violent blow with his bow. He said, “Will you insult him, when I am of his religion and say what he says? Hit me back if you can!” He struck Abu Jahl’s head with a blow that cut open his head. Some of Abu Jahl’s relatives approached to help him, but he told them, “Leave Abu Ummara [Hamza] alone, for, by God, I insulted his nephew deeply.”

After that incident, Hazrat Hamza (R.A) came to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) and declared Islam. When he became a Muslim, the Quraish recognised that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) had become strong, and had found a protector, and so they abandoned some of their ways of harassing him.

After migration to Madinah, Hazrat Hamza (R.A) was made the brother in Islam of Zayd ibn Harith. Hazrat Hamza (R.A) fought at the Battle of Badr, where he killed Utbah ibn Rabi'ah in single combat and helped Hazrat Ali (R.A) to kill Utbah’s brother Shayba.

Hazrat Hamza (R.A) was killed at the Battle of Uhud. An Abyssinian slave Wahshi ibn Harb killed him. He then slit open his stomach and brought his liver to Hind bint Utbah, whose father Hamza had killed at Badr. Hind chewed Hazrat Hamza’s (R.A) liver then spat it out. Then she cut off the nose and ears of the dead body and made a necklace of them.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) led the funeral prayer of all the martyrs of Uhud, including Hazrat Hamza (R.A)

and gave him the title of **‘Chief of the Martyrs’**.

**HAZRAT ABDULLAH BIN MASOOD (R.A)**

Hazrat Abdullah bin Masood (R.A) was born in Makkah in 594 AD. His father Masood ibn Ghafil, and mother Umm Abd bint Abd-e-wadd, were both from the Tamim tribe.

Hazrat Abdullah bin Masood is described as a thin, short man with very dark skin and smooth hair. He wore white clothes and he could be recognised in the dark by his distinctive, high -quality perfume. In personality he was friendly and willing to speak out to put people at ease. In character and goals, he was said to be the person **"most like the Holy Prophet (S.A.W)"**.

He was an early convert to Islam. He appears nineteenth of people who were converted by Hazrat Abu

Bakr (R.A) ***(‘Sirat Rasul Allah’ by Ibn Is’haq)***. Later his mother and brother also became Muslims. Being one

of the early converts to Islam, Hazrat Abdullah bin Masood (R.A) faced persecution of the Quraish with patience.

In Makkah, the Muslims remarked one day that the Quraish had never heard the Qur'an being recited clearly, and that someone needed to make them listen to it. Hazrat Abdullah bin Masood (R.A) volunteered. His friends reminded him that he had no protector and therefore the crowds might attack him, but he replied, **"Allah will protect me."** He stood in front of the Ka’bah and began to recite the Qur’an. When the Quraish realised that he was reciting Muhammad's (S.A.W) teaching, they began to hit his face, but he continued to recite. He returned to the Muslims with th e bruises on his face, saying, **"I have never despised Allah's enemies more than I do now, and if you like I will go and do the same thing tomorrow."** The Muslims told him that he had already done enough, **"for you have made them listen to what they don’t want to hear." (Ibn Is’haq)**

Hazrat Abdullah bin Masood (R.A) was among those Muslims who migrated to Abyssinia and Madinah both. He would always remain present in the service of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W). Outsiders perceived Abdullah bin Masood (R.A) and his mother as members of the Prophet’s (S.A.W) household. Hazrat Abu Musa Asha’ri (R.A) said: **“My brother and I visited the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) from Yemen. We observed Abdullah bin Masood and his mother at the Prophet’s (S.A.W) house so frequently that we were under the impression that they too were members of the household.” (Bukhari)** He worked as a personal servant, taking care of the Holy Prophet’s (S.A.W) bedding, Miswak, shoes and travelling hygiene.

Hazrat Abdullah bin Masood (R.A) fought at the Battle of Badr where he killed Abu Jahl. He also fought at all other battles in the lifetime of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W).

He was a great scholar of the Holy Qur’an because of his close association with the Holy Prophet (S.A.W). He was named by the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) as one from whom the others should learn the Qur’an. **(Bukhari, Muslim)**

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) also said, ***“If anyone likes to recite the Qur’an as fresh as it had descended then he must recite it on the reading of Abdullah bin Masood.”*** (Ahmed)

Hazrat Umer (R.A) sent him to Kufa as an administrator of the public treasury and as a teacher of religion. Hazrat Abdullah bin Masood (R.A) is said to be the transmitter of some eight hundred Hadiths. He died in Medina in 653 AD and was buried at Al-Baqee’.