

Part II:

Student Text
Chapter One



ISLAM AND MUSLIM CIVILIZATION

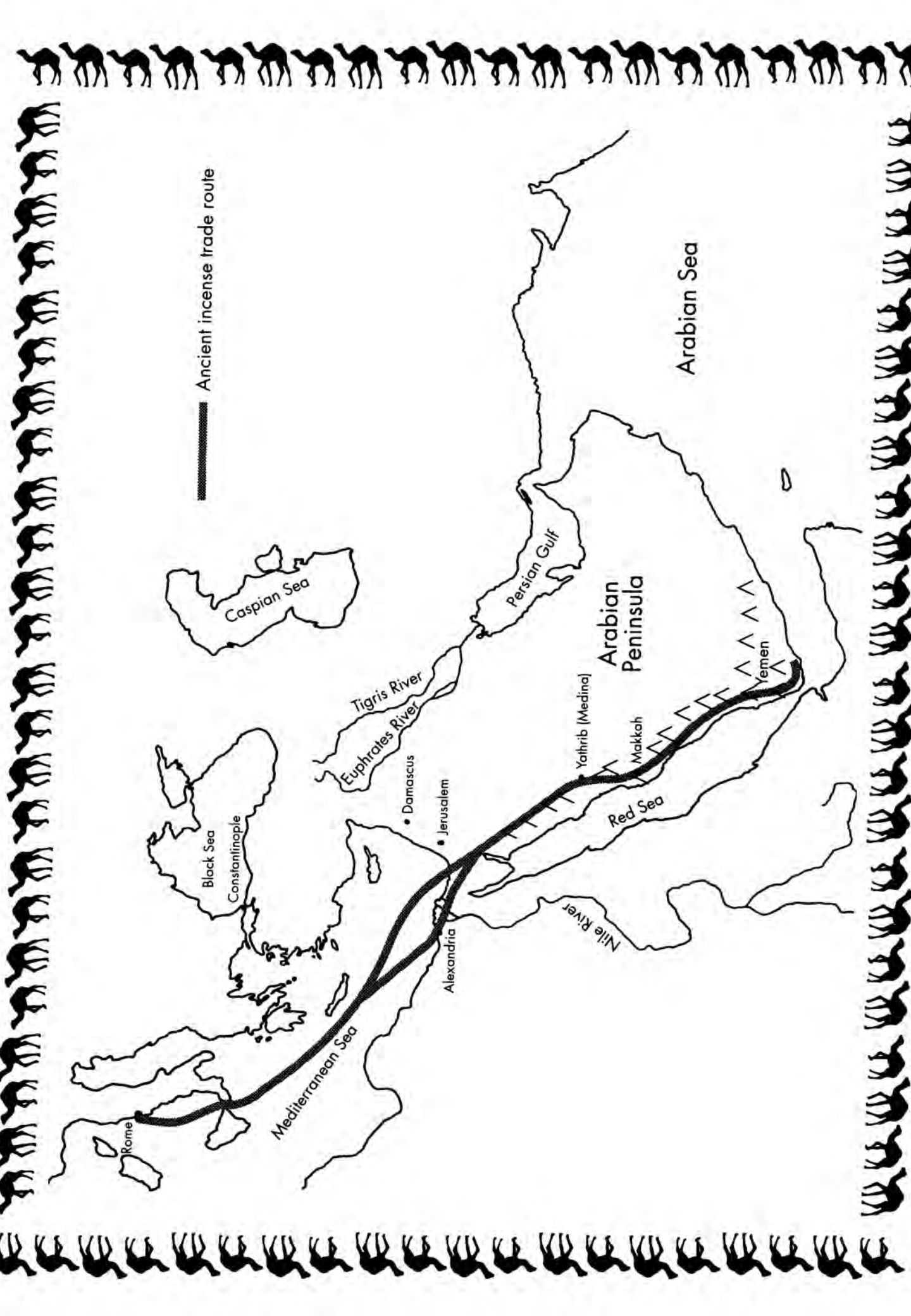
CHAPTER ONE

"The Coming of Islam"

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Ancient incense trade route

Caspian Sea

Persian Gulf

Arabian Sea

Arabian Peninsula

Yemen

Makkah

Yathrib (Medina)

Red Sea

Nile River

Alexandria

Jerusalem

Damascus

Euphrates River

Tigris River

Black Sea

Constantinople

Mediterranean Sea

Rome



The Coming of Islam

رَبَّنَا إِنِّي أَسْكَنْتُ مِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي بِوَادٍ غَيْرِ ذِي زَرْعٍ عِنْدَ بَيْتِكَ
الْمُحَرَّمِ رَبَّنَا لِيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ فَاجْعَلْ أَفْئِدَةً مِنَ النَّاسِ
تَهْوِي إِلَيْهِمْ وَارْزُقْهُمْ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَشْكُرُونَ

*O our Lord! I have made some of my offspring to dwell
In a valley without cultivation by Thy sacred house;
In order, our Lord, that they may establish regular prayer;
So fill the hearts of some among men with love towards them,
And feed them with fruits, so that they may give thanks.*

(Qur'an, 14:37)

A cloud of smoke rises from an altar in the Roman temple. Speaking a prayer, the priest waves his hands through the smoke. He hopes the sweet smell of incense will bring an answer to his prayer. On the beach in a Roman harbor, slaves unload leather sacks. One of the sacks tears open, and clumps of yellow crystals fall onto the sand. The overseer shouts and snaps a whip. A slave tucks a piece of precious incense into his belt. In Alexandria, Egypt, cargo from canal boats is loaded into square-sailed Roman ships that will carry it across the Mediterranean. Slaves stow the leather sacks on deck along with glass, jewels and ivory bound for the rich capital of Rome.

Merchants bargain for the best price at a market along the canal. Dressed in wide robes, they wrap the loose end of their turbans across their faces to keep out the dust. Behind them, thin camels drink at the river and nibble grass. Their backs are free of wooden boxes, bundles of silk and cotton cloth, and sacks of frankincense. The caravan brought these loads across the mountains through Arabia from Yemen, far to the South. In Yemen, a Bedouin cuts a patch of bark from a desert tree. Later he returns to scrape off the golden crystals of dried sap. This precious stuff is burned as fragrant incense in temples all over the ancient world.



Arabia Before Muhammad

For more than a thousand years, caravans made their way along this important route. They brought incense for ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman temples where priests led worship of their many gods. Along with the incense, they carried cloth, jewels and other goods from Asia and Africa. The caravans passed by ruins of towns and cities. There ancient prophets had preached belief in One God, and found few followers at first.

THE DESERT TRIBES

Caravans passed through the territory of desert **nomad** tribes. Tribesmen lived in the harsh land by moving constantly with their grazing animals among the scattered **oases**, or fertile spots with water. They had to be fiercely loyal to their families to survive, and often fought with other tribes. They were generous to guests and travelers in trouble. They knew that the hard desert makes people equal. They respected skill and courage. They loved the freedom of the wide sky and endless land. They sang about their life in long poems, which they could memorize after hearing only once! Their language—Arabic—was rich in describing things around them and expressing strong feelings.

CITIES ON THE TRADE ROUTE

At some **oases**, towns and small cities grew up where caravans stopped to rest and trade for supplies. Desert tribes settled down to farm. Where there was enough water, tribes grew date palms, grapes and grain. Caravans traded goods for these food supplies. Bedouins brought their animals to town, selling meat, milk and riding animals to city-dwellers and caravans. In their

shops, craftsmen worked with wood, stone, leather and metal. They made things for beauty, travel and war. Merchants of the towns became rich. They sent great caravans across Arabia to trade in summer and winter.

THE STORY OF MAKKAH

The most important city on this route along the mountains was Makkah. The map on page 14 shows Makkah in a dry valley near the Red Sea. The city was founded long ago by Ibrahim, the father of the prophets. Allah ordered him to bring part of his family, his wife Hajar and their baby son Isma'il, to settle there. Searching for water, Hajar ran back and forth between the hills of Safa and Marwa. Then the well of Zamzam bubbled up when the Angel Jibril struck the earth with his heel. Mother and son settled there with people of the local tribes. Later, Ibrahim and his son Ismail, built a house for worship of Allah. It was a simple cube of stones with one door and a black stone at one corner. The house was called the Kaabah, meaning "cube."

People from the desert tribes came to visit this house and share in worship. Later generations brought **idols** (statues for worship) to the Kaabah. They worshipped spirits of war and rain, of sun and moon, trees and rocks. Only a few people called **Hunafa'** kept up the belief in One God.

The tradition of **pilgrimage**, or visiting the Kaabah, continued. Each year, tribes from all over Arabia came to Makkah to worship their idols. They sang, danced and made sacrifices. They competed in wealth and ceremonies, and Arabic poetry. The Makkan tribe had the honor of caring for the Kaabah. They provided food and water for the **pilgrims**. The celebration was also good business. Pilgrims bought and sold many things during their visit.

MAKKAH BECAME AN IMPORTANT CITY

Makkah had a good location, water supply and many visitors. The city grew into a caravan stop and trading center. The Makkans became rich and powerful. They were respected as keepers of the Kaabah. Their caravans carried goods from Asia and Africa to the empires of Rome and Persia. Some cara-



Before Islam, the pilgrimage at Makkah was a great festival for Arab tribes. Idols from many tribes were placed in and around the Ka'abah.

vans had thousands of loaded camels! Makkans made treaties with many tribes so that their caravans could travel safely. During certain **sacred** (holy) months, no tribe could attack another. Both caravans and pilgrims depended on the treaties for peace. The Makkans backed up their power with weapons and skills in war.



Understanding Section 1:

1. What important product was carried by caravans through Arabia in ancient times?
2. How did the desert tribes survive in the harsh land of Arabia? What personal qualities did they need?
3. For what purpose did Ibrahim build the Kaabah, and how did later generations change the Kaabah?
4. What caused Makkah to grow and become a city?



Muhammad's Life Before Prophethood

About 570 years after the birth of Jesus, Muhammad ﷺ was born into this Makkan tribe, called Quraysh. Even before Muhammad's birth, signs showed that this family enjoyed special favor with Allah.

Muhammad's grandfather, Abd Al-Muttalib, followed a dream to rediscover the buried well of Zamzam. He also dug up some treasure left by the tribe who had buried it. Another famous story tells how Muhammad's father was nearly killed.

Abd Al-Muttalib had made a vow, or promise, to Allah that if he had ten sons who grew to be men, he would sacrifice one of them. Ten sons were born and all of them grew into fine young men. Abd Al-Muttalib kept his vow. He drew lots to find out which of his sons would be sacrificed. The draw fell on his favorite son Abdullah, the youngest. He told Abdullah and prepared to carry out his vow. When other members of the tribe heard about it, they tried to stop him. They loved Abdullah, and they did not want Abd Al-Muttalib to do something other chiefs might imitate. They looked for a way to save Abdullah without breaking the vow. They went to a wise, old woman to seek advice. She suggested a plan.

The ancient Arabs used to draw lots with arrows. Abd Al-Muttalib should take one arrow and mark it for Abdullah, and place it with another arrow that represented 10 camels. If the camels' arrow was drawn, he was to sacrifice the 10 camels and let Abdullah live. If the draw fell to Abdullah, the old woman told him to add 10 more camels. He did this, and each time the draw fell on Abdullah. Each time 10 more camels were added, until the number of camels

had reached 100! Finally, the camels' arrow was drawn. To be sure, he repeated the draw three times. Three times the draw fell to the camels. A great sacrifice was held. The people rejoiced, and marveled at Abdullah's great worth in the sight of God. One hundred camels was a fortune in wealth.

Abdullah became the father of Muhammad ﷺ.

The people of Muhammad's tribe remembered these events. They were Allah's signs, preparing for belief in Muhammad's prophethood among his own people. Muhammad's father, Abdullah, died before Muhammad ﷺ was born. His mother, Aminah, sent him to live with desert Arabs, as did many noble families. Outside the city in the clean desert air, the children learned courage and independence. The tribes taught them to speak pure Arabic language. Shortly after Muhammad ﷺ returned to his mother, she died. Muhammad ﷺ was an orphan at the age of six.

MUHAMMAD'S YOUTH

His grandfather, Abd Al-Muttalib, loved the boy very much, and took him into his home. Young Muhammad ﷺ went with him everywhere. Abd Al-Muttalib's sons respected his wisdom and age. To honor him, they used to put his chair in the shade of the Kaabah. They sat at his feet and listened to him speak. Once Muhammad ﷺ climbed on his grandfather's place of honor. His uncles scolded him to come down. But Abd Al-Muttalib stopped them, saying, "Leave him! By God, some day he will be a great man."

After his grandfather died, Muhammad ﷺ lived with his uncle, Abu Talib. He was not a rich man, and his family was large. Muhammad ﷺ helped earn his living as a shepherd. He longed to travel with his uncle's caravans to Syria. Abu Talib feared that the desert journey was too hard, but Muhammad ﷺ insisted.

On his first journey, he had many new experiences. When he grew older, he traveled and managed the caravan of a rich Makkan widow named Khadijah.

The caravans passed through ancient cities and ruins. Muhammad ﷺ saw fertile gardens unlike the dry valleys and mountains of home. He heard about struggles between the great empires of Persia and Byzantium to the North and East of Arabia. He learned that Persians worshipped fire and that Byzantium was a Christian empire.

A YOUNG MAN

Muhammad ﷺ grew up loved and respected by the Makkans. He was kind and generous. His honesty earned him the nickname "Al-Sadiq Al-Amin" (the Truthful and Trustworthy). He was a thoughtful person who sought truth. People often asked him for advice. He was well known for his beautiful speech, for generosity and kindness.

Once, his tribe was rebuilding the Kaabah. When it was time to move the sacred black cornerstone, several families competed for the honor. To prevent fighting, they agreed to let Muhammad ﷺ decide among them. He put the stone into a large cloth and told them to raise it all together. He put it in place with his own hands. Everyone was satisfied and peace continued.

A rich widow named Khadijah, respected Muhammad ﷺ. She knew about his good reputation. She was pleased with his work in her trading caravans, which always earned more than expected. Khadijah sent her servant to ask Muhammad ﷺ to marry her. It was a surprising offer. She was rich and he was a poor orphan. She was 40 years old and he was a young man of 25. However, they married and made a happy home with many children.

Understanding Section 2:



1. What was the name of Muhammad's tribe and where was he born?
2. Describe Muhammad's family situation as a child.
3. As a young man, what was his position in his tribe?
4. Who was Khadijah?



Prophet Muhammad ﷺ first received the message of his prophethood in a cave called Hira' near Makkah, where he used to spend time in fasting, prayer and meditation. Through the Angel Jibril, he experienced revelation of the first five verses of Surat Al-'Alaq.



Prophethood

During their long life together, Khadijah was friend and support for Muhammad ﷺ. She encouraged his search for truth and belief in Allah. Each year, he spent a month in a mountain cave called Hira'. Far from the town's noise, he thought deeply about the world and man's place in it. He hated the idols his tribe worshipped. He did not share their love of riches. He was saddened by their fighting and the way they treated women and slaves. He longed for a pure, peaceful way of life and worship.

One night, after staying in the cave for many days, Muhammad ﷺ had a terrifying experience. The angel Jibril came to him. Jibril pressed the breath out of him, telling him, "Read!" He said that he was not able to read. The angel repeated and pressed him harder, until he felt he would die. After the third time, the angel said these words, and Muhammad ﷺ understood that he should recite them:

أَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ
خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ
أَقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ
الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ
عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ

*Read: In the name of thy Lord who created,
Created man from a clot.*

Read: And thy Lord is most Generous.

Who taught by the pen,

Taught man what he knew not. (Holy Qur'an, 96: 1-5)

He left the cave and came home to his wife in a daze. He was shivering and she wrapped him in a cloak. When he was calm, he told her what had happened. He feared that he had lost his mind. Khadijah assured him he was pure and sincere. The Angel must have been from Allah. Khadijah was the first person to believe in Muhammad's prophethood. To help her husband, Khadijah went to her cousin Waraqa to ask his advice about the visit of Jibril. Waraqa was one of the Hunafa', or keepers of belief in one God, and he knew ancient writings that told about the prophets. He told Muhammad ﷺ that his vision had been true. Muhammad ﷺ was chosen by Allah for a great mission. He also told Muhammad ﷺ that his people would make it hard for him. Waraqa, already an old man, promised to help as long as he lived.

For a while, Muhammad ﷺ received no further **revelations** (messages from Allah). Then Jibril came to him in his sleep, saying:

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُدَّثِّرُ
قُمْ فَأَنْذِرْ
وَرَبَّكَ فَكَبِّرْ

*Oh you who lie wrapped in your cloak!
Arise and warn!
Glorify your Lord! (Holy Qur'an, 74: 1-3)*

Muhammad ﷺ knew that he must tell the people of his family and his tribe about the message.

Muhammad ﷺ was 40 years old when he became a prophet. He felt peaceful that he had found the answer he was seeking. He also felt a heavy responsibility. How would his people act when they heard the message? Would he be able to remain strong?

WHAT ISLAM TAUGHT

Over the next 23 years, Muhammad ﷺ would receive **revelations** from Allah and teach them to the people. The early messages taught that there is One God, named in Arabic **Allah**. The revelation taught that religion means obey-

ing the will of Allah, called **Islam**. A person who submits to God's will is called a **Muslim**. Among the earliest revelations, Muslims learned that Allah would bring everyone to life again and judge their actions after they had died. They would be rewarded with the gardens of **Jannah**, or Heaven, for faith and good behavior. They were also warned of Allah's power to punish them in **Jahannam**, or Hell.

During the next years in Makkah, the Muslims learned how to worship. They learned how to pray and established five regular prayers. They learned that Muhammad ﷺ was the last of many prophets sent by Allah. They heard that Abraham, Jesus, Moses and many others had been prophets. They all taught people to believe in and worship One God, to be kind to parents, the poor, and all of Allah's creatures. Because they had submitted themselves to Allah, the prophets earned the name **Muslim**.

THE MESSAGE SPREADS

The first to accept Muhammad ﷺ as a prophet were his wife Khadijah, his household and a few friends and relatives. The first adult man to become Muslim was Abu Bakr Al-Saddiq, a wealthy and important man of Quraysh. Muhammad ﷺ invited members of his **clan** (family group) to help. They all refused except his young cousin Ali, son of Abu Talib. He called his tribe together at a place outside Makkah, asking if they would believe him if he warned of danger coming from behind the mountain. They replied that he was always truthful. He warned them of Allah's punishment, saying that the danger was just as real as an enemy threatening to attack. Most of them scorned him and refused to believe. When he told the rich Makkan nobles that all men are equal in Allah's eyes, they laughed at him.

Some members of Muhammad's tribe accepted him as prophet and believed in the message. Many of the earliest Muslims were slaves or poor people. Gradually the Muslims increased in number. The Makkan chiefs began to feel threatened. Their power and wealth depended on the pilgrimage. They feared losing these things if they accepted Islam. They thought that their idols brought them luck or misfortune. They were afraid to give up the idols. They felt safer with the old ways of their fathers. Deep inside, many of them felt attracted to Islam and the beautiful Arabic of the message.

PERSECUTION

The Makkan leaders decided to stop the growth of Islam. First they persecuted individual Muslims. They tried everything from insults to torture. Owners punished their Muslim slaves, and a few died. Even these acts failed to make Muslims give up their belief, and their numbers continued to grow. Sons were locked up by their parents for believing in Islam. Wives and husbands disagreed and separated over the truth of the message. Quraysh accused Muhammad ﷺ of breaking up families by teaching Islam. They thought that family loyalty was even more important than truth.

During this time of persecution, Abu Talib protected Muhammad ﷺ from other members of the tribe. As long as Abu Talib lived, they could not risk harming him. The chiefs tried to persuade Abu Talib to stop protecting him. He refused. The chiefs begged Abu Talib to persuade Muhammad ﷺ to stop preaching. They offered him money to stop. They offered to make him king if he wanted power. He refused, saying, "If they gave me the sun in my right hand, and the moon in my left to give up this message, I will not do it unless Allah causes me to die."

During this time, Muhammad ﷺ allowed some of the Muslims to escape from persecution. In small groups, they migrated to a kingdom in Africa, across the Red Sea (now in Ethiopia). The king, named the Negus, was Christian. The Muslims recited the chapter about Jesus' mother, Maryam, from the Qur'an. The Negus wept and promised to protect the Muslims from harm. They stayed in his kingdom for several years.

All of Quraysh's plans had failed, and more members of their tribe were still joining the Muslims. Now the Makkans decided to make the Muslims suffer together. A written order was hung in the Kaabah. The Muslims were sent outside the town. No one was allowed to sell or buy anything from them. They might have starved if some Makkans had not sent them food secretly. After three years, some Makkans convinced their tribe to end this cruelty. Shortly afterward, Muhammad's wife, Khadijah, and uncle Abu Talib died. It was called the Year of Sadness.

THE MURDER PLOT AND MUHAMMAD'S MIGRATION

During each pilgrimage season, Muhammad ﷺ invited visiting tribes to accept the message. Even Quraysh could not prevent this. Some people from the city of Yathrib (see map, p. 14) accepted Islam. The number of followers in Yathrib grew while the Makkans made Muslims' lives more difficult.

After the Year of Sadness, Muhammad ﷺ was shown a place in a dream. It was a land with water and date palms. He knew that this would be the place where the Muslims could go to live, or **emigrate**. During the next pilgrimage, a group of 73 Muslims came to Makkah. They met with Muhammad ﷺ at a place called Aqabah. One year earlier, he had met in the same place with a much smaller group of 12. They promised to follow Islam faithfully. This time, they promised to let the Muslims of Makkah live in their city, and to protect Muhammad ﷺ in peace and in war.

Muhammad ﷺ began sending small groups of Muslims to live in Yathrib. The Makkans feared that Muhammad ﷺ would escape from them, too. If he became a leader in that city, he might threaten their trade or gain power over other tribes. They plotted to bring a warrior from each clan, or family in Quraysh to murder Muhammad ﷺ as one man. That way, Muhammad's own clan could neither resist nor take revenge for his death. Warned of the plot, he escaped secretly to Yathrib with his friend Abu Bakr. He had taught the message of Islam in Makkah for 13 years.



Understanding Section 3:

1. Why did Muhammad ﷺ visit the cave at Hira' each year?
2. What happened to Muhammad in the cave that frightened him?
3. What is a prophet? What other prophets do Muslims also believe in?
4. Did Muhammad's family and tribe accept him as a prophet?
5. What did the leaders of Makkah do when the Muslims began to increase in number?
6. Who offered to help the Muslims? Where did Muhammad ﷺ send the Muslims?



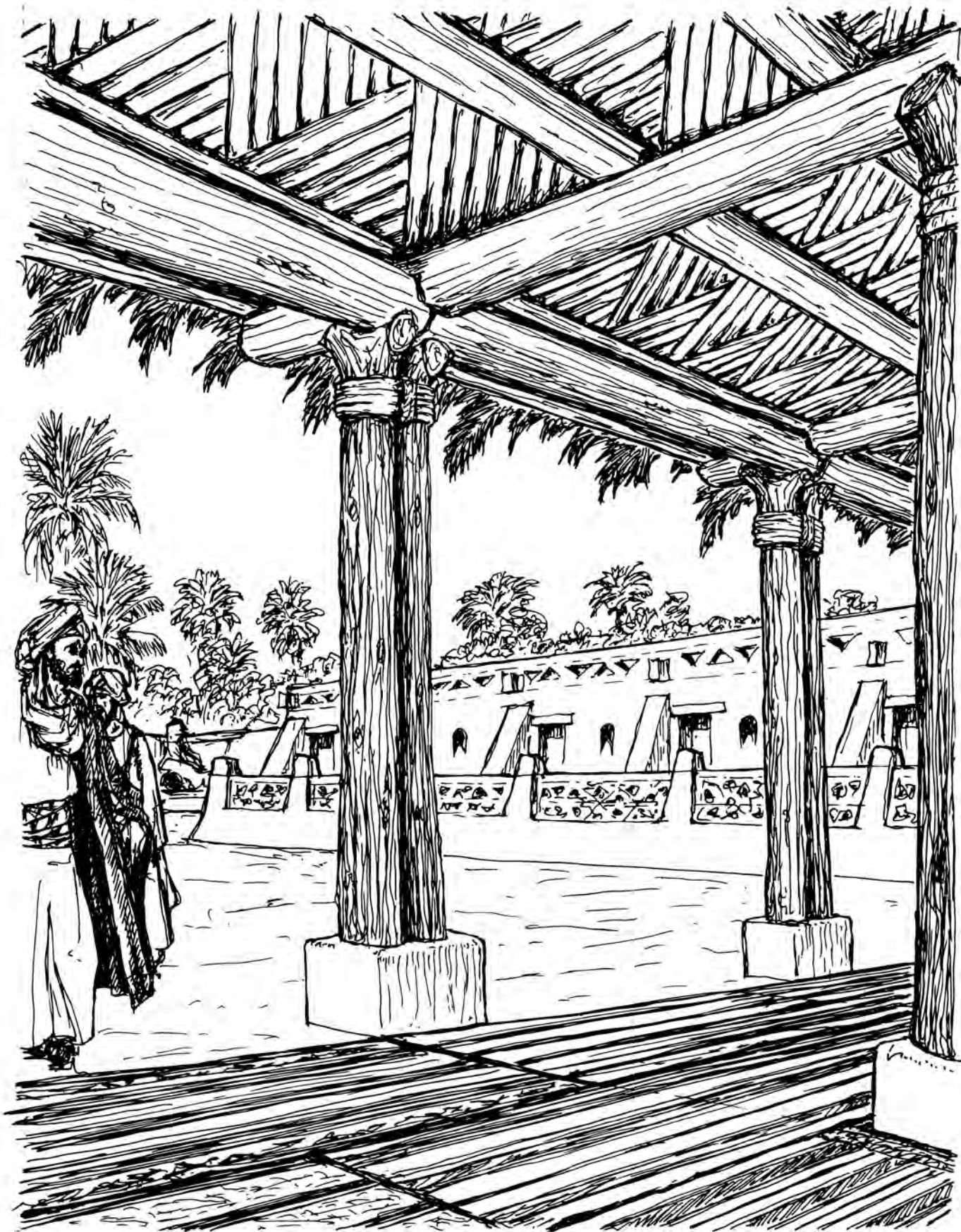
Ten Years in Medinah

This journey from Makkah to Yathrib in 622 is called the **Hijra**, or migration. It marks the beginning of the Muslim calendar, just as the Christian calendar begins with the birth of Jesus. Muhammad's work continued for 10 more years. During those few years, the face of Arabia changed completely.

BUILDING THE COMMUNITY

From the time of the Hijra, the Muslims were able to live as a true community. They still faced many challenges from the Makkans and others, but now they had a place where they could practice Islam without persecution. The name of Yathrib was changed to **Medinat Al-Nabi**, which means City of the Prophet. Muhammad ﷺ became the leader of all the tribes in the city. He drew up a treaty with the two Muslim tribes, called Aws and Khazraj. It also included the Jewish tribes who lived in the city.

The Muslims from Makkah were called **Muhajirun**, or Migrants. Muhammad ﷺ joined each of them with a Muslim of Medina, called **Ansar**, or Helpers. The Muhajirun had left all their property in Makkah. They needed help starting new lives in Medinah. Muhammad ﷺ also wanted the Muslims to learn to live as brothers, even though they belonged to different tribes. It was a new idea for the Arab tribes. Islam taught them that the ties of a common religion are stronger than the ties of blood relationship.



When the Muslim community migrated to Yathrib, the city was renamed Madinat An-Nabi, "City of the Prophet." The Prophet's camel led to the place where the masjid and houses for his family would be built. The pillars and roof beams were trunks of palm trees. The walls were made of earth, and the roof of palm thatch.

A simple **masjid** (place of prayer), was built from palm trunks and mud bricks. The Prophet's house was attached to it. Muslims established the call to prayer, or **athan**, heard five times a day in Muslim lands all over the world.

A NEW WAY OF LIFE

The message which Muhammad ﷺ received little-by-little over 23 years is called the **Qur'an**. Muslims honor the **Qur'an** as a mercy from Allah. The **Qur'an** teaches that a sign of Allah's love is showing people, or **revealing** how to live a pure and good life. To a Muslim, **Islam** means obeying Allah by following the path, or way of life that He intended. Many **Qur'an** verses revealed while the Prophet lived in Medinah contain guidance about building the Islamic community. These include many longer chapters, or **surahs**.

The verses revealed in Medinah explain many principles, or general ideas about how a community should work. They explain many details about the rights and duties of each citizen. Families are the building blocks of a community. **Qur'an** verses describe the duties and rights of each member. Everyone must be provided for and protected. Conditions for marriage and inheriting property after death are clearly stated. Muslims are commanded to share their wealth with the poor. Some verses tell how to be fair in trade, and how to prevent crimes like stealing and murder. Other verses order Muslims to keep agreements and good relations with other communities.

MANY TRADITIONS CHANGE

These rules became the new community's laws. Some rules agreed with people's traditions and customs before Islam. However, many of the new rules required big changes. Because of their strong belief in Allah, they got rid of very old traditions just as they got rid of the Muslims idols. Part of being Muslim is promising to obey what Allah and His Prophet tell us to do.

One big change was in the way women were treated. Before Islam, women had a low position in Arab society. If a baby girl was born, the husband became sad and ashamed. Sometimes the baby was buried alive before anyone found out. They only wanted sons. A wife was her husband's property, and she did not have rights.

Muhammad ﷺ ended the killing of baby girls. He taught men to respect women and give them rights. Women can speak out and take part in the community. Money that they inherit or earn is theirs to keep. Women can own, buy and sell land or goods. Most important, Islam taught that men and women are equal before Allah.

Another big change took place in Medinah. The Arabs had loved to drink wine and gamble. Some even sold themselves into slavery by losing a game! Muslims were told that these things are dangerous for a person and for the community. When the order came to give them up, the Muslims obeyed. They were taught to live a pure, healthy life.

BATTLES AND TREATIES

Unhappy that Muhammad ﷺ had escaped their murder plot, the Makkan leaders now watched the Muslims in Medinah carefully. When they heard of Muhammad's treaty with tribes in and near Medinah, Quraysh prepared themselves to fight. They saw the treaty as a threat to their power in Arabia. The Makkans looked for a way to weaken the treaty. Quraysh's own weak spot was that their caravans must pass by Medinah. If Muslims were friendly with tribes through whose territory the caravans passed, their trade was threatened. How much worse for Quraysh if some of these tribes accepted Islam! Quraysh would try to destroy the Muslims in war.

On their side, the Muhajirun had not wanted to leave Makkah. It was their home, and Quraysh were their families. They had suffered for 13 years in Makkah without raising weapons in defense. Many of them had lost their businesses, wealth and houses. After the Muslims migrated, Quraysh took over their property.

The Muslims knew that Quraysh would not leave them alone. New Muslims were coming to Medinah from Quraysh and other tribes. The Muslims wanted Quraysh to make a treaty. It would allow them to teach Islam to other tribes. Without a treaty, the tribes would be afraid of powerful Quraysh. A treaty would make Quraysh admit that Muhammad ﷺ and the Muslims were an independent power. That was a bitter pill for the chiefs of Quraysh to swallow. They wanted to show other Arab tribes that the Muslims were weak refugees thrown out by their own tribe.

To show the Muslims' strength, small groups were sent out from Medina. Without fighting, they threatened Makkan caravans and made treaties with nearby tribes. Later a Makkan was killed. Quraysh accused the Muslims of fighting during the forbidden months of caravan travel. Then a Qur'an verse came which gave the Muslims permission to fight. It declared that war and killing are evil, but keeping people from faith in Allah is worse. The Makkans had certainly tried to do that. Muslims won the first battle, called Badr. One year later, at Uhud, they almost lost the battle, and Muhammad ﷺ was wounded. After two years, Quraysh and their allies brought a large army to attack Medina. The Muslims defended their city with a big ditch. Unable to cross the ditch, the Makkans camped and waited. Finally, a storm broke up their camp and the Makkan armies went home in defeat.

During the years of battle, tribes and individuals accepted Islam. Some made peace treaties with the Muslims. Muslim teachers were sent to explain Islam and teach the Qur'an to new Muslims. Other tribes remained allies of Quraysh, and some tried to harm the Muslims.

After many years in Medinah, the Muhajirun missed their home in Makkah. Muhammad ﷺ longed to make pilgrimage to the Kaabah. Unarmed, Muhammad ﷺ and the Muslims set out to visit Makkah. That year, the Quraysh did not let them enter, but a treaty was finally made. The treaty allowed any tribe to join the Muslims without fear of attack. Quraysh now admitted that the Muslims were very strong. Muhammad ﷺ had reached his goal.

VICTORY AND THE END OF MUHAMMAD'S LIFE

Less than two years later, Quraysh broke the treaty, and an army of 10,000 Muslims marched to Makkah. When they saw the large number of tribes in full battle dress, the embarrassed Makkan leaders finally gave up the struggle against Islam. Muhammad ﷺ offered protection to anyone who stayed in their houses. The Muslims entered the city without fighting. Instead of punishing Quraysh for years of bloodshed, Muhammad ﷺ forgave his tribe. He cleaned all the idols out of the Kaabah and purified it. Since that day, the Kaabah has been a place of Islamic worship.



After the victory at Makkah, which Quraysh hardly resisted, Muhammad ﷺ and his companions cleared out the idols from the Ka'abah. Bilal stood atop the Ka'abah and made adhan. Since that day, the Ka'abah has been a place for worshipping only Allah. Muhammad ﷺ forgave the people of his tribe.

In the following years, most of the tribes in Arabia joined Islam. There were more battles, and the new Muslims of Quraysh joined the Muslim armies. Muhammad ﷺ sent letters to kings in the great empires, inviting them to Islam. Some accepted, while others replied with presents and letters. Some refused and even replied with insults. A Muslim army of 30,000 was sent to meet the Romans for the first time at a place called Tabuk. Although no fighting took place, it would not be the last meeting with Rome. New treaties were made with tribes along the way. The fame of the Muslims and the message of Islam spread further.

In 632, Muhammad ﷺ made Hajj, or pilgrimage, to the Kaabah for the last time. He gave a farewell speech, warning his people of many difficulties to come. He told them to remain true to their Islamic beliefs. A short time later Muhammad ﷺ died. Muslims were extremely sad. Some even refused to believe that their prophet could die.

Abu Bakr, Muhammad's constant friend, told the people, "Whoever worshipped Muhammad ﷺ, he is dead. Whoever worships Allah, He is alive and does not die." He reminded them of a verse from the Qur'an:

وَمَا مُحَمَّدٌ
إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ أَفَإِنْ مَاتَ أَوْ قُتِلَ
أَنقَلَبْتُمْ عَلَىٰ أَعْقَابِكُمْ وَمَنْ يَنْقَلِبْ عَلَىٰ عَقْبَيْهِ فَلَنْ يَضُرَّ
اللَّهَ شَيْئًا وَسَيَجْزِي اللَّهُ الشَّاكِرِينَ

*Muhammad is only a messenger,
like those who passed away before him.
If he dies or is killed, will you turn back? (Qur'an, 3:144)*

ISLAM AFTER MUHAMMAD—A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

Muhammad ﷺ had been prophet, leader, judge and teacher. Although his community had become very wealthy, he lived simply and left no possessions when he died. He left behind a government of just laws. He left a community with rules for relations between citizens. He left a model for a way of life.

He had taught that this is the way to worship and please Allah, to gain peace in this life and success in the life to come. Muslims would continue Muhammad's work. They would meet new problems, and must decide what their prophet would have done. In his last speech, Muhammad ﷺ had told the Muslims, "Those who are here should give the message to those who are absent." They believed it was their duty to carry the message to all people. It was a great challenge.



Understanding Section 4:

1. What event marks the beginning of the Muslim calendar? What is the date according to the Christian calendar?
2. In what way did the Muslims' situation improve at Medinah?
3. Name the two groups in Medinah who formed a brotherhood. What do their names mean?
4. Name the message which Muslims honor as Allah's word. How long did it take to complete the Qur'an?
5. List two laws of the Muslim community that came from the Qur'an.
6. Name two big changes which Islam brought to the Muslims' way of life.
7. Tell what each side, Quraysh and the Muslims, wanted to do that brought them to the point of war. Why?
8. What victory did the Muslims win without fighting? What did Muhammad ﷺ do after he entered the city?
9. How far did Islam spread by the end of Muhammad's life?