



# Life of Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>

BY

HADRAT MIRZA BASHIRUDDIN  
MAHMUD AHMAD<sup>ra</sup>

# THE PROPHET (SA) PASSES AWAY

But the Prophet (sa) was ill and the ailment seemed to advance.

Death seemed to draw nearer and nearer, and depression and gloom descended over the hearts of the Companions...

At last came the time when the soul of the Prophet (sa) was to depart from its physical frame and meet its Maker...

# THE PROPHET (SA) PASSES AWAY

The Prophet (sa), who was spending his last days in 'A'isha (ra)'s chamber,...



Again and again he said, "Woe to the Jews and the Christians. They encouraged the worship of the graves of their Prophets."



This, we might say, was his dying message for his followers...



"You will learn to hold me above all other Prophets (as), and more successful than any of them.



But take care, do not turn my grave into an object of worship. Let my grave remain only a grave...

# THE PROPHET (SA) PASSES AWAY

Others may worship the graves of their Prophets (as) and turn them into centres of pilgrimage...

...You must remember your one and only objective—that is, the worship of the One and Only God."

After he had thus warned Muslims about their duty to guard the hard-won idea of One God and the distinction between God and Man, his eyelids began to droop.

All he then said was, "To my Friend the Highest of the High—to my Friend the Highest of the High," meaning evidently that he was heading towards God. As he said this he gave up the ghost.

# THE PROPHET (SA) PASSES AWAY

The news reached the mosque... They were expecting to hear better news but instead heard of the Prophet's (sa) death.

It came like a bolt from the blue. Abu Bakr (ra) was out. 'Umar (ra) was in the mosque, but he was utterly stupefied with grief.

It angered him if he heard anyone say the Prophet (sa) was dead... There was much the Prophet (sa) had yet to do, so the Prophet (sa) could not die...

There were the hypocrites... with whom they had yet to deal. 'Umar (ra) walked about sword in hand almost as a mad man.

# THE PROPHET (SA) PASSES AWAY

...In the meantime some Companions went in search of Abu Bakr (ra)... Abu Bakr (ra) made straight for the mosque at Medina and speaking not a word to anyone, entered 'A'isha's (ra) room and asked her, "Has the Prophet (sa) died?"

"Yes," replied 'A'isha (ra). Then he went straight to where the Prophet's (sa) body was lying, uncovered the face, bent down and kissed the forehead... "God is our witness. Death will not come upon you twice over."

It was a sentence full of meaning. It was Abu Bakr (ra)'s reply to what 'Umar (ra) had been saying out of his mad grief. The Prophet (sa) had died once. That was his physical death... But he was not to have a second death. There was to be no spiritual death—no death to the beliefs which he had established in his followers and for the establishment of which he had taken such pains.

# THE PROPHET (SA) PASSES AWAY

...As he stood, 'Umar (ra) stood by him, his sword drawn as before... As Abu Bakr (ra) started to speak, 'Umar (ra) pulled at his shirt, wanting to stop him from speaking but Abu Bakr (ra) snatched back his shirt and refused to stop.

He then recited the verse of the Qur'an:

**And Muhammad (sa) is only a Messenger. Verily, all Messengers have passed away before him. If then he die or be slain, will you turn back on your heels? (3: 145).**

That is to say, Muhammad (sa) was a man with a Message from God... If Muhammad (sa) should die, would they turn back upon everything which they had been taught and which they had learnt? This verse was revealed at the time of Uhud.

Having recited the verse, Abu Bakr (ra) added to it a word of his own. He said, "Those amongst you who worship God, let them know that God is still alive, and will ever remain alive. But those amongst you who worshipped Muhammad (sa), let them know it from me that Muhammad (sa) is dead."

# THE PROPHET (SA) PASSES AWAY

The Companions recovered their balance on hearing this timely speech. 'Umar (ra) himself was changed... By the time Abu Bakr (ra) had finished the recitation of the verse 'Umar's (ra) spiritual eye was fully opened.

He understood that the Prophet (sa) had really died. But no sooner had he realized it, than his legs began to tremble and give way. He fell down exhausted.

The Companions felt the verse had been revealed for the first time on that day, so strong and so new was its appeal. In a paroxysm of grief, they forgot that the verse was in the Qur'an.

'Thou wast the pupil of my eye.  
Now that thou hast died my eye  
hath become blind. I care not who  
dies now. For I feared only thy  
death.'