

ABBREVIATED SIRAH OF OUR BELOVED PROPHET MUHAMMAD SAW

Introduction

1. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad SAW (referred to as Rasulullah SAW throughout this booklet) is the last in a series of prophets that Allah SWT sent since the time of Adam a.s., who was the first human being ever created. As a Muslim, there is much that we can learn from the lives of the prophets, who were sent down to show human beings divine guidance.
2. In this booklet, we will focus on the life of Prophet Muhammad SAW, particularly on several highlights of his blessed life. Bear in mind, this is just a brief introduction to his (SAW) life. This is just the beginning of your journey of learning about him. Make that journey a lifelong one. Make him (SAW) the inspiration of your life. Read books about him – there are thousands of those around. Listen to lectures. Again – there are thousands out there.
3. After you have completed studying this booklet, you would have acquired a brief knowledge of the following:

PART 1

- A) Main family members
- B) Childhood
- C) Marriage to Khadija RA
- D) First revelation
- E) Conversion of early Muslims
- F) Hard times in Mecca
- G) Migration (Hijrah) to Abyssinia

PART 2

- H) Year of Sorrow
 - I) Isra' Mi'raj
 - J) Migration (Hijrah) to Yathrib (Madinah)
 - K) Marriages & Madinah days
 - L) Opening of Makkah
 - M) Death of Muhammad SAW
4. But before we start, you should know that every time his blessed name is mentioned, we should say (usually just quietly) the **salawat**, which is **SALLALLAHU ALAIHI WASALLAM**. In this booklet, we will just use **SAW** as the short form of the phrase. In some books or articles, you will find **PBUH**, which means **MAY PEACE AND BLESSINGS BE UPON HIM**. It is a prayer for him, and it also shows our respect, love and gratitude towards him (SAW). It is also a cause or us to be rewarded by Allah SWT.

Anas bin Malik said: "The Messenger of Allah said: "Whoever sends salah [by saying the salawat] upon me once, Allah will send salah upon him tenfold, and will erase ten sins from him, and will raise him ten degrees in status." (SUNAN AN-NASAA'I VOLUME 2, BOOK 13, HADITH 1298).

So make sure that from now on, say SALLALLAHU ALAIHI WASALLAM each time you hear or read his name.

A) Muhammad SAW's Main Family Members

5. Muhammad SAW's real name is **Muhammad ibni Abdullah**. He was born in the **Year of the Elephant** (we will talk about the Year of the Elephant later). His mother was **Aminah**, while his father was **Abdullah**. At the time of his birth, Abdullah had already died. **Abd al-Muttalib**, who was Abdullah's father, named the baby MUHAMMAD, which was an unusual name at that time. It meant **THE PRAISED ONE**.
6. Abd al-Muttalib was a very important and a highly respected person. He was the chief of the **Hashim Clan**, which was one of the clans of tribe of **Quraysh**. Abd al-Muttalib did many good deeds during his lifetime, including providing food and water to pilgrims who visited the **Ka'abah** (a black building that in the centre of the most important mosque in Islam, which is **Masjidil Haram**, situated in the town of **Mecca**, Saudi Arabia).
7. Abd al-Muttalib had many children, among them are big names that you will eventually learn about – **Abdullah** (father of Muhammad SAW), **Abu Talib** (who took care of Muhammad SAW after Abd al Muttalib died; he was also the father of **Ali**, who later became a caliph (leader)), **Hamza** (also known as 'the Lion of Allah'), and **Abu Lahab** (a very cruel man and a big enemy of Islam).

B) Muhammad SAW's Childhood

8. It was the custom in Mecca at that time that children were sent to the desert during their early years. This was meant to give the child a healthy beginning, as life in the desert would make them strong and healthy.
9. Women of the desert would come to Mecca to offer themselves to be the nurse of Meccan babies. If the parents of the child agreed, the child would be taken to the desert for a few years.
10. In the case of Muhammad SAW, because he was an orphan, he was not wanted by the desert women. This was because the women knew that an orphan would not fetch them good money in exchange for their service as nurse. In fact, Muhammad SAW was the only baby who was not yet taken after almost everyone was ready to go back to the desert, each with a baby to nurse.
11. Among the women, there was **Halimah** - a poor lady who came with her husband and baby boy. Halimah did not want to take Muhammad SAW because of the same reason as the others. But she was desperate, and hence had no choice but to take Muhammad SAW.
12. The blessings of Muhammad SAW began immediately thereafter. As soon as she breastfed the baby, she started to produce plenty of milk (before this, when she was breastfeeding her baby son, her milk was not much at all). To add, the donkey upon which Halimah rode suddenly became strong when they were making their way back to their home in the desert.
13. Muhammad SAW's blessings on Halimah and her family continued for as long as he was with her. The land became fertile, their date trees produced a lot of fruits and their she-camels gave plenty of milk. Halimah knew that there was something about Muhammad SAW that caused all the blessings to come about. That was why, when Muhammad SAW was 2 years old and was taken back to his mother in Mecca, Halimah asked Aminah if she could keep taking care of Muhammad SAW for a bit more time. To Halimah's delight, Aminah agreed.

14. Muhammad SAW enjoyed his early childhood in the company of Halimah's children and the other kids nearby. But Muhammad SAW also spent much time just sitting alone. It is said that at one time, two angels descended upon him (SAW) and cut open his chest. His heart was washed so as to make it pure.
15. At around the age of 3, Muhammad SAW was finally returned to his mother in Mecca. He was by then a strong, healthy boy. A few years later, Aminah took Muhammad SAW to **Yathrib** where she was originally from. Aminah took her maid **Barakah** with her to Yathrib where they stayed for one month. On their journey back to Mecca, Aminah fell sick and died, leaving the 6-year old Muhammad SAW and Barakah to fend for themselves.

Yes, our beloved Prophet Muhammad SAW became a complete orphan at the tender age of 6.

16. In Mecca, Muhammad SAW's grandfather Abd al-Muttalib took it upon himself to take care of Muhammad SAW. The old man loved Muhammad SAW very dearly. But they were together for a few years only, as the old man then died.
17. After Abd al-Muttalib's death, one of his sons, **Abu Talib**, adopted Muhammad SAW. Abu Talib was not rich and had many children of his own (including Ali bin Abu Talib, who would many years later marry Muhammad SAW's daughter Fatimah). Muhammad fitted in very well in Abu Talib's family.
18. At one time, Muhammad SAW travelled to the north with Abu Talib's family in a caravan together with many other families from Mecca. Along the way, a monk by the name of **Bahira** saw the caravan and noticed that there was a cloud that followed the caravan to shade it from the heat of the sun. Bahira became interested and invited the travellers to dinner. During dinner, he asked some questions and became convinced that among the travellers, the little child with them was destined to be a prophet.
19. Indeed, the arrival of a prophet had been expected among some people of the time, especially those who had access to knowledge of the **Scriptures** (the **Bible**, the **Gospel**, the **Psalms**). There were clear descriptions of this new prophet in the old Scriptures. Knowledgeable people (like Bahira) could tell the characteristics of this new prophet because descriptions in the Scriptures were very clear and detailed.
20. As a child, Muhammad SAW was rather quiet. He preferred to think about the bigger things in life than to indulge in play like the other children. At one time he was invited to a wedding party, and he (SAW) went with his friends. But upon arrival, Muhammad SAW suddenly felt very sleepy. So he slept the whole time, missing out on the dance and music that were played during the ceremony. Such was our Prophet. Allah SWT protected him (SAW) from any possibility of losing his extraordinary purity.

C) Marriage to Khadijah RA

21. When Muhammad SAW was in his early 20s, he worked for a lady by the name of **Halla** to tend to her sheep. Halla knew Muhammad SAW to be someone who was very honest. In fact, Muhammad SAW's honesty was well known in the community, such that he was called '**the Trustworthy**' (or **al-Amin**).

22. Halla's sister, **Khadija**, a widow in her forties who was highly respected and wealthy, then hired Muhammad SAW to take her trading goods to Syria for business. Muhammad SAW went with Khadija's helper, **Maysarah**, to Syria. The trip was a great success. Muhammad SAW and Maysarah brought back a huge amount of profit to Khadija.
23. Maysarah, who had gotten to know more about Muhammad SAW during their trip together, told Khadija of his many noble qualities. As she was single at that time, Khadija, through some friends, inquired if Muhammad SAW was interested to marry her. He agreed, and they were married not long after.
24. Muhammad SAW and Khadija radiallahu anhu (RA) were blessed with six children – **Qasim (male), Zaynab, Ruqayyah, Umm Kulthum, Fatimah, and Abdullah (male)**. The males of their children – Qasim and Abdullah – died early in their lives.
25. In the years of their marriage, Muhammad SAW led a peaceful life as a merchant, taking care of Khadija's business. During this time, Muhammad SAW's reputation as a trustworthy person continued to grow.
26. At one time, when the Ka'abah was rebuilt, some tribes had a problem in choosing the person who would be given the honour of placing the famous '**black stone**' back to its original place at a corner of the Ka'abah. After a tensed discussion, they agreed that the first person to enter the area would be the one to do it, no matter who this person was.
27. When Muhammad SAW (unsuspectingly) entered at that particular critical time, everybody there was relieved because they were all happy that it was Muhammad SAW, and no one else, who would be doing the task of putting back the black stone.
28. Knowing how much this meant to the people, Muhammad SAW very cleverly asked for a large piece of cloth, where he placed the stone in the middle of the cloth. He then asked a man from each tribe to hold the edge of the cloth and carry it together to the location where the stone was to be placed. This meant every tribe had the honour of carrying the stone. Upon reaching the corner of the Ka'abah where the stone was to be placed, Muhammad SAW himself took the stone from the cloth and put it on the place.
29. What Muhammad SAW did in this incident demonstrated his great wisdom and sensitivity to all the tribes who, at that time, were always on the verge of fighting each other. During that time, fighting and killing one another even for small and unimportant reasons was quite common. That is why what he (SAW) did was wise and sensible.
30. This is just one example of how Muhammad SAW participated in the activities of his community and earned their utmost respect. There are numerous other occasions where he proved himself (SAW) to be intelligent and thoughtful. All this made him (SAW) more respected and loved among the people.

D) First Revelation

31. Muhammad SAW's rather reserved nature had led him to spend countless hours in a cave in **Mount Hira**, which is not far from Mecca. (If you go to Mecca today, you will be able to visit this

cave). Alone in the cave, sometimes for days on end, Muhammad thought about life and the God that created life. He believed in the existence of only **ONE** god, rather than the many idols that the Qurasy people believed in. He ate and drank very little at that time, preferring to focus his thoughts on matters revolving around God and worship.

32. One day, when he was **40 years old** and alone in Mount Hira, something happened to him (SAW) that changed the course of his life and that of history. **Archangel Gabriel** alaihissalam (AS) came into the cave and commanded Muhammad SAW to **READ**. Muhammad SAW, who was unlettered (at that time not many people could read), was terrified. He replied, "I cannot read". Gabriel AS then embraced Muhammad SAW and repeated, "read!", for which he (SAW) again replied, "I cannot read". Again, Gabriel AS embraced him, and again repeated the command, and again the response was the same.
33. After the third time, however, Gabriel AS released him (SAW) and said, "Read in the name of your Lord Who created. Created man from a clot. Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous. Who teaches by the pen. Teaches man that which he knew not."
34. Little did our Prophet SAW know – this was actually the **first revelation** (wahyu) that would come to him (SAW) many, many times in his life from then on.
35. Today, if you open the Quran to the last **juzuk (Juz Amma)** you will find these five ayahs (ayahs 1-5) in surah no. 96. Indeed, the very first revelation that Allah has chosen is that of READ, which implies that acquiring knowledge is a very important aspect of worship. That is why all Muslims must strive hard to obtain as much knowledge as possible. Every attempt to acquire knowledge will make you closer to Allah SWT.
36. Muhammad SAW repeated the verses after Archangel Gabriel AS, who then went away. Now alone again, Muhammad SAW, who was still in a state of shock, rushed out of the cave and ran all the way to his home. He was sure he was pursued by a ghost. But as he ran, he heard a voice saying to him (SAW), "Oh Muhammad! You are the Messenger of Allah, and I am Gabriel!"
37. Still confused and frightened, he (SAW) saw a figure in the sky – that of Gabriel's – so huge was it that in every direction that he (SAW) turned his eyes, the figure was still there, overwhelming his vision.
38. Upon reaching his house, he (SAW) asked Khadija RA to wrap him in a blanket. He was shivering all over. When he began to recover, he (SAW) explained to Khadija what had happened. Khadija RA comforted him, expressing her belief that God would not harm him (SAW) because he was one who was kind and gentle to everyone.
39. Khadija RA later went to see her cousin **Waraqah Ibn Nawfal**, a wise Christian who had read many books. Waraqah listened to what had happened and knew that the being who visited Muhammad SAW was actually an angel – the same one who visited Prophet Moses AS to bring wahyu from Allah. Waraqah warned of the possibility that Muhammad SAW would be facing with enormous challenges from his own people because of the message from Allah that he (SAW) would be propagating.
40. After the first revelation in Mount Hira, Gabriel AS visited Muhammad SAW frequently, conveying Allah's ayahs. The ayahs were later written down carefully. Until today, we have the ayahs in their

exact details, and nothing has changed from the original verses that Muhammad SAW first heard more than 1400 years ago.

41. We call the compilation of the ayahs that Muhammad SAW received from Gabriel AS as the **Quran** – the book that becomes the basis of all our actions and our plans. The Quran is the ultimate reference point that we consult all the time. We should read it and contemplate on its meanings every day. We should memorise at least a few of its surahs. We use it to guide us in our daily lives so that we are always in a state of worship to Allah no matter what we do.

E) Conversion of Early Muslims

42. Now that Muhammad SAW had received the first revelation, he understood that he had been chosen by the Creator of the heavens and the earth to fulfil a very important job – that of conveying the message of Islam to everyone. He knew it was not going to be an easy job.
43. At first, Muhammad SAW conveyed the message of Islam to his close family members. Even among his relatives, there were oppositions, particularly from his uncle **Abu Lahab**. Abu Lahab's hatred towards Islam became a cause of sorrow to Muhammad SAW. Abu Lahab eventually died in a war against the Muslims years later.
44. The first people to embrace Islam were Muhammad SAW's wife **Khadija**, his cousin **Ali** (who at that time was just a child), his best friend **Abu Bakr**, and his adopted son **Zaid ibn Harithah**. Abu Bakr then invited several of his friends who then also came into the folds of Islam. Not long later, **Bilal**, who was a slave of an important man, also became a Muslim. Bilal later became the first **muezzin** (the man who says the azan) in Islam.
45. Other early converts were Muhammad SAW's children, Uthman ibn Affan, Yasir ibn Amir, Ammar ibn Yasir, Abu Dhar, Sumayyah bint Khabbab, Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas, ibn Mas'ud, Jafar ibn Abi Talib, Abd Rahman ibn Awf, Zubair ibn Awwam, and many others.

F) Hard Times in Mecca

46. One day, Muhammad SAW received wahyu from Gabriel that Allah had now ordered him (SAW) to **preach in the open rather than in private**.
47. With this new order, Muhammad SAW's followers began to grow in number, but so were the aggressions inflicted upon the new Muslims. Many people in Mecca, especially the leaders and the nobles among them, did not like what was going on.
48. One would ask, why were the leaders and nobles of Mecca very much against Islam? Why was there so much opposition? The answer is – Islam was actually a threat to Mecca's prosperous **economy**. If Islam were to spread, they thought Mecca would lose its place as a rich economic centre in the Arabic peninsula.
49. You see, during this time, Mecca was an important city. It had the Ka'abah, which was an attraction to many. People from all over the place would visit the Ka'abah frequently in order to pray. This was the **remnants of the religion of Abraham AS**, who taught humankind to pray to Allah and visit the Ka'abah to perform **hajj**. But Abraham's religion had been distorted so much.

Although some rituals that came from Abraham AS were still practised, the people had also started to worship idols.

50. In actual fact, inside of the Ka'abah, there were many idols. The idols were objects of worship for the people who performed hajj. Mecca became famous for the idols that were placed inside and around the Ka'abah.
51. Because many people were visiting the Ka'abah to pray, the economy of Mecca grew and flourished. During the time of Muhammad SAW's life, Mecca was a thriving economic centre, with trades that catered to the needs of thousands of idol worshippers who came every year to perform hajj.
52. When Muhammad SAW preached the message of Islam, the first thing he (SAW) taught was the unity of Allah. This means, **Allah is Only One, without any partner**. He is the Only One who should be worshipped. No one else deserves to be worshipped. This message was in direct contradiction to the beliefs and practices of many people at that time, whereby hundreds of idols were worshipped alongside Allah. With Muhammad SAW's message of the unity of Allah, all the idols that were in and around the Ka'abah ceased to be relevant.
53. If the idols were irrelevant, then idol worshippers would have no reason to visit Mecca anymore. And hence, the economy of the city would be badly affected. This thought was very worrying to the leaders of Mecca. Hence, they tried their best to stop Muhammad SAW from continuing with his teachings.
54. The way the leaders of Mecca tried to stop Muhammad SAW and his followers was at first through **persuasion**. They were willing to give Muhammad SAW anything he wanted if he (SAW) agreed to stop preaching Islam. But of course Muhammad SAW refused.
55. They then moved on to **aggression**. Because many of the converts were of poor economic and social standing, it was easy for the nobles to inflict physical pain upon them. **Bilal** was among the converts who suffered much. Being a slave of a man by the name of **Umayyah ibn Khalaf**, Bilal was tied up in the hot desert with a large stone on his chest. Umayyah said that Bilal would be relieved of his pain if he would go back to their original religion. Bilal refused and continued to stand by his new faith of Islam. Finally, Abu Bakr bought Bilal from Umayyah, thus releasing him from torture.

G) Migration (Hijrah) to Abyssinia

56. After about 5 years since the first revelation, the situation was getting from bad to worse for the Muslims. A group of 16 Muslims asked if they could leave Mecca to go somewhere safer, for which Muhammad SAW agreed. Thus began their **hijrah (migration)** to a place called **Abyssinia**. They chose Abyssinia because the place was ruled by a Christian king who was known to be fair. The king was called **Negus**.
57. Upon knowing that some Muslims had left for Abyssinia, the Meccans sent **Amr ibn Al-As** and **Abd Allah ibn Abi Rabi'ah** there to convince Negus to turn the Muslims away from the land.
58. But being a very reasonable king, Negus allowed the Muslims to speak in defence of themselves before he made his decision. The Muslims, led by Muhammad SAW's cousin **Ja'far ibn Abi Talib**,

explained about their situation and made references to a surah in the Quran titled **Mariam (Mary)**, which contains information about the birth of **Isa AS (Jesus)**.

59. Negus was a staunch Christian. He immediately realised the truth of the message and the honesty of the Muslims, and so he allowed them to live in peace in Abyssinia for as long as they wanted.
60. Meanwhile, in Mecca, the oppression against Muslims was still going on, but at the same time, more and more people embraced Islam, among them, the famous **Umar al-Khattab**, who would then become one of the strongest supporters of Muhammad SAW and Islam.

H) Year of Sorrow

61. In 619 AD, Muhammad SAW's wife Khadija died. Muhammad SAW was naturally very heart-broken because he (SAW) loved Khadija very much. Khadija AS was a good wife, who supported him (SAW) throughout the years. The year of her death was called the **Year of Sorrow**.
62. Not long after, within just a few months, another of Muhammad SAW's strong supporter – his uncle Abu Talib – also passed away. Muhammad SAW was sad, more so because Abu Talib was not a Muslim. At his death bed, Abu Talib almost converted into a Muslim, but he changed his mind after Abu Lahab, one of his brothers, convinced him to stay true to the religion of their father Abd al-Muttalib and their ancestors.
63. After the death of Abu Talib, Muhammad SAW was no longer under the protection of this very influential man. As such, much cruelty was directed towards him, including from the children of the disbelievers. He (SAW) felt that Islam would not be able to be spread under the very hostile and constrained circumstances in Mecca.
64. As such, he (SAW) decided to travel to a nearby town of Ta'if in the hope of spreading Islam there. He went with his adopted son Zaid ibn Harithah. Much to his dismay, no one listened to him (SAW), including the leaders there. Instead, stones were thrown on them.
65. Distressed, Muhammad SAW and Zaid left Ta'if and found a quiet place to rest. Next to the place was a garden wall. In his sadness, Muhammad SAW uttered a do'a to Allah, seeking comfort from Him, to which the owners of the garden overheard. The owners felt sorry for him (SAW), and sent their slave (whose name was **Addas**) to give him (SAW) some grapes.
66. Muhammad SAW welcomed the kind gesture, and began to eat the grapes. But as always, he said BISMILLAH (in the name of Allah) before eating. Addas heard it and was surprised, because no one spoke like that in that country. Addas was not from that area. He was actually a Christian from a faraway place.
67. Addas asked some questions and they then had a conversation. Addas was made to understand that Muhammad SAW was a prophet, sent by Allah to guide human beings to the straight path leading to His pleasure. In his delight, Addas kissed Muhammad SAW's head, hands and feet, for, it was a big honour for him (Addas) to be in the company of a prophet. Addas then converted to Islam.
68. Addas's gesture was actually a message from Allah SWT to Muhammad SAW that no matter how bad things were, Allah would always be there to comfort and protect him (SAW).

I) Isra' Mi'raj (Night Journey and Ascent to Heaven)

69. One night, during his (SAW) sleep next to the Ka'abah, Archangel Gabriel AS (let's call him **Jibrail** from now on) came and took his arm to guide him towards an animal (a **buraq**) that was waiting. Muhammad SAW mounted on the buraq, and it took him (SAW) on a journey from Mecca to a mosque called **al-Aqsa in Jerusalem**.
70. If you look at the map of the world today, you will see that the distance between Mecca and Jerusalem is about 1,240 km, but Muhammad SAW, on the buraq, took only a few minutes to get there. Such is the greatness of Allah SWT. He is able to do all things.
71. That night, Muhammad SAW went through a miraculous voyage never before experienced by any human in history. The passage to Jerusalem was just the start of his (SAW) journey. Jibrail AS was with him all along the journey.
72. In al-Aqsa, Muhammad SAW met with several **prophets of the past** – including **Ibrahim** (Abraham), **Musa** (Moses), and **Isa** (Jesus) (may Allah bless them all peace). They all offered **solat** (prayer) where Muhammad SAW became their **imam** (the one who led the prayer).
73. After solat, Muhammad SAW was offered 2 cups of drinks – one cup containing milk, and the other containing wine. Muhammad SAW chose milk and declined the wine. This was then met with Jibrail AS's approving words.
74. Next, Muhammad SAW was taken, again by buraq, towards the skies in the next leg of the journey. The first part of the journey was from Mecca to Jerusalem – and this is known as **isra'**, which means **night journey**. The next leg was from Jerusalem to the heavens, and this is called **mi'raj (ascend to the heavens)**. Hence the term **isra' mi'raj**.
75. In the realm of the heavens, Muhammad SAW saw glimpses of **jannah** (paradise), **nar** (hell fire), and he (SAW) met with the angels in charge of the places. He (SAW) also met, again, with some prophets – **Isa, Musa, Ibrahim, Yahya** (John), **Yusuf** (Joseph), **Idris** (Enoch), and **Harun** (Aaron) – may Allah shower peace on all of them. Muhammad SAW felt that he (SAW) resembled Ibrahim AS.
76. Muhammad SAW also saw the delights of jannah and the horrendous punishment inflicted upon those who did not believe and/or disobeyed the commands of Allah.
77. Finally, he (SAW) came upon a height in the heavens where he had to continue alone, while Jibrail waited for him (SAW) at the gates of this new level. This was the **Sidrat al-Muntaha** (the **Lote Tree of the Uttermost**), where Muhammad SAW, for the first time, was to meet with Allah SWT Himself. No one, not even prophets, had ever been given this honour before.
78. At Sidrat al-Muntaha, Muhammad SAW received the command for the **5 daily solat** that Muslims until today fulfil every single day.
79. Actually, the number of solat commanded was not 5 at first. Allah instructed that we pray **50 times a day**, and Muhammad SAW accepted it. But when he (SAW) left Sidrat-al-Muntaha, he came upon Musa AS, who asked him (SAW) about the command that Allah had decreed. When Musa AS heard that Muslims were instructed to pray 50 times a day, he advised Muhammad SAW to go back to Allah to request for a lower number, because according to Musa AS, 50 was a very big number and as such, his (SAW) **ummah** (which is all of us) would not be capable of fulfilling.

80. So Muhammad SAW went back to Allah SWT to ask for the **reduction in the number of prayers**, and it was given. Yet, again and again, when Musa AS heard how many it was, he kept advising Muhammad SAW to back to Allah to ask for more reduction.
81. Finally, the number was 5, and Muhammad SAW said that he was too embarrassed to ask for any more reduction. Hence, 5 is the number of times we do our daily solat.
82. Please note that the decree for solat came directly from Allah SWT to Muhammad SAW. Unlike other decrees, the command for solat was not conveyed through Jibrail AS. This denotes the **importance of solat** in our life. For as long as we can (including in sickness and inconveniences), we should perform solat without fail. It is the first thing that will be asked of us on the **Day of Judgement**. If our solat is good, chances are, our **hisab** (the calculation of our good deeds against our bad deeds) would be good too.
83. After the meeting with Allah SWT, Muhammad SAW then went back home to Mecca. He (SAW) then related the happenings of his journey to his followers and the others there.
84. Upon hearing about his (SAW) journey, the enemies of Muhammad SAW rejoiced at the thought that with such an unlikely story, many would begin to doubt the truth of the message of Islam. For, who would believe that someone can travel from Mecca to Jerusalem and then to the heavens all within only one night? It sounded ridiculous.
85. But isra' mi'raj was not without wisdom. It was through isra' mi'raj that Allah was testing the **iman** (faith) of the people. Those who believed in Muhammad SAW and the unseen would have no trouble believing in what happened that night. On the other hand, those with disease in their heart would question the validity of this incredible story.
86. When told about the story, Abu Bakr, a companion of Muhammad SAW, said, *"By Allah, if Muhammad SAW himself has said so, then it is true"*. The ease and confidence of Abu Bakr's words reflected the state of his very pure and virtuous heart. He was called Abu Bakr as-Siddiq from then on (**siddiq** meaning, the truth, referring to the truth he attributed to all of Muhammad SAW's words).
87. The story of isra' mi'raj is immortalised in Surah Isra' of the Quran, which says: ***"Glory be to Him, who carried His servant by night from the Holy Mosque to the Far distant place of worship, the Neighbourhood of which We have blessed, that We might show him some of Our signs, He, only He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing"***. (Qur'an 17:1).

(J) Hijrah (Migration) to Madinah

88. Isra' mi'raj was a big event in the life of Muhammad SAW and his followers, but after that, life went on as per normal – ie., in difficulty and hardship. Such was Allah's sunnah – no one was exempt from being tested – not even good Muslims.
89. In actual fact, generally speaking, the higher your **iman**, the more you are tested, because being tested is a means of being raised in station in the sight of Allah SWT or being cleansed of previous sins. In the case of Muhammad SAW, his station was no doubt raised with every trial he underwent.
90. The anguish and suffering of the early Muslims is a lesson for us that, when we are inflicted with pain and misery, we ought to reflect on our past and do **taubah** (repentance) and convince ourselves that this is a test and that we have to be patient and steadfast in seeking Allah's help.

We should of course also try hard to get out of the difficulty by doing whatever we can, as long as we do not do anything against the decree of Allah SWT.

91. While the Muslims were undergoing torment due to the cruelty of the **Quraysh** of Mecca, in a nearby town of Yathrib (remember Yathrib? This is the town where Aminah, the mother of Muhammad SAW, was originally from) things were happening that would soon change the lives of the Muslims forever.
92. You see, in Yathrib, there were mainly 2 Arabic tribes – the **Aws** and the **Khazraj**. Like in many other places at that time, the tribes were always fighting one another. There were also Jews there. (The ancestors of the Jews came to live in the area because they wanted to be at the place where a future prophet was going to reside – this was what they had learnt from their scriptures – that there would be a prophet coming there sometime in the future).
93. If you remember (see point no. 6 in the notes), pilgrimage (hajj) was practiced at that time, but most of the rituals were not as per what were taught by Prophet Abraham AS. During the hajj season, news about Muhammad SAW’s preaching of a ‘new’ religion came to some of the people of Yathrib who were performing hajj in Mecca.
94. At that time, the younger members of the Yathrib community were tired of fighting, and they wanted to explore the way forward for a better future. A group of them met with Muhammad SAW, and he (SAW) was of course more than happy to explain about Islam to them. This happened in a place called **Aqabah**.
95. Upon learning about Islam from none other than the Prophet himself, the Yathrib group immediately became Muslims. They then left Mecca to go back to Yathrib, with a view of coming back to Mecca again in the following year for hajj.
96. When the time for hajj arrived the next year, 12 people from Yathrib came as a follow-up visit from the previous meeting in Aqabah. All twelve embraced Islam before they went back. Because they wanted to know more about Islam, and they wanted to spread the belief among their relatives back home, Muhammad SAW sent one of his companions, a young man by the name of **Mus’ab ibn Umayr**, to live in Yathrib to be their guide. Mus’ab was very successful in attracting more people to embrace Islam.
97. The following year, 73 converts from Yathrib came to Mecca during hajj, and an agreement was made that Muslims in Mecca were welcomed to live in Yathrib. This was a golden opportunity, given the fact that the Quraysh were still actively harming Muslims in every way they could. So began the **hijrah** (migration) of Muslims to Yathrib.
98. Group by group, Muslims migrated to Yathrib – mostly at night in secret. The Quraysh was very angry, and would not stop at harassing and abusing them when they knew that they (the Muslims) were leaving Mecca.
99. The Quraysh also understood that Muhammad SAW and his followers were getting stronger every day – now that the people of Yathrib were giving them support. The Quraysh began to be very worried and felt that they had to kill Muhammad SAW before he (SAW) could make his way to Yathrib to join his friends there.
100. So they plotted a murder plan. It was a clever plan, whereby each clan was to send one tough young man, so that all these men would together put an end to the life of Muhammad SAW.

“And when the unbelievers plot against you, to confine you, or kill you, or to drive you out, they were plotting, But Allah was (also) plotting; and Allah is the best of plotters”. (Qur'an 8.30)

101. Jibrail AS informed Muhammad SAW of the murder plan, and so Muhammad SAW made preparations to leave Mecca for Yathrib with Abu Bakr as Siddiq RA.
102. Ali RA was asked to sleep on Muhammad SAW's bed on the night the murder was supposed to happen. When the Quraysh realized that it was Ali and not Muhammad on the bed, they knew that their murder plan had failed miserably. Angry and disappointed, Quraysh prepared to pursue Muhammad SAW who, at that time, had already left Mecca.
103. Bear in mind, the distance between Mecca and Yathrib is about 450 km. Muhammad SAW and Abu Bakr as Siddiq were travelling on foot and camels in the hot desert, exposed to every possibility of being caught and killed by their enemies.
104. After a few days, they arrived at a cave where they rested for a while. It was here that the Quraysh got physically near to Muhammad SAW and Abu Bakr. But the Quraysh did not know that the two men were in the cave, because at the entrance of the cave, a **spider** had spun its **web**, and a **dove** was **nesting** nearby. Seeing the spider web and the dove nest, the Quraysh left without entering the cave, because if someone had entered it, there would not be the web and the nest in the positions they were in.
105. Such is the power of Allah SWT – anything is possible even though it seems impossible at first!
106. After a length of time, Muhammad SAW and Abu Bakr as Siddiq RA finally arrived in Yathrib. They received a very warm welcome from the people there, who had been waiting for him for a while. Cries of “Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar!” were heard, and children sang songs of greetings to expressed their joy at finally meeting with this great and noble man (SAW).

(K) Marriages & Madinah Days

107. When Muhammad SAW migrated to Yathrib, he was about **53 years old**. For the next 10 years, he (SAW) stayed in Yathrib – which was then renamed **Madinah** (meaning ‘**city of the Prophet**’) to preach the message of Islam until he (SAW) died at the age of **63**.
108. During the 10 years in Madinah, many things happened. Islam went from strength to strength, attracting so many people who saw the beauty of the message and the truth it contained. Of course, as is expected anywhere and at all times, there were also problems to be dealt with, but generally speaking, Islam grew substantially during this time.
109. The people who first migrated from Mecca to Madinah were called the **Muhajirin**, while the people of Madinah who helped the Muhajirin were called the **Ansar**. Muhammad SAW encouraged the two groups to be kind to one another as both were joined by the common and sacred bond of Islam.
110. After the death of Khadija RA, Muhammad SAW married other women – all of whom were widows except for **Aisha RA**, who was the daughter of Abu Bakr as Siddiq RA. We refer to the wives of Muhammad SAW as ‘**Mothers of the Believers**’. Apart from Khadija and Aisha, the other wives of Muhammad SAW were **Sawda**, **Hafsa** (daughter of another big name in Islam, Umar al Khattab RA), **Zaynab**, **Zaynab** (there were 2 wives who shared the same name), **Juwayriya**, **Ramla**, **Safiyya**, and **Maymuna**.

111. Muhammad SAW was the only Muslim man who was allowed to have more than 4 wives. Other men are allowed only 4, and this has become a topic of controversy among many. Please remember – we have to understand the issue well before making harsh judgements about the matter. As Muslims, we believe that Allah knows best on what is allowed and what is not, for it is He Who created us. It is unbecoming to make personal decisions on Allah’s decree when we know there is so much that we do not know.
112. Aisha RA became one of the main narrators of **hadith** (also spelled as ‘hadis’), which is the collection of the sayings and actions of Muhammad SAW.
113. The Quran and the hadith are our main **sources of knowledge** of Islam. Whenever we come across uncertainty and disagreement regarding what we should do, we must refer back to the Quran and hadith. Whatever our disagreements, what is contained in the Quran and hadith take precedence.
114. But we must beware of the fact that while what is contained in the Quran remains pure and pristine (this is Allah’s promise – that the Quran will not be altered until the end of time), some hadiths have been subjected to changes. So, when we refer to any hadith, we must make sure that it comes from trusted sources.
115. Let’s get back to what happened in Madinah in the last 10 years of Muhammad SAW’s life. Obviously, so much happened, but in this abbreviated sirah, we will highlight only a few. You must continue to read the sirah from other books and websites after you have finished with this abbreviated one.
116. The call to prayer (**azan**) was incepted, and the first **muezzin** was **Bilal**, who climbed to the top of the Ka’abah and uttered the words that all muezzins until today use at the beginning of the time for solat.
117. The **Battle of Badr** took place. This was between Muslims and Quraysh. Although the number of Muslims was very small compared to the number of disbelievers, Muslims were given victory by Allah SWT.
118. Not long after, the **Battle of Uhud** happened. Again, this was between Muslims and Quraysh. The battle took place among the hills just outside of Madinah. Muhammad SAW had ordered a group of men to position themselves as archers on the hills, and they should not, under any circumstances, leave the hills until they were given specific instructions later.
119. In the course of the fight, the Muslims were leading, to a point that the men on the hills saw (or thought they saw) that the battle was already over and that they should run down to celebrate their victory.
120. What actually happened was, the Muslims were indeed winning, but a small army of the enemy, under the leadership of **Khalid al Walid** (who later became a Muslim and fought on the Muslim’s side) came back and took over the hills, which, by that time, had been vacated by the Muslims archers.
121. This led to a change in the direction of victory. The Muslims **lost** in the Battle of Uhud. The misunderstanding of the archers, which then led to a form of disobedience, was seen to be the cause of the Muslims’ defeat. A number of good Muslims died, including the uncle of Muhammad SAW – Hamzah.

122. Although the defeat in Uhud was a blow to the Muslims, they took comfort in what's written in the Quran, which read, ***“Do not think that those, who were killed for Allah's sake are dead. Nay, they are alive. With their Lord they have provision. Jubilant (are they) because of that which Allah hath bestowed upon them of His bounty, rejoicing for the sake of those that have not yet joined them because they have nothing to fear or grieve over”*** (3: 169-170)
123. Apart from the Battle of Badr and the Battle of Uhud, there were other battles too, including the famous **Battle of the Trench**, when the Jewish tribe of **Bani Qurayzah** betrayed their promise to the Muslims and sided with Quraysh. Allah gave victory to the Muslims in the Battle of the Trench.
124. The wars that happened between the Muslims and Quraysh proved that the Muslims were by now a force that couldn't be taken lightly. The Quraysh knew that, instead of just using brute force, they now had to resort to discussions and negotiations with the Muslims as they (the Muslims) were now, physically, on equal terms with them (the Quraysh). Every day, more and more people embraced Islam, including respected members of the Quraysh community. Every day, Islam became more and more respected and appreciated.

(L) The Opening of Mecca

125. Muhammad SAW, the Muhajirin and the Ansar optimised their days in Madinah to spread the message of Islam as much as possible. Letters were written to leaders of far flung places – some of whom received the message well while others were arrogant and hostile towards Muhammad SAW's invitation for them to accept Islam and to worship only one God, Allah SWT.
126. During that time, there were peace treaties between various parties comprising Arab and Jewish tribes who inhabited the Arabic peninsula. The 10-year **Treaty of Hdaybiyah** was a major one, where it was agreed that there should not be any attacks between the agreeing parties.
127. Unfortunately, the Treaty of Hdaybiyah was not honoured to the fullest. Quraysh broke the Treaty when they, together with their ally **Bani Bakr**, attacked the tribe of **Khuza'ah**, who was an ally of the Muslims.
128. Because of this, Muhammad SAW decided to **take over Mecca**, with a view of doing it peacefully. Indeed, the Quraysh had broken their promise, which meant the terms in the Treaty was now no longer binding. After all the years of enduring prosecutions, torments, and sufferings at the hands of the Quraysh in Mecca, it was now time to claim back what was rightfully belonging to the Muslims.
129. Mecca was the beloved home of the Muhajirin, and they longed to go back there to meet up with their family and friends who were still there. Both the Muhajirin and the Ansar also wanted to do **umrah** (an act of worship like hajj, but done in a smaller scale) and **hajj** (pilgrimage; done since the time of Abraham AS, which involves walking around the Ka'abah and other rituals. Hajj is one of the 5 pillars of Islam).
130. When the Muslims were informed about Muhammad SAW's plan to go to Mecca, they were overjoyed. They knew that they, at that time, were already in a position of strength, and could easily fight off the Meccans. But fighting was not Muhammad SAW's plan. He (SAW) just wanted to enter into Mecca peacefully so that the Muslims could perform umrah and hajj, and meet up with their relatives who were still living in Mecca.
131. When the Muslims approached Mecca, the leader of Mecca at that time – **Abu Sufyan** – was anxious. Abu Sufyan, who all along was a great enemy of Islam, understood that the Muslims

were not as weak as before. In fact, if compared to Quraysh, it was possible that Quraysh would lose miserably if ever there was a fight between them.

132. Abu Sufyan was later informed that the Muslims, who at that time were camping outside Mecca, came in peace, and hence should not be stopped from entering Mecca. Abu Sufyan readily agreed, in fact, he (Abu Sufyan) made his way to see Muhammad SAW himself. In the meeting, Abu Sufyan articulated **syahadah** in the hands of Muhammad SAW. One of Islam's greatest and most influential enemy was now a Muslim!
133. The next morning, the Muslims entered Mecca without any opposition from the Quraysh. Many members of the Quraysh community were actually terrified of the Muslims as they saw them entering Mecca. This was because of all the wrongs and atrocities that they inflicted upon the Muslims some 10 years ago, and continuously (as much as they could) thereafter.
134. If the Muslims wanted to, they could have exerted **revenge** upon the Quraysh, but this **did not happen**. Muhammad SAW had asked the Muslims, particularly the Muhajirin, to forgive the Quraysh. Indeed, this is the spirit of Islam. No matter how much hurt is done on us, the best thing to do is to forgive the person who hurts us, and leave the rest to Allah SWT.
135. Upon entering Mecca, Muhammad SAW got off his camel and made **sajdah (prostration)** to thank Allah for giving him (SAW) and his followers this victory. He (SAW) then went around the Ka'abah (ie. doing **tawaf**), which is a ritual in hajj and umrah. This was essentially confirmation that Muhammad SAW and the Muslims were really not going to fight, rather, they (the Muslims) were just interested to worship Allah SWT. This calmed the terrified Meccans down tremendously.
136. Muhammad SAW then said, 'There no divinity except Allah and He has no partner. Men and women of Quraysh! Do not be arrogant, for, everyone is equal. We are all the children of Adam, and Adam was made of dust.'
137. Then he (SAW) recited this ayah: "O mankind! Lo! We have created you male and female, and have made you nations and tribes so you may know each another. Surely the noblest of you, in the sight of Allah, is the best in conduct. Lo! Allah is All-knowing, All-aware". (Qur'an 49.13)
138. Muhammad SAW then cried, "O Quraysh, what do you think I am going to do to you?' Upon hearing this question, they began to feel anxious again, for, according to the laws of war at that time, they would all be taken as prisoners. But they also knew of Muhammad SAW's kindness and generosity. So they replied, "O Muhammad, you are kind and generous. You will treat us kindly and generously".
139. Upon hearing that, Muhammad SAW said: 'God forgives you and He is the Most Merciful of the merciful.' These were actually the words used by Prophet Yusuf (Joseph) AS when his brothers (who, many years before, left him (Yusuf AS) in the well due to jealousy) came to Egypt.
140. In other words, all the abuses of the past were forgiven – just like that!
141. From that day onwards, Mecca was once again open to anyone who wanted to do umrah and hajj. All idols in and around the Ka'abah were removed, and the city had once again regained its former holiness. Allahuakbar!

(M) Muhammad SAW's Death

142. After the opening of Mecca, Muhammad SAW left the city to go back to Madinah. In the months that followed, Islam flourished. More and more people embraced Islam. There were a few battles during this time (the main ones being Hunayn and Tabuk), but other than that, the time was marked by the spread of Islam among the many tribes of Arabia.
143. When the **season for hajj** arrived, Muhammad SAW decided to make his way to Mecca again. Thousands of Muslims prepared for the journey, which would be the first of its kind since they became converts. (Several years before, a group of Muslims, headed by Muhammad SAW, had travelled to Mecca for pilgrimage, but at that time, Mecca was still in the hands of Quraysh, who prohibited them from entering it even though many in the group were actually from Mecca and still had their homes and relatives there). Now that Mecca had been opened, many were looking forward to do their first proper hajj as Muslims.
144. Throughout the journey to Mecca, Muhammad SAW and the pilgrims chanted a prayer that was started during the time of Prophet Abraham AS. The prayer, which is still chanted today by pilgrims visiting Mecca for umrah and hajj, sounds like this: *"Labaik Allahumma labaik, labaik la sharika laka labaik in alhamd wa al-ni'amatu laka wal-mulk, la sharika laka" – "Here I am, O Allah, at Your service. Here I am, You are without partner, here I am. All Praise and blessings are Yours, and Dominion! You are without partner!"*
145. In hajj, there is a sermon (khutbah) to be given by the religious figure of the time. During this hajj, Muhammad SAW delivered a sermon, which is to be known as 'the **farewell sermon**'.
146. In the sermon, Muhammad SAW reminded the Muslims that they will surely meet Allah one day, and He will question them about what they did when they lived in this world. He (SAW) also reminded them that they must follow the guidance given in the Qur'an and from his (SAW)'s life examples. If they do this, they will enter paradise and live there eternally.
147. After completing all the rituals of hajj, Muhammad SAW and the other pilgrims went back home. Not long after returning to Madinah, one morning, Muhammad SAW woke up with a terrible headache. In the next few days, his headache grew worse, until he died on the **12th day of Rabi al-Awal, in the 11th year of Hijrah**.
148. Needless to say, the people were very much saddened by his (SAW) departure, but such is life in this world – no one lives forever, not even such a great and noble Prophet of Allah!
149. Muhammad SAW was buried underneath the ground in the room of his wife Aisha RA. If we go to Madinah today, we will be able to visit his (SAW) grave, which is in the vicinity of **Masjid Nabawi**, which is the second holy mosque in Islam (the first is Masjidil Haram in Mecca, while the third is Masjid al-Aqsa in Jerusalem).
150. Alhamdulillah, we have now arrived at the end of this short sirah. Let's close our reading by contemplating on the final words of Muhammad SAW. He said that he was sure his companions would always worship Allah alone, but he feared that the pleasures of the world would attract them, and they would compete with each another for material gains. In doing so, they would forget the more important pursuit in life, which is seeking the pleasure of Allah SWT. Let's always remember the precious words of our Prophet – **never, ever let worldly pleasures become our priority**. We have so much to do in the way of Allah. This is the reason for our existence – to worship Allah. Allah should always be first in our life!