

Chapter - 3

Prophet Mohammad (PBUH)

LET'S BEGIN

What do you read in your spare time? Choose from the list. Compare your list with your partner. Talk about what and why you like to read what you have chosen.

- a. Life accounts of great men and women.
- b. Detective stories.
- c. Stories from *The Arabian Nights*.
- d. Novels.
- e. Short stories.



LET'S READ

Ahmed, Kamal, Solomon and Shabnam are sitting around their grandmother at bedtime to listen to a story. The grandmother, whom they call 'Nany', has promised them that she would tell them a true story.

NANY : Listen, children! I'm going to tell you the story of a very great man. His name is Muhammad (PBUH). He was born in 571 A D, more than fourteen hundred years back, in a respectable family in Makkah, Saudi Arabia. Those were the times when the Arabs buried their daughters alive. Most people did not want daughters.

AHMED (*interrupting*) : But, Nany, why did they kill their daughters?

NANY : Nobody wanted girls to be born to them. They considered girls inferior to boys. Therefore, whenever a daughter was born, the father would take her away, dig a pit and bury her alive. Even the cries of the daughter would not melt her father's heart.



- SOLOMON (*shocked*) : Oh, God! How could the father do it?
- NANY : All the Arabs did it. They gambled, drank wine and indulged themselves in all kinds of evil deeds.
- KAMAL : Was there no Government there? I mean, police, etc.
- NANY : No, the Arabs lived in groups called tribes; each tribe had a head who would control everything. Killing of daughters, drinking, dancing and other evil deeds were the fashion of the day.
- SHABNAM: Fashion? What do you mean?
- NANY: I mean all the Arabs would do the same, whether they were rich or poor.
- ALL THE CHILDREN : Oh, how sad!
- NANY: Yes, it was during these times that Muhammad (PBUH) was born of Aamina who had been married to Abdullah from a respectable family, called Quraysh, in Makkah. As luck would have it, Abdullah had died before Muhammad (PBUH) was born.
- AHMED : Oh! Who looked after him then?
- NANY : His grandfather, Abdul Mutalib. He was the head of his tribe. According to the Arab tradition, Muhammad (PBUH) was placed in the custody of a woman, Halima, who brought up Muhammad (PBUH) for four years and suckled him. After this, his mother looked after him. Once Aamina took him to her relatives in Madinah. They spent one month there. On her way back to Makkah, Amina fell ill and died. At that time Muhammad (PBUH) was six years old.



Then, the whole responsibility of Muhammad's (PBUH) upbringing fell on the shoulders of his grandfather, Abdul Mutalib. However, when Muhammad (PBUH) was eight, his grandfather also died. But before his death, he left his grandson in the custody of his son, Abu Talib, the elder brother of the deceased father of the Prophet (PBUH).

ALL THE CHILDREN : Did Abu Talib have no children of his own?

NANY : No, no! He had his own children also. But, he loved Muhammad (PBUH) like his own child. He took Muhammad (PBUH) with him on his trade journey to Syria. At that time, Muhammad (PBUH) was twelve. During this journey, they met a Christian monk who advised Abu Talib not to continue his journey but take Muhammad (PBUH) back to Makkah.

ALL THE CHILDREN : Why did he do so?

NANY : He told Abu Talib that he had seen in Muhammad (PBUH) all the characteristics of the last prophet that the Bible talks about. In order to keep him away from any harm, he should return to Makkah. It is said that Abu Talib returned to Makkah after selling his merchandise from which he had earned very good profit.

CHILDREN : What happened after that?

NANY : Well, like his uncle, Muhammad (PBUH) also adopted trade as his profession. He (PBUH) took the merchandise with other caravans to different places and every time earned a good profit. All the people appreciated his (PBUH) honesty, truthfulness and straightforwardness.



That time a rich widow, Khadija (RA), who had heard a great deal about Muhammad's (PBUH) honesty, sent him with her merchandise to Syria. Her servant accompanied him. It was the second time that Muhammad (PBUH) was going to Syria. On their way, the caravan stopped near a church. A priest there started observing Muhammad (PBUH) very keenly.

ALL THE CHILDREN : Nany, was he the same priest who had seen Muhammad (PBUH) for the first time with his uncle?

NANY : No, I don't think he was the same priest. He was somebody else. Anyway, people got suspicious and began to shout. The priest took shelter at the roof of the church and from there assured the people that he meant no harm, but was comparing the description of the last prophet as given in the Bible with the features that he had found in Muhammad (PBUH).

SHABANAM : Nany, you mentioned the Bible before also. What is it?

NANY : Oh! I'm sorry, I forgot to tell you. The Bible is the religious book of the Christians, the followers of Jesus Christ (A.S).

ALL THE CHILDREN : Oh!

NANY : The priest was in no doubt that Muhammad (PBUH) was going to be that last Prophet. On hearing this, the people felt relieved, and after selling his merchandise Muhammad (PBUH) returned to Makkah. Khadija's (RA) servant talked very high of Muhammad's (PBUH) honest dealings during his trade trip to Syria. Because of



his honesty, truthfulness and good dealing, Muhammad (PBUH) came to be known as ‘Ameen’ (the custodian). Khadija (RA) was so impressed that she decided to marry him. At that time, she was 40 and Muhammad (PBUH) was only 25.

SOLOMON : Oh, it means that Muhammad (PBUH) was very young.

NANY : Yes, fifteen years younger than Khadija (RA). The marriage took place. After marriage, the husband and wife spent their wealth generously to help the poor and the needy, and they lived a very frugal life.

ALL THE CHILDREN : How interesting, Nany! A rich couple giving all their riches to the poor. We haven’t heard of such a thing before.

NANY : Oh, yes. The couple would spend most of their wealth for others and lived a hard life for themselves.

SOLOMON : Nany, didn’t they have children?

NANY : Of course, they had. From Khadija (RA), Muhammad (PBUH) got two sons and four daughters. The sons namely Qasim and Abdullah died young while Zainab (RA) Umme-Kulsum (RA), Ruqayya (RA) and Fatima (RA) were all married and had children.

When Muhammad (PBUH) was 32 or 33, he started thinking about the universe and its creator. He would spend days together in meditating in one of the caves, called Hira. One day, at the age of 40, when Muhammad (PBUH) was meditating in Hira, an angel appeared before him and asked him to read. Muhammad (PBUH) said, “I can’t read.” The angel embraced him and repeated the



same word thrice. The third time the angel said, ‘Read in the name of thy Lord’. Muhammad (PBUH) was scared, went home and told his wife to wrap him in a blanket for he was shivering with fear. He related the incident to his wife who took him to her nephew, Warqa, who was a Christian scholar. When Warqa heard Muhammad’s (PBUH) account, he told him that he was going to be the prophet and the angel he had seen was none other than Gabriel (AS). What the angel had asked him to read were the first verses of the holy Qur’an that was revealed to Muhammad (PBUH) as the last book of Allah. Thus he became the last messenger of Allah.

AHMED : Nany, that means the predictions that the priests in Syria had made were true.

NANY : You’re absolutely right, Ahmed. [*Continuing*] After some time Muhammad (PBUH) openly preached Allah’s commandments and his prophethood. He (PBUH) began to invite people to Islam. He (PBUH) told people to worship Allah alone and accept Kalima (the oneness of Allah), offer prayers, called *nimaaz*, observe Ramadan (fast), give Zakat (the share of the poor in the wealth of the rich) and perform Hajj (pilgrimage to the holy city of Makkah). He (PBUH) also asked people to purify their lives by following the principles of truth, honesty and justice. Arabs were pagans and worshipped different gods which they had kept in their place of worship, the present Kaabah.

SHABNAM : Oh, the people must have opposed him.

NANY : You’re right. Not all the people heeded him and many



became his arch-enemies. His wife, Khadija (RA), was the first woman to accept Islam. Later on, Abu Bakr (RA), Umar-bin-Khataab (RA), Uthman-bin-Afaan (RA) and his cousin, Ali (RA) became his companions in propagating the new faith called Islam. The Arab tribes, especially the nobles from his own dynasty, Quraysh, tried their best to keep him away from propagating the message of God, but failed. Ultimately, they forced him to leave his birthplace, Makkah.

ALL THE CHILDREN : They forced him to leave!
[surprised]

NANY : Yes, he migrated to Yathrib about four hundred kms from Makkah which was subsequently named as Madinah. This is popularly known as *hijrat* (migration) and from here, the Muslim calendar starts. Muhammad (PBUH) spent the rest of his life there. The pagans of Makkah did not allow him and his companions to live in peace in Madinah and even forced many battles on them. Muhammad (PBUH) and his companions had to fight in defence to safeguard their faith and territory. Ultimately, Muhammad (PBUH) emerged victorious against all the odds. He established a very strong Islamic state whose headquarters were in Madinah. Muhammad (PUBH) passed away at the age of 63 in Madinah. Millions of Muslims visit his resting place every year, especially during Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Makkah. O.K. children. Now go to sleep. Good night!

ALL THE CHILDREN : Good night, Nany! Thank you for telling us this wonderful story.



Glossary

PBUH:	Peace Be Upon Him
Makkah:	name of the place where Kaabah is situated towards which all the Muslims turn in Nimaaz. Around Kaabah is the grand holy mosque called Masjid-ul-Haraam
monk:	priest
ameen:	an Arabic word meaning trustworthy, custodian
scared:	afraid
pagans:	people who do not believe in one God
heed:	listen, pay attention to
Abu Bakr.....Ali:	Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) had four very close companions – Abu Baker Siddique (RA), Umar-ibn-Khatab (RA), Uthman-ibn-Afaan (RA) and Ali-ibn-Talib (RA). Uthman (RA) and Ali (RA) were his sons-in-law while as Abu Baker (RA) & Umar (RA) were his fathers-in-law. All the four became caliphs, one after the other, after the death of the Prophet (PBUH)
Hajj:	one of the five fundamentals of Islam that is performed during the first two weeks of <i>Zilhajj</i> , the last month of the Muslim calendar
RA:	Arabic words <i>Radia Allah-u unhu</i> for man and <i>Radia Allah-Unha</i> for woman, meaning may God be pleased with him/her
AS:	Arabic words <i>Alihi Salam</i> , meaning may God's peace be upon him

WORKING WITH THE TEXT

I. Answer these questions:

1. When and where was Muhammad (PBUH) born?



2. Who was Halima? Why did she bring up Muhammad (PBUH)?
3. Why did the Arabs kill their daughters, and how?
4. How old was Muhammad (PBUH) when his mother died?
5. How old was Muhammad (PBUH) at the death of his grandfather, and who looked after him afterwards?
6. Why and with whom did Muhammad (PBUH) go to Syria?
7. What advice did the monk give to Abu Talib, and why?
8. When did Muhammad (PBUH) visit Syria a second time? What happened there?
9. How did Muhammad (PBUH) prove as a trader?
10. How did Khadija (RA) come to know about Muhammad (PBUH)?
11. Where did Muhammad (PBUH) see the angel? What did he tell him to do?
12. Who was Warqa? Why did Muhammad (PBUH) see him?
13. What was the age difference between Muhammad (PBUH) and Khadija (RA) when they got married? How many children did they have?
14. Did people readily accept what Muhammad (PBUH) told them? How do *you* know?
15. Why did Muhammad (PBUH) leave Makkah?

II. Say whether the statements are true or false. Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Muhammad (PBUH) was born after his father's death.
2. Halima was Muhammad's (PBUH) foster mother.
3. Muhammad (PBUH) visited Syria when he was four years old.
4. The first Christian priest met Muhammad (PBUH) in Makkah.
5. The Christian priests found all the signs of the last prophet in Muhammad (PBUH).



6. Abdul Mutalib was Muhammad's (PBUH) uncle. ☐
7. Abu Talib did not like Muhammad (PBUH). ☐
8. 'Ameen' is the title that Muhammad (PBUH) got because of his honesty. ☐
9. Hira is the name of the house where Muhammad (PBUH) saw Gabriel (AS) for the first time. ☐
10. Muhammad (PBUH) became the prophet when he was 33. ☐
11. The Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad (PBUH) when he migrated to Madina. ☐
12. Muhammad (PBUH) left Makkah of his own. ☐
13. The first Islamic Government was established in Madina. ☐
14. Hajj is performed in the first month of the Muslim calendar. ☐

LANGUAGE WORK

- I. Muhammad (PBUH) was brought up by his uncle.

The underlined expression above is a *phrasal verb* used in the past ('bring up' is the present form). A *phrasal verb* consists of a verb followed by a preposition or an adverb. 'To bring up' means to care for (a child) until it is an adult. If you break the phrase into two words, the words have different meaning.

Now guess the meaning of the underlined phrases in these sentences:

1. We should cut down our expenses if the shop is to make a profit.
2. Our school will come out with its progress report soon.
3. You should not disrespect your elders but carry out their orders.
4. He gave up smoking three months back.



5. They promised to support him in his elections, but later on backed out.
6. The plane takes off at 5 a.m. We should be at the airport one hour before its departure.

II. 'Grandfather' is a compound noun – 'grand + father'. Make compound words by joining words in A and B.

A

walking

feature

blood

cotton

flower

wild

bed

B

pressure

life

stick

film

roll

room

vase

III. Arrange the following words as they would appear in a dictionary. Also indicate syllable division (where necessary) by putting a dot in between each syllable.

**finger****aeroplane****write****nib****star****pad****printer****cassette****thumb****file****floppy****crescent****fish****dog****tap**



cylinder



cup



cycle



lorry



train



bus



speak



knife



headphone



lock



medal



spider



lips



picture



clock



camera



motorbike

- IV. *Ali was Muhammad's (PBUH) cousin.* The word *cousin* can be used for both male and female children of your aunt or uncle. You can use it also for the children of your mother's brother, or any other distant relation. We don't say cousin brother or cousin sister for cousin refers to both the sexes.

She is my cousin.

He is my cousin.

What words do you use in your language for the following relations. (The English relationship words are given in brackets).

1. Sister's husband (brother-in-law).....
2. Wife's brother (brother-in-law).....



3. Mother's brother (uncle)
4. Mother's brother's son (cousin).....
5. Father's brother (uncle).
6. Father's mother (paternal grandmother).....
7. Mother's mother (maternal grandmother).....

GRAMMAR WORK

I. Study the underlined words in the following sentences:

- The Arabs buried *their* daughters alive.
- Even the cries of the girl would not melt the heart of *her* father.

In the above sentences their and her are pronouns which modify the nouns following them. We use **my/your/his/her/their, etc.** before nouns as in:

- Ann likes **her** hat.
- Mehmood loves **his** children.
- I'm going to wash **my** hands.
- Do you like **your** job?
- We like **our** village.
- They don't like **their** jobs.
- Kashmir is famous for **its** beauty.

Now fill in the gaps with **my/our/your/his/her/their/its**:

1. Aamina is going to wash.....clothes.
2. Ahmed is with.....friend and.....father works in a bank.



3. We are going to invite all.....friends to the party.
4. It's a very big company.....head office is in Delhi.
5. They're going to seegrandmother who lives in a village.
6. I saw my friend, Ahmed, with.....parents.
7. I liked.hat. Did you like mine?

Note: Write '**yours**' and not '**your's**' which is incorrect.

II. You know nouns can be countable or uncountable. Uncountable nouns usually do not take the plural marker **-s/es** at the end. We, therefore, use determiners like **some**, **any**, **much**, etc. with them. **Some** is used with uncountable noun and **any** is also used with uncountable. **Many** is used with countable nouns only. For example:

- I must buy **some** coffee and juice.
- Do you have **any** money with you?
- There isn't **much/any** time left now.
- Raja has **many** pencils in his box.

There are many uncountable nouns related to different pieces of clothes which are always available in pairs – gloves, socks, shoes, etc. With these nouns we usually use '**a pair of** –'. Which of the following nouns will take 'a pair of.....' before them:

milk	trousers	tongs	bread
chocolate	jeans	breeches	pyjamas
shorts	rice	trunks	cheese

III. Muhammad (PBUH) said to the angel, "I can't read."

'Can't' is the contracted form of 'cannot', which is the negative form of 'can'. It indicates 'inability' to do something'. If you have to say that you have the ability to do



something you can say, “I can do it”. **Can** is a modal verb. In the following sentences the underlined words are all **modal verbs** which express different ideas (given in brackets).

- i. She can solve this problem on her own. We shouldn't interfere at all. (EXPRESSING ABILITY)
- ii. I can go there. I'm not afraid of the boss. (EXPRESSING POSSIBILITY)
- iii. Can I have your pen, please? (SEEKING PERMISSION)
- iv. I may visit him if I go to Delhi next month. (EXPRESSING POSSIBILITY)
- v. 'May I come in, please?' 'Yes, Come in.' (SEEKING PERMISSION)
- vi. We might visit them. (EXPRESSING POSSIBILITY).
- vii. You must/should see me in the office tomorrow morning. (EXPRESSING OBLIGATION)
- viii. You must be Japanese. (EXPRESSING POSSIBILITY)

What would you say in the following situations?

- a. You don't have your textbook with you. Your friend has. You ask for it.
You say: _____?
- b. You wish to apply for leave and go to Headmaster's room. Before you enter the room.
You say: _____?
- c. Many boys are swimming in the lake. You also know swimming. You tell another friend about it.
You say: _____.
- d. You are planning to visit Delhi. You expect to see your friend, Mohan, there. You talk about this possible meeting to a friend.
You say: _____.



- e. You see a foreign tourist in the market, but you can't make out where he is from. You feel he is from Italy. You talk to him and tell him.

You say: _____

- f. You are away from home and you want to ring your family up. There is a telephone at a shop. You go to the shopkeeper and seek his permission to use his phone.

You say: _____.

- g. Your friend, Waseem, is ill. You inform another common friend about it, suggesting to call on him.

You say: _____

IV. Study the following sentences from the text:

We haven't heard of such a thing before.

We use '*have/ has (or haven't/ hasn't)*' + *past participle* form of the main verb (*hear, heard*) to make *present perfect* tense, and for an *action in the past* with a result *now* as in:

- You *haven't cleaned* your shoes. (You can't wear them like that.)
- I *have lost* my book. (I can't find it now.)
- He *has/hasn't gone* to bed.

Now complete the sentences with a verb from the list .Use have/has + past participle of the verb). The first one is done for you:

VERBS: finish, go, read, take, do, paint

- a. 'Are you still writing the letter?' 'No, I *have finished* it'
- b. 'Is Waseem here?' 'No, he.....to school.'
- c. I can't find my handkerchief. Somebody.....it.



- d. 'Do you want this book?' 'No, thanks. I it'
- e. Waseemhomework. He's playing now.
- f. His room looks different. He.....it



LET'S TALK

- I. Collect as much information as you can about the life of one of the following:

Jesus Christ, Mahatma Buddha, Guru Nanak

Work in groups and each group shall make a presentation before the class. Acquire more information about the life of the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) from any book in your library.

- II. You have read that the holy Qur'an was revealed to the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the Muslims regard it as the last word of God. Collect as much information as you can about one of the following books and talk to a partner about it.

The Qur'an, The Baghavad Gita, The Bible, The Granth Sahib



LET'S WRITE

On the basis of what you have discussed in the classroom in **Let's Talk**, write a brief account of the person. Compare your writing with some of your classmates. When you write a brief account of that person, it is called a personality profile.

Write a profile of about 100 words about a person who has impressed you the most.

You have read about the prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his (PBUH) birth, parentage, where he (PBUH) grew up, what occupation he (PBUH) had, and many other things.

- Write a brief biographical sketch about the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in your own words.



DO IT YOURSELF

Mosque is a place for Muslims to worship Allah. Other people also worship God in their own way.

Write down the name of the community against the place of worship mentioned below:

Temple

Gumpa

Church

Gurudwara

Synagogue

The following pictures represent different religions. Identify which picture represents what religion? Write the names of the religions in your notebook. Also, collect more pictures about other religions you know. Check your list with the partners of your group.



