

The story of Muhammad

Muhammad was a Prophet in the religion of Islam. He was the last Prophet in the religion and is sometimes called the 'Seal of the Prophets.' The word Prophet means messenger. He was to become a great Muslim leader. Muhammad was born in Makkah and he was poor because both of his parents had died by the time he was 6.

Muhammad was a reliable man. When he was 25, he married his employer; a rich 40 year old widow called Khadija. He could have led a very easy life but he was upset with conditions in Makkah. Muhammad was upset by the way many people behaved. They lived bad lives, fought with each other and worshipped many different idols. Muhammad began to spend a lot of time alone in the mountain caves thinking about these things and praying. He began to have dreams and visions. Muslims believe that he heard the word of God, spoken by the Angel Gabriel.

Muhammad himself could not read or write, but he told others what he had heard and the words were later written down. They became the first words of the Qur'an.

Muhammad began to preach Islam to the people. He said 'Stop worshipping all these idols'. There is only one God'. But the people of Mecca would not listen to him. They tried to kill him. When he was invited to another town called Medina, he left Mecca.

In Medina, Muhammad was welcomed and he had the first mosque built so that people could go there to worship God.

He taught that:

- People should follow God's law
- People should love each other as equals,
- People should be kind and helpful
- People should help those in need

His message became popular and in the end even the people of Mecca believed him and accepted Islam. After that Islam spread quickly to many other countries.