

About the Wives and Children of the Prophet Muḥammad

Al-Ḥārith—Ibn Saʿd—Hishām b. Muḥammad: My father reported to me that the Messenger of God married fifteen women [I27] and consummated his marriage with thirteen. He combined eleven at a time and left behind nine.¹

He married Khadījah bt. Khuwaylid b. Asad b. ʿAbd al-ʿUzza in pre-Islamic days when he was twenty and some years old.² She was the first [woman] whom he married....She bore eight children with the Messenger of God: al-Qāsim, al-Ṭayyib, al-Ṭāhir, ʿAbdallāh, Zaynab, Ruqayyah, Umm Kulthūm, and Fāṭimah.

Abū Jaʿfar [al-Ṭabarī]: The Messenger of God did not marry another woman during the life of Khadījah until she passed away. When she died, the Messenger of God got married, but [opinions] differ as to whom he married first after Khadījah. Some say that it was ʿĀʾishah bt. Abī Bakr al-Ṣiddīq, while others say that it was Sawdah bt. Zamʿah b. Qays b. ʿAbd Shams b. ʿAbd Wudd b. Naṣr. As for ʿĀʾishah, when he married her she was very young and not yet ready for consummation,³ whereas Sawdah was already married before....

ʿĀʾishah states: We came to Medina and Abū Bakr took up quarters in al-Sunḥ among the Banū al-Ḥārith b. al-Khazraj. The Messenger of God came to our house and men and women of the *Anṣār* gathered around him. My mother came to me while I was being swung on a swing between two branches and got me down. [1770] Jumaymah, my nurse, took over and wiped my face with some water and started leading me. When I was at the door, she stopped [I31] so I could catch my breath. I was then brought [in] while the Messenger of God was sitting on a bed in our house. [My mother] made me sit on his lap and said, “These are your relatives. May God bless you with them and bless them with you!” Then the men and women got up and left. The Messenger of God consummated his marriage with me in my house when I was nine years old. Neither a camel nor a sheep was slaughtered on behalf of me. Only Saʿd b. ʿUbādah sent a bowl of food which he used to send to the Messenger of God.

ʿAlī b. Naṣr—ʿAbd al-Ṣamad b. ʿAbd al-Wārith—ʿAbd al-Wārith b. ʿAbd al-Ṣamad—his father—Abān al-ʿAṭṭār—Hishām b. ʿUrwah—ʿUrwah: He wrote to ʿAbd al-Malik b. Marwān stating that he had written to him about Khadījah bt. Khuwaylid, asking him about when she died. She died three years or close to that before the Messenger of God’s departure from Mecca, and he married ʿĀʾishah after Khadījah’s death. The Messenger of God saw ʿĀʾishah twice—[first when] it was said to him that she was his wife (she was six years old at that time), and later [when] he consummated his marriage with her after coming to Medina when she was nine years old.

(The report goes back to Hishām b. Muḥammad. See above, I, 1766.) Then the Messenger of God married ʿĀʾishah bt. Abī Bakr, whose name is ʿAtīq b. Abī Quḥāfah, who is ʿUthmān, and is called ʿAbd al-Raḥmān b. ʿUthmān b. ʿAmir b. ʿAmr b. Kaʿb b. Saʿd b. Taym b. Murrah. [The Prophet] married her three years before the Emigration, when she was seven years old, and consummated [1771] the marriage when she was nine years old, after he had emigrated to Medina in Shawwāl. She was eighteen years old when he died. The Messenger of God did not marry any maiden except her.

¹Ibn Hishām (*Ṣīrah*, IV, 293): He married thirteen women and left behind nine. Ibn al-Athīr (*Kāmil*, II, 307), reporting on the authority of Ibn al-Kalbī, gives the same account as that of Ṭabarī. See also Ibn Kathīr, *Ṣīrah*, IV, 580. Watt, *Muhammad at Medina*, 393-99, and Gaudefroy-Demombynes, *Mahomet*, 223-33, give a comprehensive list. The latter tries to justify Muḥammad’s nine wives (at the same time) by the Qurʾanic verse 4:3, by adding the numbers two, three, and four. The sequence of his marriages, as given by Ibn Ishāq, *Kitāb al-Mubtadaʾ*, 227-50, is as follows: First Khadījah, then Sawdah, then ʿĀʾishah, then Ḥafṣah, then Zaynab bt. Khuzaymah, then Umm Ḥabībah, then Umm Salamah, then Zaynab b. Jahsh, then Juwayriyyah, then Ṣafiyyah, and then Maymūnah.

²Muḥammad’s age at the time of his marriage with Khadījah is generally given as twenty-five, but some sources state that he was twenty-one, or thirty. Her age, on the other hand, is generally given as forty; however, according to some reports she was either twenty-eight or two years older than Muḥammad. She died in Ramaḍān, tenth year of the mission (or three years before the Emigration). Ibn Saʿd, *Ṭabaqāt*, VIII, 7-27, Ibn Kathīr, *Ṣīrah*, IV, 581.

³She was six years old when the Prophet married her in Shawwāl, tenth year of the mission. The marriage was consummated in Shawwāl in Medina when she was nine years old. She died in Ramaḍān 58/678. Ibn Saʿd, *Ṭabaqāt*, VIII, 39-56; Balādhurī, *Ansāb*, I, 409-21.