

# **12<sup>th</sup> RABIUL AWWAL**

## **The Blessed Birth And Demise of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W)**

### **The Birth of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W)**

The month of Rabiul Awwal is the most significant month in the Islamic history, because humanity was blessed in this month by the birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W). On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Rabiul Awwal 571 C.E the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) rose like the midday sun from the horizon of Arabia and dissipated the intense darkness around the globe.

*“Behold! There was born into the world of sense the unlettered Prophet. Noble of birth, but nobler still in the grace and wisdom of human love and human understanding. Dowered by the key which opened to him the enchanted palace of nature; marked out to receive and preach in burning words the spiritual truth and message of the Most High. Muhammad (S.A.W) came in the fullest blaze of history; with no learning he put to shame the wisdom of the learned. Dutifully he carried out the menial tasks of the family; he kindled the fire, swept the floor, milked the cows and mended his own shoes and garments. With pasture folk he lived and worked and won their love. In hills and valleys, caves and deserts he wandered but never lost his way to truth and righteousness. From his pure and spotless heart the angels washed off the dust that flew around him. Through the ways of crooked city folk, he walked upright and straight, and won from them the ungrudging name, of the man of faith who never broke his word”.*

### **A Most Remarkable Personality**

For long there had not anyone appeared, who could by the charm of his personality and the exquisiteness of his character, claim the unqualified devotion of his fellowmen and then divert it into the right channel. His leadership stands unparalleled in the annals of history. His admirers reported that they had not seen the like of him anywhere in the world. Hearts were drawn to him as if they had been waiting all the while only to be pulled by the magnetism of his personality. History cannot provide a single instance of anyone meeting with such love, obedience and respect as he inspired in his people. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) despised the pomp of royalty and stood for all humanity. He made his special care, all those whom the world neglected or oppressed, orphans, women, slaves and those in need of food, comfort, mental solace, spiritual strength or virtues downtrodden in the haunts of men.

### **The Demise of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W)**

In the month of Muharram, Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) fell ill with fever. As the illness became worse from day to day, then Prophet (S.A.W) sought permission from his wives to spend his final days in the house of Hazrat Aishah (R.A). On Monday 12th Rabiul Awwal 10 A.H. at the age of 63, the greatest leader of mankind ever to have walked on the face of earth passed away.

### **Significance of Rabiul Awwal**

The greatest virtue of the month of Rabiul Awwal is that within, the blessed birth of the noblest of creation, the mercy unto mankind, the final and most beloved Prophet of Allah, was born. Similarly, the month in which he was born also witnessed the demise of the Prophet of Allah. To commemorate the virtues and blessings of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) is an outstanding form of worship; which enhances one's faith and raises one's stages. To relate his words, his actions, his character, his habits, his smiling, his weeping, his walking and every other aspect of his noble life with sincerity and devotion is a source of guidance and reward. Each and every incident of his noble life carries great light and is a perfect example for humanity. Those who practise and invite others towards his noble ways, the Sunnah, are truly engaged in a virtuous form of Ibadah. However the remembrance of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) should not be restricted to this one month only but rather his remembrance be ever present in the veins of the believers at all times. In fact true love for Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) entails that he should be remembered so excessively that every breath be in accordance to his noble lifestyle.

### **Activities on this Blessed Day**

There is no place for birthday or death anniversaries in Islam – The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) never celebrated his birthday himself and nor did ever his blessed companions. In fact, even after the demise of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W), his companions never celebrated the birthday or death anniversary of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) despite their unparalleled and profound love towards him. Instead they devoted their lives for promoting the cause of Islam, for bringing his teachings into practice, for conveying his message to the four corners of the world.

There is no special religious mode of worship on the night or the day of 12th Rabiul Awwal as this will be regarded as an innovation (Bid'ah) in religion. The best way to love and respect the Prophet (S.A.W) is to follow his sunnah as the Prophet (S.A.W) himself has been reported to have said: *“Whoever revives my sunnah, loves me and whoever loves me will be with me in Paradise”*.

Another huge misconception in the Muslim communities is to take part in celebrations of “Milad-un-Nabi” often practised on the 12<sup>th</sup> of Rabiul Awwal, like holding processions, constructing artificial tomb of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) and illumination of buildings and roads. These are pure act of Bid'ah (innovation) and is strictly prohibited and condemned in the practice of Shariah in Islam. We should not practice or follow any traditions, unless it is established by authentic sources of Hadith whereby the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) or his companions have recognised it.

As otherwise it will be regarded as bid'ah (innovation) and about which the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) has clearly stated: *“Whoever invents something in our religion which is not a part of it, it is to be rejected”*. And the Holy Qur'aan has clearly pronounced on the occasion of the last Hajj by the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) *“Today, I have completed (the teachings of) your religion”*. Therefore, it simplifies that all the teachings of Islam were communicated to the Muslims through the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W). Thereafter, no being is allowed to add anything to the religion as such additions will be termed as Bid'ah (innovation) in religion.