



## His ﷺ Early Childhood

It was the custom of the Arabs in the Hijaz to hire wet nurses for their infants, whom they would often even send away to the towns and villages where the wet nurses lived. So when the Prophet ﷺ was born, his grandfather set about finding a woman to nurse him ﷺ.

During this time, a woman called Halima Abu Dhuayb left her country, which was ravaged by famine, and travelled to Mecca in search of work. She had with her her husband and her little son. The camel the family brought with them was so starved that it did not yield a single drop of milk. Halima herself couldn't produce milk to feed her baby, who wailed all night out of hunger.

When Halima reached Mecca, she hoped to find work as a wet nurse. She heard that a family was looking to hire one for their baby boy, Muhammad, but all the wet nurses refused to take the job when they learned he was an orphan. They were afraid the boy's family would not be able to pay since the father had passed away.

Halima, having found no other baby to nurse, and not wanting to return to her home without any money, took the job. Her husband said, "perhaps God will bless us on his account."

This, indeed, was what happened. As soon as Halima took the baby to her, she produced so much milk that it was enough to feed the new foster boy and her own son. Even more astonishing, when her husband tried to milk their she-camel, he found that the udder was filled with milk!

Halima and her husband knew that all this increase they were suddenly receiving was because of the little boy, Muhammad. When they returned to their own camp, the rest of their flock also started producing milk, as if never affected by the year's famine. This bounty continued for a whole two years, while Halima continued to nurse the Prophet ﷺ. When it was time to return him to his mother, Halima pleaded to be allowed to keep the Prophet ﷺ with her until he was a little older.

The Prophet ﷺ returned to live with Halima and her family, and it was at this point in his early childhood that a miraculous event took place. The Prophet ﷺ and his foster brother were out tending the lambs when two figures clad in white seized the Prophet ﷺ and rested him on the ground. Later, at Halima's camp, when he ﷺ was asked what had happened to him, the Prophet told them that the two figures opened his stomach all the way up to the chest and seemed to be looking for something. When he was older, the Prophet would explain exactly what had happened to him, saying: