

**DIGGING AN ANCIENT CITY  
IS DIFFICULT.... DIGGING  
FOR THE MOST  
IMPORTANT PERSON  
FROM THAT CITY IS EVEN  
MORE SO**

# Sources for Mecca and Muhammad

1. Understanding means and styles of self-perceptions
  2. Understanding the traditions
  3. Understanding Quran
- CONCLUSIONS

# Sources for Mecca and Muhammad

## 1. Understanding means and styles of self-perceptions

- The ninth century man of letters, Ibn Qutayba quotes prophet's companion Hudayfa ibn al-Yaman: “we are Arab people; when we report, we predate and postdate, we add and we subtract at will, but we do not mean to lie.”
- Hifz and Hafiz
- “Tradition” as performance and as a source of authority (Handout on traditions)
- Story and its teller

# Sources for Mecca and Muhammad

1. Understanding means and styles of self-perceptions
  2. Understanding the traditions
    - Purpose of the traditions
    - Quran and the traditions
    - Silsila and authority
  3. Understanding Quran
- CONCLUSIONS

# Sources for Mecca and Muhammad

1. Understanding means and styles of self-perceptions
  2. Understanding the traditions
  3. Understanding Quran
    - When/how was it written
    - When/how was it compiled
    - Quran and the contemporary events
- CONCLUSIONS

# Sources for Mecca and Muhammad

1. Understanding means and styles of self-perceptions
  2. Understanding the traditions
  3. Understanding Quran
- **CONCLUSIONS**
    - A protracted, uneven formation process
    - Islam as the consequence of a continued dialogue between religions



**the patron saint of  
communication  
workers**

Mi'raj-nama (Ascension  
of Muhammad').  
From the Sarai Albums.  
Tabriz, beginning of the  
14th century.





# Mecca of Muhammad

1. Establishment of the Quraysh rule in Mecca: c.400 CE
2. Tribes
3. Commerce
4. Shrine: Ka'ba
5. Conclusion

# Mecca of Muhammad

## 1. Establishment of the Quraysh rule in Mecca: c.400 CE

- “Qusayy, you are the son of Kilab ibn Murra ibn Kaab ibn Luayy ibn Ghalib ibn Fihr ibn Malik ibn al-Nadr ibn Kinana al-Qurashi”
- Qusayy-Kinana-Ishmael (8+15 generations)

## 2. Tribes

## 3. Commerce

## 4. Shrine: Ka'ba

## 5. Conclusion

## Al-Tabari, 9<sup>th</sup> century Arab Historian:

“Qusayy took control of the Ka‘ba and rule over Mecca and gathered together his tribe from their dwellings and settled them there. He assumed rule over his tribe and the people of Mecca, and they accepted him as their king. ... He held privileges of being doorkeeper of the Ka‘ba, providing the pilgrims with food and drink, presiding over the assembly, and appointing standard bearers, thus taking all the honors of Mecca for himself. He also divided Mecca into quarters for his tribe, settling every clan of the Quraysh into the dwelling places assigned to them in Mecca”

# Mecca of Muhammad

1. Establishment of the Quraysh rule in Mecca: c.400 CE

2. Tribes

- Uneven and dynamic groups
- Subgroups within a tribe
- *Mala'* or the Grand Council

3. Commerce

4. Shrine: Ka'ba

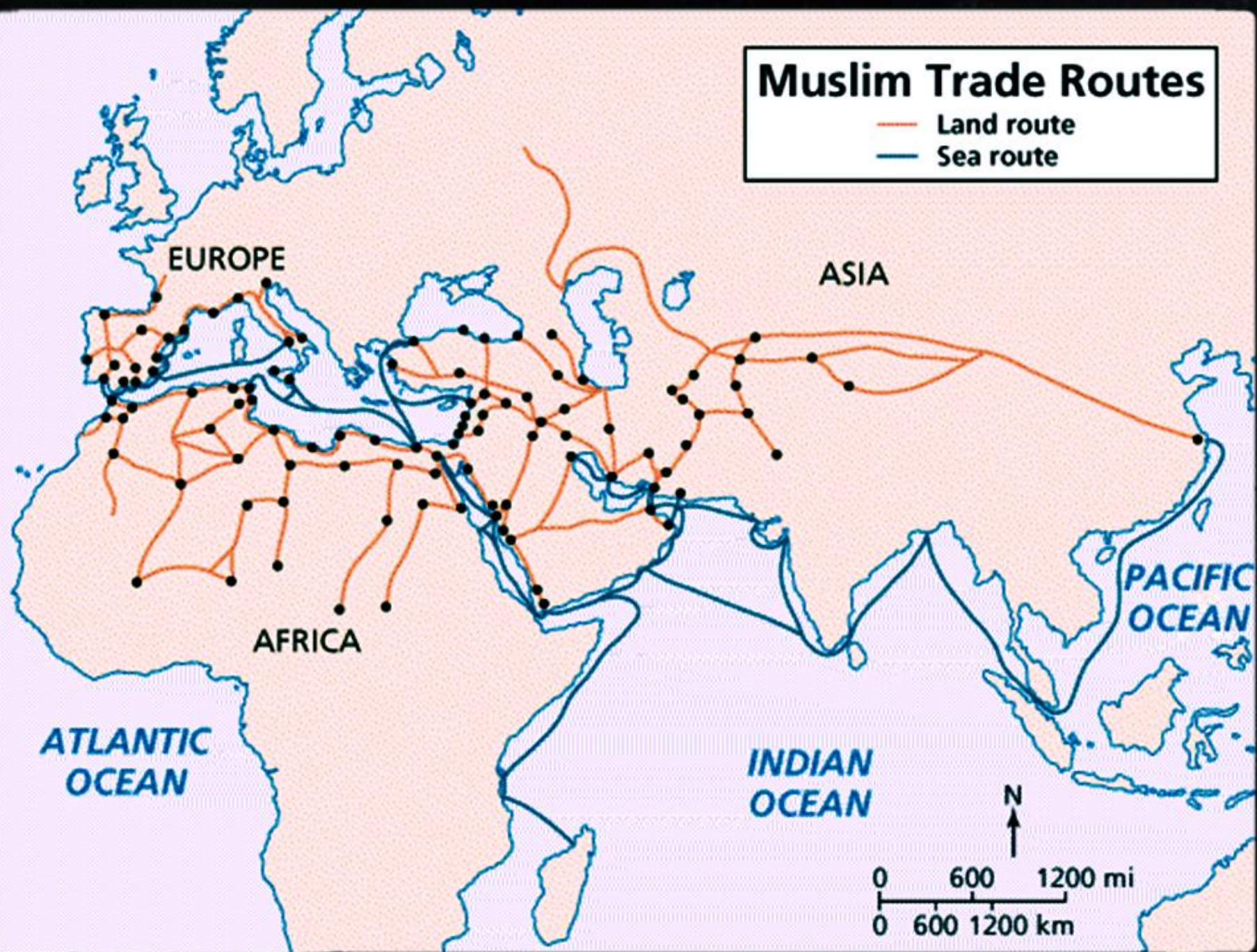
5. Conclusion

# Mecca of Muhammad

1. Establishment of the Quraysh rule in Mecca: c.400 CE
2. Tribes
3. Commerce
  - Its place in the traditions: source of inequality
  - Its questionable nature: what was being traded?
4. Shrine: Ka'ba
5. Conclusion

# Muslim Trade Routes

- Land route
- Sea route



# Mecca of Muhammad

1. Establishment of the Quraysh rule in Mecca: c.400 CE
2. Tribes
3. Commerce
4. Shrine: Ka'ba
  - Who built it?
  - *Haram*
  - Rituals regarding Ka'ba and *haram*
5. Conclusion

## Quran 2: 125-127

Remember We made the House a place of assembly for the people and a secure place; and take the station of Abraham as a prayer-place; and We have made a pact with Abraham and Ismael that they should sanctify My House for those who circumambulate it, those using it as a retreat, who bow or prostrate themselves there.

And remember Abraham said: My Lord, make this land a secure one, and feed its people with fruits, those of them who believe in God and the Last Day ...

And remember Abraham raised the foundations of the House, yes and Ishmael too, (saying) accept (this) from us, for indeed You are all-hearing and all-knowing.



## Ibn al-Kalbi, 9<sup>th</sup> century Arab Historian:

Among these devotional practices were some which had come down from the time of Abraham and Ishmael, such as the veneration of the House and its circumambulation, the *Hajj*, the *'umra* (lesser pilgrimage), the 'standing' on Arafat and Muzdalifa, sacrificing she-camels, and raising the voice (in acclamation of God) at the Hajj, but they introduced into the latter things that did not belong to it.

The Arabs were accustomed to offer sacrifices before all these idols, and stones. Nevertheless, they were aware of the excellence and superiority of the Ka'ba, to which they went on pilgrimage and visitation. What they did on their travels was merely a perpetuation of what they did at the Ka'ba because of their devotion to it.

# Mecca of Muhammad

## 5. Conclusion

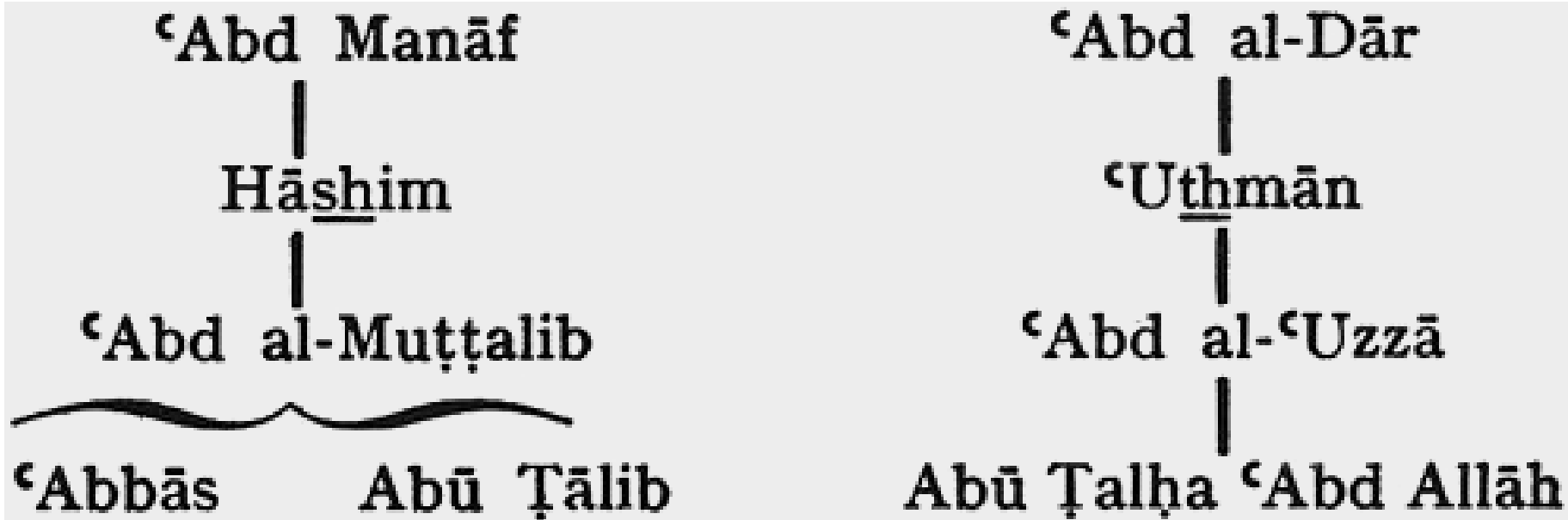
- “Mecca was the site of frequent tribal strife in the generations after Qusayy. It was not merely individuals who were struggling for power—the power most often symbolized by control of the religio-economic functions associated with the rituals of the Haram—but extended families.”

F. E. Peters, *Muhammad and the Origins of Islam*  
(New York: SUNY Press, 1994) p.29.

# Mecca of Muhammad

## 5. Conclusion

- “Mecca was the site of frequent tribal strife in the generations after Qusayy. It was not merely individuals who were struggling for power—the power most often symbolized by



# Muhammad of Mecca

1. Born c.570 CE
2. Related to Hashim and 'Abd al-Muttalib
3. Marriage to Khadija
4. Reconstruction of Ka'ba 605 CE
5. The revelations and deaths
6. The Hijra 622 CE
7. Conclusion

# Muhammad of Mecca

## 1. Born c.570 CE

- Miracle birth
- Loss of father

## 2. Related to Hashim and 'Abd al-Muttalib

## 3. Marriage to Khadija

## 4. Reconstruction of Ka'ba 605 CE

## 5. The revelations and deaths

## 6. The Hijra 622

## 7. Conclusion

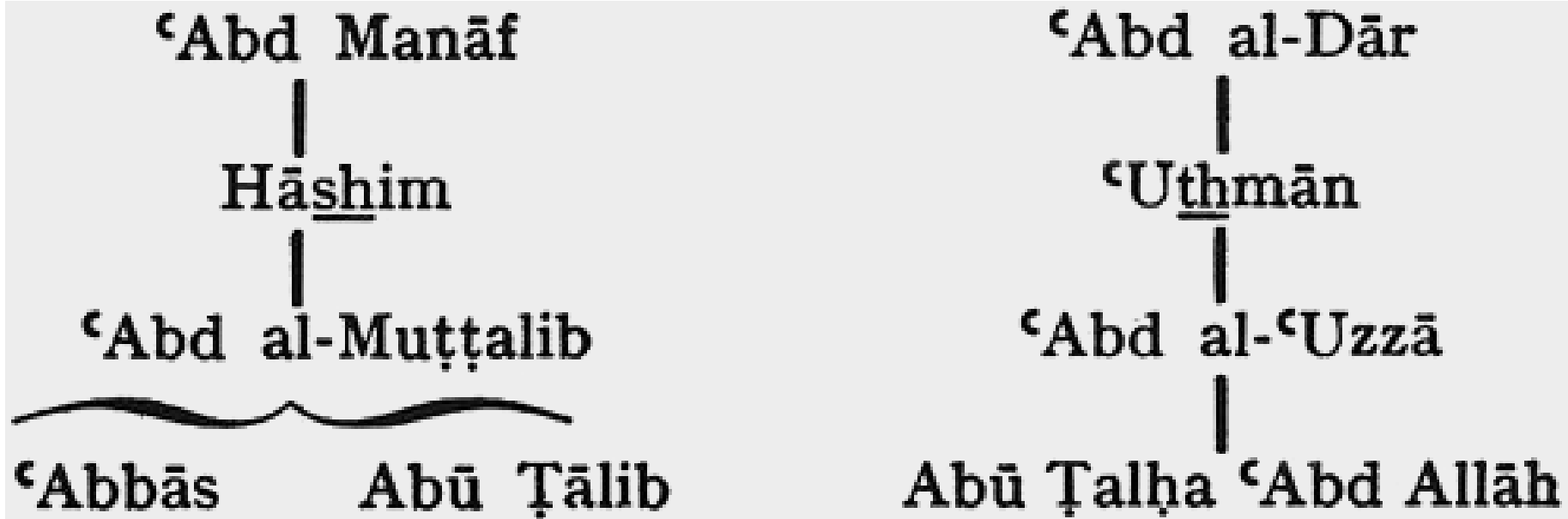
# Muhammad of Mecca

1. Born c.570 CE
2. Related to Hashim and 'Abd al-Muttalib
  - Provision of food and trade
  - Provision of water and claims over Ka'ba
3. Marriage to Khadija 605 CE
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3  
4  
5  
6  
7



# Muhammad of Mecca

1. Born c.570 CE
2. Related to Hashim and 'Abd al-Muttalib
3. Marriage to Khadija
  - A respected merchant
  - Age discrepancy?
4. Reconstruction of Ka'ba 605 CE
5. The revelations and deaths
6. The Hijra 622 CE
7. Conclusion



# Muhammad of Mecca

1. Born c.570 CE
2. Related to Hashim and 'Abd al-Muttalib
3. Marriage to Khadija
4. Reconstruction of Ka'ba 605 CE
  - A Coptic carpenter
5. The revelations and deaths
6. The Hijra 622 CE
7. Conclusion

# Muhammad of Mecca

1. Born c.570 CE
2. Related to Hashim and 'Abd al-Muttalib
3. Marriage to Khadija
4. Reconstruction of Ka'ba 605 CE
5. The revelations and deaths
  - Meeting Gabriel during *Tahannuth*
  - Social message: distribution of wealth
  - Theological message: one god—a novelty?
6. The Hijra 622 CE
7. Conclusion



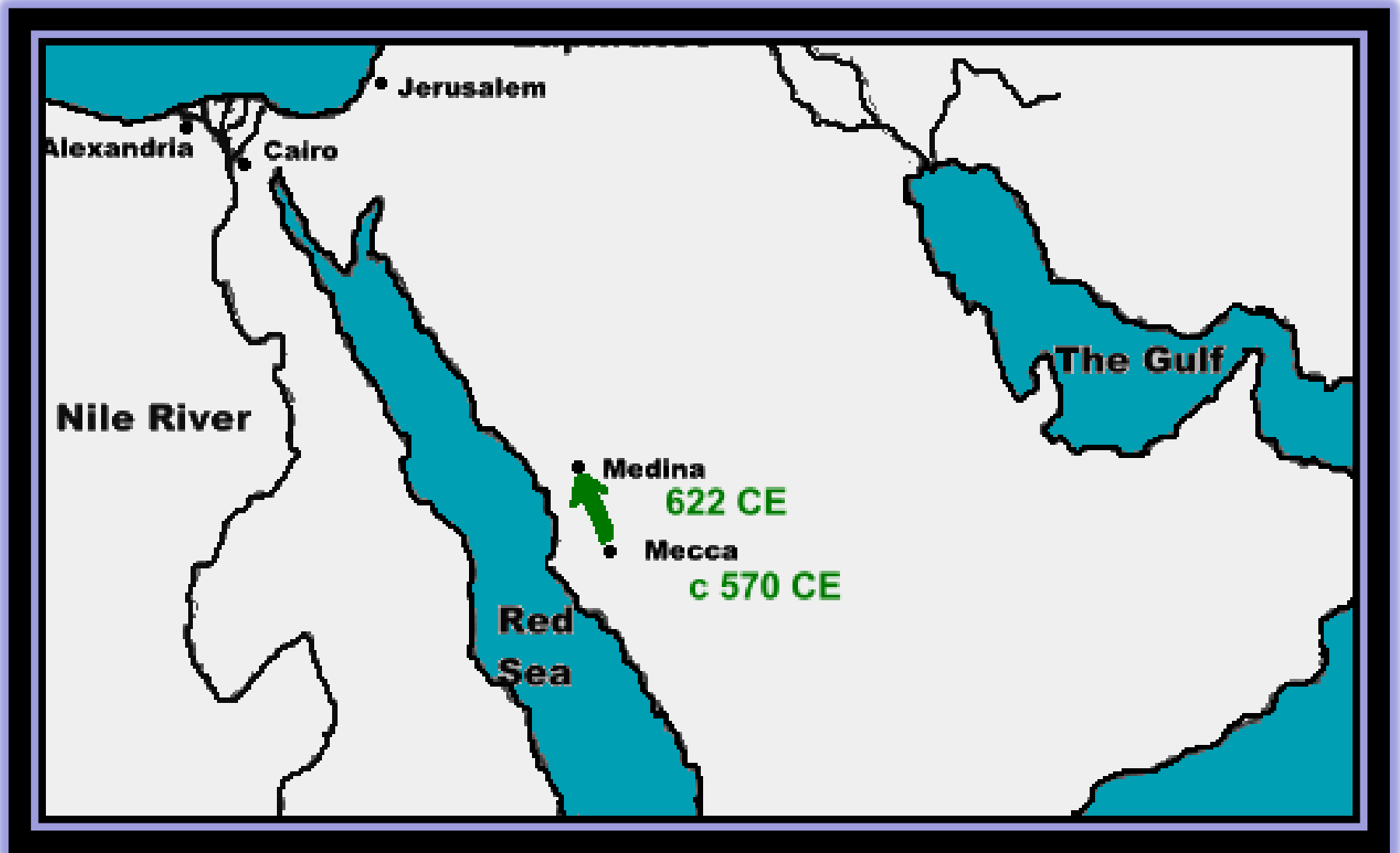
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5. The revelations and deaths
6. The Hijra 622 CE
  - Oppression
  - Invitation
  - Transformation
7. Conclusion

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5. The revelation
6. The Hijra 622
  - Oppression
  - Invitation
  - Transformation
7. Conclusion





Hijra (622 CE = 1 AH)

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3. Marriage to Khadija
4. Reconstruction of Ka'ba 605 CE
5. The revelations and deaths
6. The Hijra 622 CE
7. Conclusion
  - An ordinary man?
  - A miraculous man?
  - A man with a vision?

# Muhammad of Medina

1. Yathrib: Medina
2. A heterogeneous city:
  - Jewish tribes vs. Arab tribes
3. A heterogeneous body:
  - Ansar vs. Meccan followers
4. Unemployment & attacks
  - 624 Badr
  - 627 Ditch
  - 630 Mecca



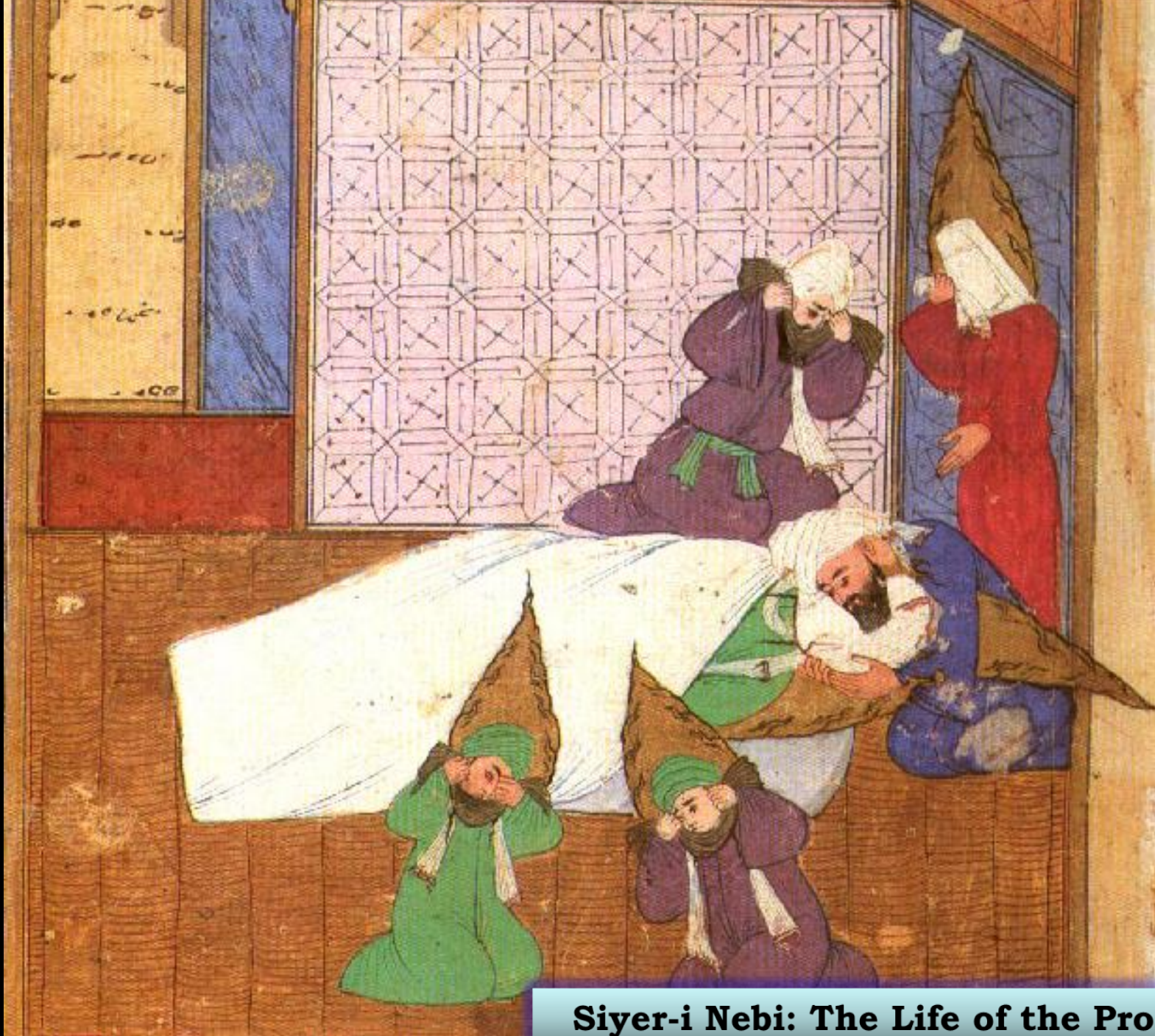
# Muhammad

1. Yathrib: Med
2. A heterogeneous
  - Jewish tribes
3. A heterogeneous
  - Ansar vs. M
4. Unemployment
  - 624 Badr
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  - 630 Mecca



Siyer-i Nebi: The Life of the Prophet, 1595

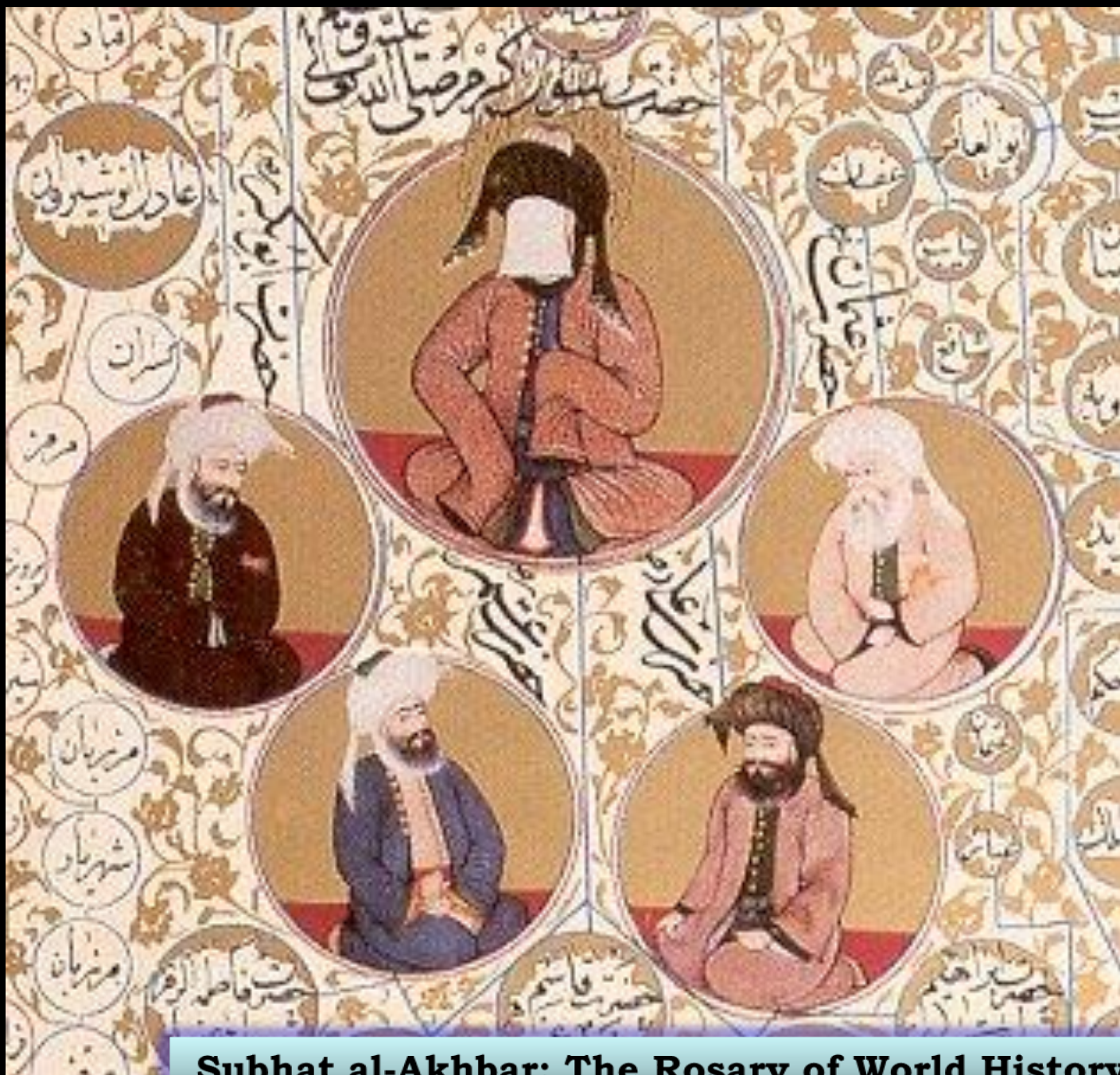
مقرب فرشته‌ها رسول حضرتناک دو



**Siyer-i Nebi: The Life of the Prophet, 1595**



**Muslim World at the time of Muhammad's Death**



**Subhat al-Akhbar: The Rosary of World History, 17th century**



**Muslim World at the time of Muhammad's Death**



**Muslim World c. 661 CE**



- 633 Southern Syria
- 636 Aleppo, Antioch
- 637 Jerusalem
- 638 Mesopotamia
- 641 Egypt
- 651 Merv
- 654 Khorasan

**Muslim World c. 661 CE**