

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhargava

Chapter 2 Rise and Spread of Islam

Good Morning Students,

In this chapter we will study about the rise of Islam and how it spread to other parts of the world. In pre-Islamic Arabia there were a number of tribes led by their chiefs. The tribes also had their own gods and goddesses. They were nomadic, mostly wandering camel herders who lived off the milk of their animals. Among the important cities of Arabia Mecca holds the prominent place being an important religious and commercial centres.

Let us now study about Prophet Muhammad, life and teachings. Born in 570 AD he was brought up by his uncle Abu Talib. Muhammad grew up to become a trader and travelled far and wide. But later he lost interest in it and turned towards spiritualism. When Muhammad was around 40 years old he had a 'vision' and believed that God has chosen him to be his messenger.

According to Muhammad there is only one God. All were equal in the eyes of 'Allah'. The five pillars of Islam listed by him were

1) Shahada :- Muslims must believe in one God

History and CivicsClass VIIChapter 2Milli Bhatnaga

- and consider Muhammad as His Messenger.
- 2) Salat - Muslims must offer namaz five times a day.
 - 3) Saum - Muslims must keep fast from dawn to dusk during the month of 'Ramzan'.
 - 4) Zakat - Muslims must give alms to the poor.
 - 5) Haj - Muslims must make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lifetime.

The people of Mecca were earlier not supporting Muhammad. So he went to Medina. This was known as Hijrat. He was welcomed by the people of Medina. Later the religion spread to other parts of the world.

A Caliphate was established and the four early Caliphs were Abu Bakr, Umar, Usman and Ali. The dynasty of Umayyads took over and ruled from 661 CE to 750 CE. They brought new territories under their control and put them under governors.

After Umayyads came the Abbassids under whom the capital was shifted to Baghdad. One of the famous ruler of the dynasty was Harun-al-Rashid. The period of Abbassids was one of cultural growth. A number of works were translated into Arabic. Students, give a reading to the chapter as a part of your home assignment.