

Misconception: Prophet Muhammad married a 9 year old girl



Background: Some think, including many Muslims, that the prophet Muhammad (the messenger for The Quran) was engaged to a girl by the name of Aisha (sometimes spelt: Ayesha) when she was 6, and married her when she was 9 years old and he was about 50.

The marriage story in question is based on the reports by various companions of the prophet Muhammad, as recorded by others from later generations. In these reported sayings, there are discrepancies/contradictions regarding what her age was at the time of marriage, ranging from 9 to 20 years old.

What does The Quran say on the age of marriage?

The Quran does not state a specific legal age of marriage, however it does give a guideline and mentions situations and conditions that should be considered before marriage:

Determining mutual attraction/compatibility [2:221, 2:235, 30:21, 33:52]

Ascertaining whether the potential partner is of similar beliefs/faith [2:221, 60:10]

Discussion of and agreeing to the level of dower and other terms (if any) [4:4, 4:24]

Understanding and mutual acceptance of marriage as a solemn/strong oath/contract [4:21, 2:232, 2:237, 24:33]

If male, capable of providing for the family/household [2:228, 2:233, 4:34, 65:6]

To have physically matured / post-puberty [4:6, 24:31, 24:58-59]

To conclude, it is proven beyond doubt by The Quran that one must be physically mature and be of sound judgement in order to get married.

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