

The Prophet's lineage

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Allaah (*Glorified and Exalted be He*) says: Indeed Allaah conferred a great favour on the believers when He sent among them a Messenger (Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*)) from among themselves, reciting unto them His Verses (the Qur'aan), and purifying them (from sins by their following him), and instructing them (in) the Book (the Qur'aan) and Al-Hikmah [the wisdom and the Sunnah of the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) (i.e. his legal ways, statements, acts of worship)], while before that they had been in manifest error. According to certain Qira'at (recitation styles): the letter "ف" (Fa') in "من أنفسهم" [translated above as 'from among themselves'] is pronounced with Fat-hah (vowel point that sounds like "a"), thus meaning from the highest lineage among them.

It is reported in Saheeh Muslim on the authority of Wathilah ibn Al-Asqa` (*may Allaah be pleased with him*) that he heard the Messenger of Allaah (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) say: Verily, Allaah has chosen Kinanah from the Children of Ismaeel (Ishmael), and has chosen Qur'aysh from Kinanah, and has chosen Banoo Haashim from Qur'aysh, and has chosen me from Banoo Haashim.

It is also reported in the Two Saheeh (authentic) Books of Hadeeth (i.e. Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim) on the authority of Aboo Sufyyaan (*may Allaah be pleased with him*) that Heraclius, the Roman Emperor, asked him a number of questions about Prophet Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) including his lineage, saying, "What kind of lineage has he among you?" To which Aboo Sufyyaan replied, "He is of a noble lineage (family) among us" To this Heraclius said, "I asked you about his lineage among you and you said that he was of a noble lineage. Similarly, all the messengers are sent from the noblest lineage among their people." (According to the wording of Al-Bukhaaree)

This indicates that the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) is of a high lineage; his pedigree is as follows: Muhammad ibn `Abdullah ibn `Abdul-Muttalib ibn Hashim ibn `Abd-Manaf ibn Qusay ibn Kilab ibn Murrah ibn Ka`b ibn Luaiy ibn Ghalib ibn Fahr ibn Malik ibn Al-Nadr ibn Kinanah ibn Khuzaimah ibn Mudrikah ibn Ilyas ibn Mudar ibn Nizar ibn Ma`d ibn `Adnan.

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To this point the lineage is unanimously agreed upon to be authentic, without any disagreement among genealogical experts; however, further back than `Adnan is controversial.

`Adnan was from the descendants of Prophet Ismaeel (Ishmael, *peace be upon him*), son of Prophet Ibraaheem (Abraham, *peace be upon him*).

The mother of the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) is Aminah bint Wahb ibn `Abd Manaf ibn Zuhrah ibn Kilab ibn Murrah ...to the end of the pedigree previously mentioned, as his father and mother descended from the same ancestor: Kilab ibn Murrah.

The Prophet's maternal grandfather, Wahb, was at that time the chief of Banoo Zuhrah by high birth and rank. Thus, the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) was well-born from both parents.