

Islam in Africa

The existence of monotheism in Africa predates the arrival of the Prophet Muhammed (pbuh). The ancestor of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was Prophet Ishmael whose mother was an African woman named Hajar, Hajar was given to the Prophet Ibrahim and was originally from Nubia in Africa.

From the start of Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) his Prophethood, amongst the first and dedicated of his followers were many Africans including the well-known and most loved by the Prophet (pbuh) Companion Bilal ibn Rabah. Bilal ibn Rabah was an Ethiopian and also the first Muezzin (call to prayer). Prophet (pbuh) recalled in one of his hadiths that he could hear Bilal's footsteps in front of him in Paradise, this signified the rank of Bilal in this life and the Hereafter.

Africa would be of further significance when during the height of Muslim persecution in Arabia, the Prophet (pbuh) ordered his followers to flee to Ethiopia for safety. The reason for this migration to Ethiopia the Prophet (pbuh) said that there is a righteous king who rules in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian king named Najashi or Negus offered after hearing the plea of the Muslims a safe haven in his country as long as they wanted to stay.

In the centuries after the death of the Prophet (pbuh) Islam spread throughout Africa and several Islamic empires were established. The Muslim king Mansa Musa of Mali is known as one of history's most richest and generous king's. With the arrival of colonialism in Africa the Muslim empires were amongst the first to fight the oppressing colonial powers.

In East Africa there was Muhammad Ahmad in Sudan who on several occasions defeated the British army. In Somalia the British had to resort first time in history by using the air-force to attack the army of Sayyid Muhammed Abdullah Hassan who for years successfully defeated the British army.

In West Africa the most famous kings/sultans after Mansa Musa were:

- Shaykh Usman Dan Fodio who established the Sokoto Caliphate in Nigeria and fought against corruption and the British.
- In Senegal there was Umar Tall who also fought the colonizers and injustice.

53% of Africa is Islamic.



Moslim women in Africa(Mali) during their Salaat(prayer)

