

SÜVEYBE

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SIRAT-UN-NABI

[THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET]
(peace be upon him)

Volume I

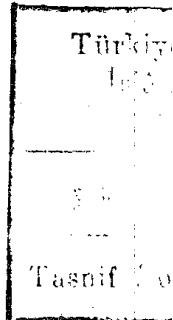
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By

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DATE OF HIS BIRTH

The famous Egyptian astronomer, Mahmūd Pāshā Falkī has written a treatise on the Prophet's date of birth. He has proved after much mathematical calculation that the Prophet graced this world on 9th Rabī al-Awwal (Monday), 20th April, 571 C.E.¹ This orphan was named Muhammad, by grandfather 'Abd al-Muttalib as generally reported.

PERIOD OF LACTATION

Thuwaiba

First of all the holy babe was suckled by the mother, and two or three days later by Thuwaiba, a slave girl of Abū Lahab, the uncle of the Holy Prophet.²

Halima al-Sa'diya

After Thuwaiba he was given suck by Halima al-Sa'diya. It was customary in those days that the children of rich and noble houses were sent out to the country-side to be nursed in a free atmosphere. This was done to let

1. The argument of Falkī Pāshā is a lengthy discussion covering many pages. Its gist is given hereunder :
 - (a) In the *Ṣaḥīḥ* of al-Bukhārī it is mentioned that when Ibrāhīm, an infant son of the Prophet died, there was a solar eclipse and the year was 10th Hijra (the Prophet was then in the sixty-third year of life).
 - (b) Mathematical calculation show that the solar eclipse of the 10 Hijra, took place on 7th Jan. 623, C.E. at 8-30 am.
 - (c) These calculations also show that the first of Rabī' al-Awwal fell on 12th April, 571 C.E., which would be sixty-three lunar years back.
 - (d) While evidence is not unanimous regarding the specific date of birth, it is agreed on all hands that it was Monday in the month of Rabī' al-Awwal, occurring between 8th and 12th of the month.
2. *Ṣaḥīḥ* of al-Bukhārī, chapter of "Ridā'at" or suckling period.