

Age of Aisha

Was she 6 or 16?

Or was she 9 or 19?

Does the controversy continue?

Basic framework

- 570 AH- birth of Muhammad
- 610 AH- first revelation
- 619- the death of Khadija
- 622- the year of Hijra
- 2 years after Hijrah-624- full marriage to Aisha
- 632- he died
- Aisha died in 50AH/672 at the age of 67- most historian

Abu bakr

- Married to 2 women in pre-islamic era
- Qatilah –Abdullah and Asmaa
- Umm Ruman bint Amir-Abdur Rahman and Aisha

Age?

- If Aisha really died in 50 hijrah at the age of 67, it means that she was 17 years old at the Hijrah and 2 yrs after makes her 19 when her marriage was consummated. Which meant she was born in the year 605CE
- Its is reported that Asmaa her elder sister was 10 years older than her and in 73 AH she was 100 when she breathed her last.

Asmaa 10 years older

- Ibn Kathir reports in 'albidayah wannihaayah' 1373
- Asmaa died in the year 73 AH, at the age of 100 and was 10 years older than Aisha
- Abdur rahman ibn arabi al-zinad(753) stated Asmaa was 10 years older
- Hisham ibn Urwah said she was 10 years older
- She(Asmaa) died a few days after her son abdullah ibn Zubayr in a battle

Age?

- 73AH=695CE which means that Aisha who was supposed to be 90 if alive. This means again she was born in the year 605($695-90=605$)
- It is also reported that Asma was 27 years old at the point of Hijrah which means that Aisha was 17($27-10=17$)
- Again in 2AH the marriage was consummated which means she was 19 yrs old at this point

Abu bakr

- Married Umm Ruman at the age of 28. assume that he begets Aisha within 5 years it means that he was about 33. the prophet was only 2 yrs older than him which means he was 35 when she was born. Therefore, at 52 when he made the Hijrah she was 17($52-35=17$) 2 yrs after the marriage was consummated, she was 19 then, not 9.

Miraj and Hijrah

- Miraj occurred about 12-16 months prior to Hijrah in 619 CE
- Hijrah in 622 CE
- If Aisha was 5 yrs and 8 respectively giving detail accounts of these incidents its not compatible would not considered reliable if its true.

Aisha role in Uhud

- This was in the 2/3AH- same year as her marriage
- Was she 9 or 19 when she carried water from Madinah to the battlefield
- She and many other ladies fetched drinking water for the soldiers in the battle field
- No one ever commented that there was this child in the mindst of them in the battlefield, instead she was addressed as a lady among the rest

Aisha

- Aisha was engaged to Jubayr Mut'im ibn Adi- which means she was at the age of marriage.
- In fact, her status was not merely that of a great theologian. She is considered the best among the female jurists.
- Even senior companions of the prophet approached her with queries regarding Islamic doctrines and tenets of faith.

Aisha

- People no less than the caliphs Umar and Uthman sought her help in resolving some complicated issues.

Regarding the hadith in Bukhari?

- Vol. 7 hadith 64/65/88
- 7/88-Urwah narrated that 'the prophet wrote the marriage contract with Aisha when she was 6 and consummated the marriage at 9 and remained with Him for 9 yrs.'
- Vol. 5 hadith 234/236

Ponder

- However, there are many points to consider. Firstly, all of these authorities seem to have based their conclusions solely on the work of Aishah's relative, the historian Hisham ibn Urwah, the grandson of aishah's sister Asma.
- One might think, therefore, that they were extremely accurate. However, Hisham's accuracy in other matters was challenged.

Reliable?

- The matters pertaining to Aishah were supposedly obtained from Hisham's father, but apparently these particular hadiths were offered only in Iraq and were unknown to the people of madinah, and must necessarily, therefore, be regarded as not entirely trustworthy. (The reasons are given in the booklet).