

aristocratic city. The pet-child of Abd ul Muttalib was the orphan boy, Mohammed. Until his eighth year he was under the shelter and favor of this chief man of the Koreish. He learned what it was to be lordly and to exercise power, and he never forgot it. As in the case of so many other great men of history, his environment, his early training, and his first wife were the determining *personal* influences in the character of Mohammed.

**Personal  
Factor**

Finally, the ruling factor was the mind and genius of the man himself. Of attractive personal qualities, beautiful countenance, and accomplished in business, he first won the attention and then the heart of a very wealthy widow, Khadija. Mohammed married her when he had reached his twenty-fifth year.

**The First  
Period of His  
Life**

Soon after his birth, according to Arab custom, he was sent to be nursed by an Arab woman of a neighboring tribe, where he remained for a period of two years. In his sixth year Mohammed was taken by his mother to Medina, but on the return journey she fell sick and died. The orphan boy was then taken back to Mecca and put under the care of his grandfather, Abd ul Muttalib, and when the latter died, two years later, under that of his uncle. The following beautiful verses in the Koran are Mohammed's eloquent reference to this period of his life: