

The Great Grandfather of the Prophet

Long ago, in the Prophet's time, the Arab society used to be divided into different tribes. The tribes would be called "Banu so-and-so" meaning "the children of so-and-so." The Prophet's tribe was called Banu Hashim.

Who was Hashim? Hashim was the great grandfather of the Prophet (peace be upon him). He was an extremely wealthy man, who was known for being cultured and sophisticated.

Hashim wasn't his real name. 'Amr was his real name; Hashim was just his *kunya*, or nickname. How did he get the nickname "Hashim"?

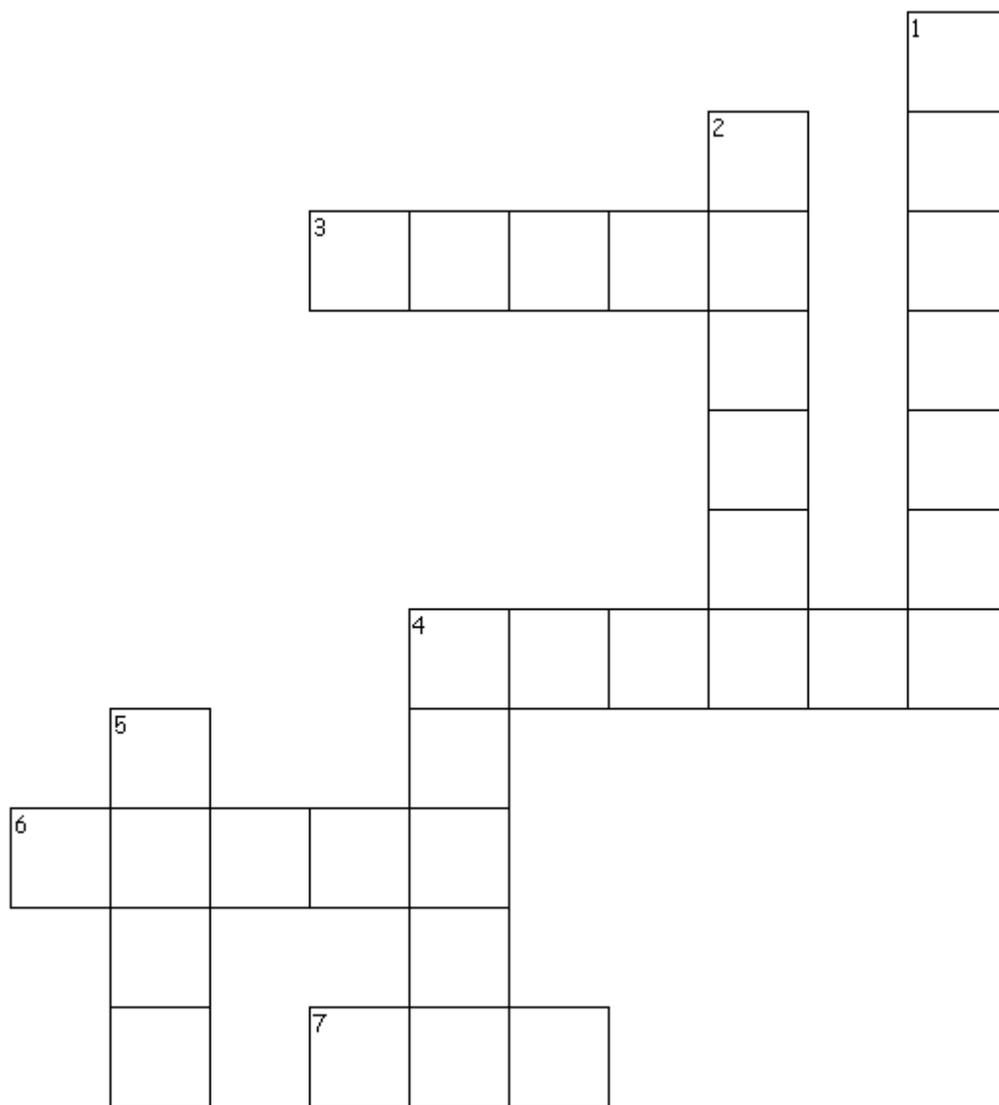
Hashim's job was to keep the Haram, or the area around the Ka'bah, clean. He took care of the Ka'bah and one of his jobs included giving the pilgrims who came to visit the Ka'bah water. The Arabs were known for their hospitality and they always had someone in charge of giving pilgrims water.

Hashim started a new tradition. He did not just give water, but he went above and beyond that. He served the pilgrims meals. It may not sound like much, but feeding all of these pilgrims was a big job and very expensive.



The type of food that he served was a curry or a soup with baked bread mixed into it. Despite being wealthy, Hashim didn't just tell servants to serve the food. He found much honor in this job; he would sit and break the bread with his own hands and literally prepare it himself for the guests of the Ka'bah. *Hashm* is the breaking of the bread, so he became known as Hashim or 'the one who breaks the bread.'

This wealthy man who was more than happy to cook for and serve the pilgrims of the Ka'bah was the great grandfather of the Prophet (peace be upon him).



Down

1. Someone who journeys to a sacred place
2. The city where the Prophet's great grandfather lived
4. The area around the Ka'bah may also be called this.
5. The Arabic word for "children of"

Across

3. The Arabic word for "nickname"
4. Banu _____ was the tribe of the Prophet (peace be upon him)
6. Before Hashim came along, the Arabs would only serve the pilgrims this
7. The great grandfather of the Prophet (peace be upon him)