



Life History of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

Torture and persecution

The acceptance of Islam by Hazrat Umar (R.A.) had great effect on the small amount of Muslims of Makkah, who were praying to Allah in secret. They now had the courage to preach Islam publicly. The Quraish tried to bribe Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to give up Islam in exchange for gifts of wealth or anything he would like. But our Prophet (PBUH) did not accept their bribe. The Quraish decided to torture and persecute even more. Hazrat Bilal (R.A.), the slave of Umayya-bin-Khalaf, was laid flat on his back on hot sand. A hot heavy stone was placed on his chest and he was beaten while his hands were tied behind his back. Hazrat Uthman (R.A.), a rich and prosperous man of the Banu Umayya tribe was tied up with ropes by his uncle and beaten and tortured. Hazrat Ammar (R.A.), his father Hazrat Yaasir (R.A.) and his mother Sumayyah (R.A.) had embraced Islam. Abu Jahl killed Hazrat Sumayyah (R.A.) with a sharp spear. Abu Jahl also beat slave lady Hazrat Zaeerah (R.A.) in such a way that she became totally blind. Some helpless Muslims like Hazrat Khabbab-bin-Aatt (R.A.) were pushed into a fire.

Migration to Abyssinia

In the fifth year of Islam as the tortures and hardships for the Messenger of Allah and his followers became worse, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) gave the Muslims permission to emigrate to the friendly country of Abyssinia. It was ruled by very good and trustworthy king called Negus (Najjashi), who later accepted Islam. In the sixth year of Islam Hazrat Hamza bin Abdul Muttalib(R.A.) (uncle of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)) and Hazrat Umar bin al-Khattab (R.A.) became Muslims. By them accepting Islam the Muslims became stronger and they started praying openly in the Ka'bah. The chiefs of the Quraish were shocked and they all joined forces to crush Islam.

Boycott

When the Quraish realised that all their tortures and hardships on Muhammed and his followers did not help and that the number of Muslims were growing, they asked his uncle Hazrat Abu Talib to hand him over to them. When Abu Talib refused, all the tribes of Makkah decided to boycott the Banu Hashim (Family clan of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)). The Banu Hashim had to go and stay in Shu'ab Abu Talib, a valley near Makkah. They could not buy anything, speak to anyone or sell to anyone. Sometimes they stayed without food or water for days and they suffered in this place. This boycott lasted from the seventh to the tenth year of Islam. The boycott continued and the clans of Hashim and Muttalib suffered badly for three years and live in She'eb Abi Talib in a miserable condition. They demonstrated great firmness and unity during the boycott.

The document of boycott which was kept in Kab'ah was all eaten up by white ants except the name of Allah at the top. They stayed there for about three years until a group of open-minded people headed by Hisham ibn 'Amr contacted some men of the Quraish to cancel the boycott. Eventually the boycott had to be withdrawn because of the differences among the Quraish themselves. Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) continued his work with amid intimidation and persecution with rare patience and determination.

Loss of two friends & Journey of Ta'if

Just after the boycott, our Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) lost his most faithful and loving uncle and his wife. With the death of Abu Talib and Hazrat Khadija (R.A.) in one year, he was left alone without any family help. The Quraish seeing this increased their harassment, tortures and hardship on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the Muslims. He went to Ta'if, a town in the mountains 48 km, from Makkah to teach the message of Islam to the people living there. On arriving in Taif accompanied by Zaid bin Harithah (RA) He went to three important people of city and invited them to Islam but they refused and insulted him. He could express his views in the beginning, but shortly the people of Ta'if rejected him and his preaching. They ordered their children and young ones to throw rocks and stones at Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and Hazrat Zayd ibn Harithah (RA) (his companion) to make them leave the city and never come back. Throwing rocks and stones made them bleed. He(PBUH) was very sad and distressed. He took shelter in a garden where he prayed. Prophet (PBUH) used to say that the day in Taif was the most difficult day in his life. Both were wounded and bleeding as they left Ta'if behind them. Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) bled so profusely from the stoning that his feet became clotted to his shoes. But He (PBUH) never said one word against the people who had abused him in spite of being hurt and bloodstained. He rather prayed to Allah to give them guidance. Such was the noble character of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) the mercy of Allah to the universe.

ME'RAJ

The Quraish continued torturing and troubling Muhammed and his followers until Allah honoured him with Me'raj. Me'raj means the journey of Hazrat Muhammed from Makkah to Baitul Muqaddas (Jerusalem) on the Buraq (a winged horse). From Baitul Muqaddas he went to the seven heavens. He met all the prophets A.S. This journey took place in one night. It was during Me'raj that Allah gave Muhammed the five Salat (Namaz) as a gift.

Covenant of Aqabah

During his open public preaching Muhammad (PBUH) met a group of people from Madinah at the time of Hajj and he invited them to accept Islam. They responded positively and became Muslims. There were six of them. They returned to Madinah as believers and invited others of their tribes to join the new faith of Islam. Next year twelve people from Madinah came during Hajj and the Prophet entered into an agreement with them at a place called Al Aqabah in 621 CE. They embraced Islam and pledged: 'We will not worship anyone but Allah, we will not steal, not commit adultery, nor kill our children. We will obey Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in all that is good'.

Second covenant of Aqabah

A second covenant with the Muslims of Madinah was concluded in 622 CE in the same place called Al Aqabah. In all seventy-three men and two women took part in this pledge.

This covenant was an extension of the first. They were specifically sent by the Muslims of Madinah to request Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to come with them to Madinah.

The determined Muslims pledged on the hand of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that they will sacrifice their lives to protect him and Islam, as they would protect their wives and children. This was the Second Covenant of Aqabah. All the dangers that would arise out of this covenant were explained by al- Abbas the Prophet's uncle, to the Madinah Muslims in clear terms. However, the Madinan Muslims still said, "We take him (the Prophet) despite all threats to property, wealth and life". Tell us O Prophet of Allah, what will be our reward if we remain true to this oath. The Prophet answered "Paradise".

They stretched out their hands to him and he (PBUH) to them and in this way made it a duty of the Madinah Muslims to defend Prophet in the event of external attacks from Makkah.

Hijrat to madinah

When the Muslims began to migrate, the Makkah leaders became worried and wanted to put an end to Islam. They decided to kill Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and end his mission and work. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was told by Hazrat Jibra'eel A.S. of the enemy plan and asked to leave for Madinah that very night of the planned assassination. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) asked Hazrat Ali (R.A.) to sleep in his bed and also to return the goods of the people he kept in trust. Thereafter, he (PBUH) quietly left the house, not seen by anyone. With Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A.) he made his way towards Madinah. As his enemies were looking for him everywhere, he stayed in the cave of Thoor for three days and nights.

When the Makkans found Hazrat Ali (R.A.) in Prophet Muhammed 's bed the next morning they were very angry and now they really wanted him more than ever. They offered a hundred camels in reward for his capture, dead or alive, but Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A.) had safely reached Madinah. The year of Hijrat of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to Madinah marks the beginning of the Islamic Calendar.

Arrival at Madinah

The cave of Thoor, situated 5 km from Makkah served as a place of refuge for our beloved Nabi Muhammed and Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique (R.A.). This cave and the cave of Hira occupy a very important place in the History of Islam: one for the Divine Call and other for the memorable Migration (Hijrah).

The Non-Muslims of Makkah sent out tracking parties to seize Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). A price of a 100 camels was set out for the capture of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). At last, when the search for the neighborhood was over and all was clear, they left the cave. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique (R.A.) set out for Madinah. They used unfamiliar paths because they were still being pursued by the enemy. They rested during the day and travelled at night. The rest of the journey was fairly safe and was covered without any serious hazards.

Meanwhile, the Muslims of Madinah received news of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) 's departure from Makkah and eagerly awaited his arrival. Every day the Ansars used to go out of the city of Madinah to give him a grand welcome, but they returned disappointed. Young girls sang songs of welcome from the roof of their homes.

At last, the beloved Prophet of Allah accompanied by Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A.) arrived at a place called Quba, 5 km from Madinah after traveling for eight days, on the 12th Rabiul-Awwal in the thirteenth Year of his mission (June 28. 622 A.D.)

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his companion Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A.) stayed at Quba for 14 days. During his short stay at Quba, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) built the first Masjid in Islam, Masjid-e-Quba.

The Ansaars (Helpers) of Madinah were now anxious to receive Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) . The entry into Madinah began on a Friday. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his party arrived in the locality of Banu Salim bin Auf. It was time for prayers. The first Jum'a prayer in Muslim History was conducted here by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) with 100 worshippers in an open field. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) mounted his camel, named Quswa after jum'a Salaat and proceeded forward. As his camel passed by a particular family they would say with one voice 'Here we are with our homes, our property and our lives. Come and live with us'. Some in their Zeal would hold the reins of the camel and request Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to dismount. Gently Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) would refuse saying 'Leave the camel alone, she is under Divine Command, she will stop where Allah wants her to stop'.

At last she stopped at a site belonging to two orphans of Banu Najjar, the clan to which belonged Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) 's mother. The nearest house was that of Abu Ayyub Ansari (R.A.). He was the fortunate man to be the host of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

One of the most important things Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) did in Madinah was to ask the people of Madinah to help those who came from Makkah. The people of Madinah shared their homes and goods with the people of Makkah most readily. The people who helped were called Ansars and the people who made Hijrah, were called the Muhajireen. This helping and sharing is called Muwakhhat (Islamic Brotherhood).

Masjid-E-Nabawi

After Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the Muhajireen had settled in Madinah they now decided to build a Masjid. There was a vacant piece of land belonging to two orphans of the Najjar clan. They offered it free of charge to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) but Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) refused, and bought it from them. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his companions worked like ordinary workmen in the building of the Masjid. It was the proud privilege for the Sahaba to work with the beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The construction of the Masjid was a very simple one. The walls were made of mud bricks and the roof was supported by the trunks of palm-trees. The leaves and twigs made up the roof itself. A platform was raised in the corner of the courtyard for the residence of such followers who had no home nor family, and they were known as Ashaabe Suffah; the residents of Suffah. Adjoining the Masjid were built two apartments for Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his family.

The Muslims were not allowed to build a Masjid in Makkah and they were not even allowed to say their prayers in public. Madinah offered an atmosphere of peace, and they could offer their Salaat without any fear or harassment in the Masjid.

Treaty with the Jews (Constitution of Madinah)

At the time of the arrival of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) at Madinah, there were three Jewish tribes viz. Banu Quinuqah, Banu Nadhir and Banu Quraizah. The Jews were traders and merchants and they controlled the economy of Madinah. There were always differences between the Jews and the Arabs of Madinah which led to fight between them.

After settling in Madinah, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) made peace between the Muslims and Jews. They agreed to help each other and defend Madinah from outside aggression. This was called a Treaty (agreement). This treaty gave all the people of Madinah the freedom to practice their religious teachings without any harassment and their goods and lives were not going to be interfered with. The idea of this treaty was to try and bring the Muslims and Jews to live in peace and defend the city of Madinah from anyone who wanted to cause harm to it.

In the event of any quarrel between two parties and if no agreement is reached then Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) would give the final decision which nobody would go against.

Munafiqeen (Hypocrites)

Prior to the coming of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to Madinah the tribes of Aus and Khazraj were always quarreling with each other and they felt harmony and peaceful co-existence should be maintained between the people of Madinah. They were keen to have a common ruler. Abdullah bin Ubay bin Sulool a citizen of Madinah was a very intelligent, experienced in worldly matters, clever and cunning person. He had great influence over the Aus and Khazraj tribes and the people of Madinah accepted his leadership, and were prepared to crown him king and ruler of Madinah.

He foresaw himself as a future king and ruler of Madinah. After Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his followers entered Madinah they became a strong force and the people of Madinah accepted the leadership of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This shattered the hopes of Abdullah bin Ubay bin Sulool of becoming the ruler of Madinah.

Abdullah bin Ubay bin Sulool hoped that if Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had not come to Madinah he would have been installed as ruler of the city. Being a clever and cunning person, he hid his dislike and hatred for Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his followers accepted Islam to show everyone that they were Muslims but at heart they were dangerous enemies of Islam and they co-operated with the Jews in plotting against the Muslims.

The Jews found friends in these people as they had feared that they will lose control of the business of Madinah. Abdullah bin Ubay bin Sulool and his followers are termed 'MUNAFIQS' (HYPOCRITES) in Islam.

Wars with the kuffar of Makkah

In the second year of Hijrat, a caravan of the kuffar of Makkah, under leadership of Abu Sufyaan, went to Syria. Sensing trouble, on his return he sent a message to Makkah asking for help as he feared an attack from the Muslims. The commander of the kuffar Abu Jahl left Makkah with an army of 1000 men to assist Abu Sufyaan and to confront the Muslims of Madinah.

The battle of Badar (Ramadhaan 2 A.H.)

As soon as Abu Sufyaan got his caravan safely away from the Muslims, he sent another message to Makkah that they were safe and no longer required assistance. Abu Jahl was looking for an excuse to attack the Muslims. He had been making preparations for almost a year, thus he was not prepared to turn back after receiving the message from Abu Sufyaan. He marched towards Madinah with an army of 1000 men, 700 camels and 300 horses. Abu Jahl's men were well trained and well-armed with spears, swords, bows and arrows, and shields.

On hearing the news that the Kuffaar of Makkah had left with 1000 men to destroy the Muslims, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) made mushwarah (consultation) with the sahaba at Masji-e-Nabwi in Madinah. At the Mashwarah, Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique (R.A.), Hazrat Umar (R.A.) from Muhajireen and Hazrat Saad bin Mu'az from the Ansaar and the rest of the Muslims showed their willingness and desire to defend Islam against falsehood.

When Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was satisfied with the decision, he began preparations for the defence of Islam. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) left Madinah with 313 men including some teenage boys. They only had 3 horses, 70 camels and a few swords. When they reached **BADR**, which was a mountainous region, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) made dua to Allah and pleaded: 'O Allah! should this small group of believers perish this day, no one will be left on earth to worship you and carry your message to the world'.

The battle took place on the 17th of Ramadhaan 2 A.H. Allah sent His mercy and the Kuffar lost the battle at the hands of the Muslims. Seventy of the Kuffaar including the arch enemy of Islam, Abu Jahl were killed and as many as seventy were taken as prisoners-of-war. Fourteen Muslims were martyred in the battle.

It was a battle between good and evil, falsehood was defeated and truth succeeded. The success of the Battle of Badr considerably strengthened the Muslims and their cause.

Reference

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