Lecture 21

**The Conquest of Makkah: A Turning Point**

Once, the Quraysh had sworn peace with the Muslims, but their greed for power broke the Treaty of Hudaybiyah. They allied with Banu Bakr to attack the Muslim allies, Banu Khuza’a. This betrayal reached the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who resolved to end the hostilities once and for all.

In the month of Ramadan, 8 A.H., an army of 10,000 Muslims marched silently towards Makkah. They camped at Mar-ur-Zahraan, just outside the city. The Quraysh, unsuspecting, were alarmed when shepherds reported the sight of the massive army. Abu Sufyan, the leader of the Quraysh and a longtime enemy of Islam, ventured out to investigate and found himself face-to-face with Hazrat Abbas (RA), the Prophet’s uncle. Abbas persuaded him to seek the Prophet’s mercy.

When Abu Sufyan entered the Prophet’s tent, he found not vengeance but forgiveness. The Prophet (PBUH) extended protection to Abu Sufyan, who returned to Makkah with a new understanding of Islam's noble values.

The next day, the Muslim army entered Makkah without resistance. The Quraysh, who once exiled the Prophet (PBUH), now stood helpless. In the Ka’ba courtyard, they awaited judgment. The Prophet (PBUH), standing before them as a victor, asked, “What do you expect of me?” Their voices trembled as they replied, “Kindness and pity, O gracious brother.” He then declared, “Have no fear this day; may Allah forgive you.”

The Prophet (PBUH) cleansed the Ka’ba of its 360 idols, reciting, “Truth has come, and falsehood has vanished.” The city that once expelled him now echoed with the call of Tauheed. Makkah was transformed into a symbol of Islam’s triumph.

**The Battle of Hunain: Testing Faith**

After Makkah’s conquest, two neighboring tribes, Hawazan and Saqif, refused to accept Islam. Led by Maalik bin Auf, they gathered a massive army to challenge the Muslims. The Prophet (PBUH), with an army of 12,000, marched towards the valley of Hunain.

The Hawazan, masters of archery, launched a sudden ambush. Arrows rained down, causing chaos in the Muslim ranks. Many retreated, but the Prophet (PBUH) stood firm with a few loyal companions. Hazrat Abbas (RA) rallied the scattered soldiers, and the tide turned. The Muslim army regained composure and defeated the enemy. The victory at Hunain further solidified Islam's strength in Arabia.

**The March to Tabook: Strengthening the Faith**

In 9 A.H., news came of a Roman army preparing to invade Arabia. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) called upon the Muslims to defend their homeland. Despite the scorching heat and limited resources, an army of 30,000 set out for Tabook under his leadership.

The Romans, intimidated by the Muslims’ resolve, abandoned their plans. The campaign ended without bloodshed, and several peaceful treaties were signed with Christian tribes. This expedition marked the end of hostilities in Arabia, paving the way for the unification of the region under Islam.

**The Farewell Hajj: A Lasting Legacy**

By 10 A.H., most of Arabia had embraced Islam. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), accompanied by 124,000 companions, performed his Farewell Hajj. On the plains of Arafat, riding his camel Quswa, he delivered his final sermon. He reminded the gathering of their duties to Allah, the rights of women, and the equality of all Muslims. He abolished racial superiority and interest-based transactions.

He proclaimed, “I leave behind the Quran and my Sunnah. If you hold fast to them, you will never go astray.” With these words, the Prophet (PBUH) entrusted the torch of Islam to his followers.

**The Passing of a Beloved Leader**

After returning to Madinah, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) fell ill. Despite his worsening health, he remained devoted to his people, even leading prayers when possible. On Monday, 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal, 11 A.H., the greatest leader of humanity breathed his last in the house of Hazrat Aisha (RA). He was buried in her room, leaving behind a legacy of mercy, justice, and unwavering faith.