

★:- Battle of Khyber

★:- Background:-

About hundred miles away from Madinah on the route of Syria there was Jews settlement known as 'Khyber' which means 'fort', it was named so because it consisted in to seven forts. After Jews expulsion from Madinah, most of the Jews of Banu Qaniga and Banu Nadir took refuge in Khyber. In the Battle of Ditch, the Jews of Khyber helped Quraysh, and after the battle the Jews were executed, in accordance to which Jews of Khyber vowed vengeance and planned to attack on Madinah, seeking an alliance with Quraysh, but in the Treaty of Hudaibia, the Quraysh had made a truce with Muslims that they will not support Jews on attack on Madinah, this was the first advantage secured to Muslims, taking the advantage of this favourable situation the Holy Prophet on his return from Makkah led Muslim forces to Khyber.

★:- Major Events:-

Jews on seeing Muslims got surprised and shut themselves in their forts and Muslims besieged them. The first battle took place on the fort called Na'im, the Muslims were commanded by Muhammad-o-Maslinah, he was martyred by the fort was captured. In the same way Muslims were succeeded in capturing different fortresses. The main fort was Qamus, it was

regarded as impregnable. The siege dragged on for 21 days, but the Jews held out even under the commandship of Hazrat Abu Bakr, Muslims were unable to get success, the fort proved a hard nut to crack. After the failure of successive missions, Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W) said: that he will entrust the command to a person who was the beloved of Allah as well as His Prophet, and who will conquer the fort, all were anxious to know as to who was to have the honor. The honor fell to the lot of Ali.

As Muslim force came near the fort, Jew warrior Marhab emerged and manifested his valor as he enjoyed reputation as a Great warrior equivalent to a thousand men. Hazrat Ali on the other hand endowed with extraordinary power killed Marhab, likewise other Jews confronted Hazrat Ali, but they were also killed by Hazrat Ali, among them were Rabih b Abu Aqif and Yasar. The death of the three successive Jew warriors unnerved the Jews as they ran back and shut themselves in the fort, but Hazrat Ali struck at the gate and uprooted it, as a result of which muslims rushed inside and murdered those who resisted, when Jews acknowledge that they can no more resist they surrender, in this way Muslims were able to succeed in the battle.

*:- Consequences of Battle:-

- After the conquest of Khyber, the Muslims marched to Fidak, the people of Fidak seen the fate of Khyber the people of Khyber agreed to sign a treaty of peace on the same terms as had been agreed upon in the case of Jews of Khyber.
- The Muslim rule was no longer confined to Madinah, it has extended to other parts of Arabia.
- The conquest of Khyber paved the way for the conquest of Makkah.
- The amount of tribute ^{or} booty from Khyber was sufficiently large and Ali as the Victor of Khyber must received the share, and become richest among other companions of Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W).
- Women were also able to gain their high