ASSIGNMENT#02

**LIFE OF THE LAST PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW)**

The Prophet Muhammad PBUH revived the divine religion and presented it in scriptural form for the generations to come. He opened the eyes of the people that were shut to the reality. He is the one who taught us that Allah is the only God and we should turn to him before it is too late. He gave us unlimited examples of how one should lead his/her life according to the teachings of Islam through his life. He is an embodiment of mercy for all mankind.

**ABOUT MUHAMMAD (SAW) LIFE:-**

He was born in Makkah, Arabia on Monday, 12 Rabi’ Al-Awal. His mother Aminah belonging to Zahrah family was the daughter of Ibn Abu Manaf, died before he was six years old. While his father Abdullah son of Abdul Mutalib, died before he was even born. After the death of his parents he was looked after by his grandfather, who also died two years later. So, he was brought up by his uncle named Abu Talib. He was nursed by Halima S’adia.

**MUHAMMAD (SAW) CHILDHOOD:-**

At the age of 12, he accompanied his uncle Abu Talib to Busra on a trading voyage where a Christian monk expressed how Muhammad is special and what future awaits him.

**MUHAMMAD (SAW) NOBLE CHARACTER:-**

Muhammad was known for his virtue and vices; his noble character made him stand out as the most impeccable ever, that everyone around him mutually agreed upon giving him the title of “Sadiq and Ameen”, which means the righteous and the faithful. It was at Muhammad PBUH request that a league called Federation of Fudul was made to give every individual its rights and break the oppression.

**MUHAMMAD (SAW) MARITAL HISTORY:-**

Muhammad (SAW) had 13 wives in total. His first marriage too place att the age of twenty-five, on Muhammad’s second visit to Syria; he met Khadijah, a Quraishi noble woman. Due to his faithfulness he was rewarded her hand in marriage. Although she was his senior, the bond they shared was filled with love and devotion for each other. She bore him three sons and four daughters.

**MUHAMMAD (SAW) JUST BEHAVIOUR:-**

Prophet PBUH has always been known for his just character that even the non-Muslims would come to seek his decision. Once the whole Arabia was plunged into a dispute regarding the setting of the black stone on the Ka’aba, in 605 A.D. Every prestige family wanted the honours, but Muhammad (SAW), at the age of thirty-five, resolved the issue by simply placing the stone in a cloth and asked everyone to lift it up by sharing the cloth.

**MUHAMMAD (SAW) KIND BEHAVIOUR:-**

Prophet (SAW) is described to have been helpful to the needy. When Abu Talib was going through distress, Muhammad PBUH decided to undertake Abu Talib’s son Ali education and upbringing. After that he adopted another of his uncle’s son. He also adopted a captive named Zaid Ibn Haritha, who then was called the son of Muhammad.

**FIRST REVELATION (WAHI):-**

Muhammad would isolate himself in Mount HIra; praying and meditating, and conversing with the Unseen yet All-Knowing Allah. Like his usual visits, one day Angel Gabriel came down and revealed to him the very first verses of Quran. Jibreel said the word read twice to which Muhammad replied that he was not a reader. On the third time, Gabriel squeezed him tight and said:

*“Read! In the name of your Lord who has created (all that exists), has created a man from a clot. Read! And your Lord is the most generous, Who has taught (the writing) by the pen, has taught man that which he knew not.”*

Prophet repeated the words and went home to Khadija and told her about the incident. Khadija assured him that she trusts him and he should stay brave and steadfast.

**THE START OF MUHAMMAD’S (SAW) MISSION:-**

“O you (Muhammad) enveloped (in garments)! Arise and warn! And your Lord (Allah) magnify!” (Ch 74:1-3 Quran)

Muhammad started his mission of from his close ones. First Khadija, and then his cousin Ali was his next companion. After Ali, Zaid also converted to Islam followed by Abu Bakr, a leading member of Quraish tribe. Soon five more notables presented themselves before Prophet PBUH and accepted Islam and several lower classes also adopted this new religion.

**EXPANSION/SPREADING OF ISLAM:-**

After three years of struggle, only thirty followers were secured. Up until now he had been preaching quietly, but now he publicly requested the citizens of Mecca to abandon idolatory. His effort varied from pilgrims, traders or strangers. Quraish made attempts to frustrate his efforts but he did not give up.

Quraish went as far as to stop Prophet and his companion from offering prayers in Ka’ba; they’d cover them with dirt and scattered thorns in the places where he most frequently meditated. At this time Hamza, the youngest son of Abu Mutalib accepted Islam. He was well known for his bravery and was named “Lion of Allah”.

**QURAISH EFFORTS TO STOP PROPHET (SAW):-**

As the number of followers increased, Quraish became more alarmed and started torturing people who associated themselves with Muhammad (SAW). They’d be thrown into prison, starved and then flogged. Once Quraishi noble named Uta Ibn Rabi’a insisted Prophet PBUH to discontinue his teachings and they’d make him King, but Muhammad (SAW) refused and recited the first fourteen verses of Sura Fussilat in his reply.

**THE FIRST HIJRAH:-**

When the torture inflicted by Quraish intensified, Prophet (SAW) recommended his people to move to the neighboring kingdom Abyssinia ruled by AlNajashi. Some fifteen people left for the journey later joined by more, it’s called the First Hijrah. It happened in the fifth year of Prophethood, A.D. 615. A total of eighty-three men and eighteen women migrated.

**QURIASH DIVISION AND RECONCILIATION:-**

Towards the end of seventh year of mission, Quraish divided into two factions, and the two families Hashim and Muttalib repaired to Abu Talib as their chief. Sine Prophet’s uncle Abu Lahab hated Islam he went over to the opposite party. By tenth year, reconciliation was concluded through the intermediation of Hisham, Ibn Umar, Zobeir, and Ibn Abu Umayya.

**THE YEAR OF SORROW:-**

In the tenth year of Prophethood, Abu Talib and Hazrat Khadijah passed away. They both were the source of support and strength that kept Prophet going with his mission.With a saddened heart, yet full of trust; he set off to Taif accompanied by his faithful servant Zaid. There he was received coldly by the inhabitants. After a month he left Taif.

**ASCENSION TO THE HEAVENS (MIRAJ):-**

Miraj is the single night journey that took place around the year 621. It’s a spiritual journey where Muhammad travelled on the back of a winged mule-like beast called Buraq with angel Gabriel. He met different Prophets at each level of the seven levels of heaven. First he met Adam then John and Jesus. On the third level he met Joseph then Enoch, on fifth he met Aaron then Moses and lastly Abraham. After Abraham, Muhammad continued his journey without Gabriel to meet Allah. Where Allah tells him to ask his people to pray fifty times a day, but as he ascends back to earth with the news Moses tells him that his people won’t be able to carry the burden of fifty prayers. Therefore, he goes back to Allah to ask for fewer prayer, and goes back and forth 9 times and finally settles on 5 prayers a day.

**QURAISH PLOT TO KILL PROPHET:-**

The disbelievers fearing the alliance between Muhammad and Yathrib, decided to kill Prophet. The plan consisted that one man from each tribe will strike a blow at him so that everyone will be held equally accountable. Hence, they won’t be able to avenge Muhammad’s death. The Quraish guarded Muhammad’s house all night to attack him when he’ll leave his house. However, Muhammad was already aware of their plan, so instead he asked Ali to lie down in his bed and wrap himself with a green cloak. Muhammad escaped through the window unnoticed. The Quraish were in fury and placed a bounty of hundred camels was set upon his head.

**THE BLOODMONEY:-**

After the hearing about the reward to kill Muhammad (SAW), Suraqa Ibn Ju’sham set out to find him. But when he found them, his horse stumbled and he fell off. He mounted it again and let it gallop, as Muhammad started reciting the Quran, suddenly his horse’s forelegs sank into the sand and he fell again. He drew lots with the diving arrow that missed multiple times. Witnessing it his mind overcame with the feeling of Muhammad’s victory that he abandoned the idea of killing him and instead offered them food and goods to, but hey declined and instead asked Suraqa to not tell other’s about them.

**MUHAMMAD’S JOURNEY TO MEDINA:-**

When the Muslims heard the news of Muhammad’s departure, they’d wait at Harra every morning for his arrival. When Muhammad and Abu Bakar finally arrived the people celebrated and greeted them. Allah’s Messenger stayed with Bani Amir for ten nights and established the mosque of Quba. The Prophet himself carried bricks for the construction. The place in which the Mosque was built belonged to two orphan boys whorefused to take any price for their place.

**THE ILLUMINATED CITY:-**

Shortly after Muhammad and his companion settled in Yathrib, the city was renamed Al-Medina, Al-Munawara which means “the Illuminated City”. At that time Medina was ruled by Aws and Khazraj, who were always quarrelling, but after Muhammad’s settlement they forgot about their feuds. After his settlement he built a mosque for the worship of Allah according to the principles of Islam.

**THE CHARTER FOR UNITY:-**

Medina was divided into three parties, the Emigrants, the Jews and the Ansars. In order to unite them Muhammad granted a charter to the people. In the charter, every party was given equal and just rights. For example, they can’t meddle in each other’s state of war or peace, everyone is allowed to practice their religion freely, the guilty shall be punished, the Jews shall join the Muslims in defending Medina from all enemies, etc. However, the Ansars and the Jews were not sincere to the charter and were only for temporary expedience. The Prophet and his followers protected the Christians, their churches; made sure that they were not unfairly taxed. The Christian women married to Muslims were allowed to practice their religion. And if any Muslim violated any law in the charter should be regarded as a violator of His testament.

**BATTLE OF BADR:-**

The battle of Badr was the very first battle fought between Muslims and Quraish. It was a key battle in the early days of Islam, fought on Tuesday, 13 March 624 in the region of western Arabia. Abu Sufyan led a caravan from Syria to Mecca against Muslims but took a detour and instead Abu Jahl gathered an army of thousand men to attack Muslims. To which Muhammad prepared a body of 300 men to occupy the valley of Badr. Although the Muslims lacked in man force, yet they drove the Meccans back with great loss, and even slayed their chiefs including Abu Jahl. The prisoners taken as hostages in the war were treated with kindness and were shown great sympathy as ordered by Prophet (SAW).

**THE BATTLE OF UHUD:-**

The battle of Uhud is the next battle fought between Quraish and Muslims on Saturday, 22 December 624. The Meccans made a lot of preparations in order to avenge their losses. Abu Sufyan led an army of three thousand strong men, of whom seven hundred were armed and 200 hundred horses, while Muhammad’s army marched with one thousand armed men, of whom one hundred were armed and only one horse besides his own. Of which Abdullah Ibn Ubai left with his 300 people leaving behind army of only 700 men. The battle was fought on Mount Uhud. Muslims fought very bravely and were about to win, but the archers breached Muhammad’s orders and left their assigned posts which gave Meccans the chance to attack Muslims from behind which caught them off guard. Many Muslims were killed, and Muhammad himself was badly injured.

**THE BATTLE OF THE TRENCH:-**

In the same year, once again Abu Sufyan led an army of ten thousand men and camped near Mount Uhud, while Muslims could only gather three thousand men. Since the Muslims were greatly outnumbered, on Salman Farsi’s advice, they dug a trench around the unprotected quarters of Medina and waited outside the city. But Muslims felt hopeless after the Jews betrayed them. The siege lasted twenty days, although they attempted to cross the trench several times, but Muslims did not let them. Suddenly a storm disrupted their tents due to which almost all of the enemies fled. Muslims confronted the Jews and the judgment, that the fighting men should be put to death and the women and children should become slaves, was executed.

**THE TREATY OF HUDAIBIYA:-**

It was a treaty between Quraish and Medina made on March 628. In 628, Muhammad along with more than one thousand Muslims set off for Umrah to Mecca without any arms, but Quraish did not let them enter Mecca. After long negotiations, it was concluded that they can return next year for the pilgrimage. It helped to resolve the conflict between them, and was valid up till 10 years.

**MOHAMMAD DISPATCHES ENVOYS:-**

Allah’s Messenger sent several envoys to neighbouring rulers to invite them to Islam. The envoy to the Persia was received with disdain. The envoy to Roman was received politeluy and was treated with respect, another envoy sent to Arab prince Heraclius was murdered.

**THE FIRST HAJJ:-**

In the end of the seventh year of hijrah after the treaty of Hudaibiya, Prophet (SAW) along with two hundred Muslims went to Mecca to perform Hajj which lasted three days. In these three days the whole city was evacuated by Quraish. After three days the pilgrims left Mecca as per the treaty requirements.

**QURAISH VIOLATES TREATY OF HUDAIBIYA:-**

At the end of seventh year of hijrah, the Quraish violates the treaty by supporting Banu Bakr by giving him men and arms to attack Banu Khuzzah. Prophet (PBUH) retaliated by planning a war against Quraish. The Quraish were perplexed by the large army that the whole city surrendered to him on 10 Ramadhan.

**AFTER VICTORY OVER MECCA:-**

After entering Mecca, no one was robbed, insulted or hit, but the destruction of all the idols were ordered by the Prophet. Even he himself destroyed a pigeon hanging from the roof. During his stay in Mecca, the Prophet dispatched his principal disciples in every direction to preach Islam among the wild tribes. He even ordered that the temples to be destroyed and that the task should be carried out in a peaceful manner, and when he heard that Khalid, a new warrior, killed a few Bani Jazima; he was so disheartened and dispatched a large sum of money to the orphan and widows.

**THE YEAR OF EMBASSIES:-**

The ninth year of Hijra is known as the year of embassies because in this year several Arabian tribe submitted to the claim of Prophet (SAW), and sent embassies to pay homage to him. The princes of Yemen, Mahra, Oman, and Yamama accepted islam and sent ambassador to Mohammad.

**THE LAST SERMON:-**

In February 632, Muhammad accompanied with from nine thousand to one hundred and forty thousand people left for pilgrimage. Muhammad’s last sermon was delivered on 6 March, 632.

*“All mankind is from Adam and Eve. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab has any superiority over Arab; a white has no superiority over black, nor does a black has any superiority over white; except by piety and good action.”*

**FALSE CLAIMS OF PROPHETHOOD:-**

After the words of Muhammad’s ailing health spread around, three pretenders came forward who claimed themselves to be the next Prophet. The most dangerous of them was Al Aswas, who was a chief of Yemen, but he was killed by Persians of Yemen. The other two were, Tulayha and Haroun.

**MOHAMMAD’S LAST DAYS:-**

Muhammad’s last days were peaceful. Even though he was weak and sick, he’d still lead prayers until within the last three days of his death. On his last visit to the mosque he asked everyone whether he has offended or done wrong to anybody or if he owes money to anyone they can come forward.

**MUHAMMAD’S DEATH:-**

Muhammad (SAW) died on June 8, 632, and was buried at Al-Masjid an-Nabwi, the first mosque built by Muhammad in Medina.

*“Mohammad is not more than a Messenger, and indeed (man) Messengers have passed away before him. If he dies or is killed, will you then turn your back on your heels (as disbelievers)? And he who turns his back on heels, not the least harm will he do to Allah, and Allah will give reward to those who are grateful.” (Ch 3:144 Quran)*