



Assalamu 'alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakaatuhu



SEERAH OF MUHAMMAD

(SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam)



LESSON 100



TOPICS:



Across the Trench (continued).



Banu Quraydha's treachery.



ACROSS THE TRENCH

(CONTINUED)



The Quraysh had no alternative way to lay siege to Madinah. Every morning they came out and attempted to cross the trench while the Muslims guarded every inch of the border and greeted them with arrows and stones. The polytheists made several fruitless attempts to cross the trench and spent days huddled together trying to devise ways to launch their assault.



The Muslims for their part were equally determined to make them give up. So intent were they in protecting their lines that the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) and his Companions missed several prayers, and offered them late around or after sunset, for at that point the "prayer in times of fear" (Salaah Al-Khauf) had not yet been ordained upon the Muslims.



Finally, one day a party of the pagan cavalry comprising Amr bin Abdu Wudd, Ikrama bin Abi Jahl, Dharar bin Khattab and a few others managed to vault over the trench at a narrow spot, while their horses pranced around between the trench and Mount Sal'a. From another side Ali sprang forward along with a few Muslims, and by capturing the point of entry they cut off the pagans' route of escape. Amr bin Abdu Wudd, a ruthless and fearsome warrior, challenged Ali to combat.



Ali provoked Amr's anger with his taunts, and he alighted from his horse. The two adversaries fought and jostled, thrust and parried, but ultimately Ali put Amr to the sword. The rest of the polytheists darted back to their horses. They were so disconcerted that Ikrama left his lance trying to flee, and Naufal bin Abdullah fell into the trench and was put to death by the Muslims.



At the end of the skirmish, ten pagans and six Muslims lay dead. An arrow hit Sa'd bin Mu'adh and his jugular vein was severed, but miraculously he survived his injury. He had prayed to Allah to preserve his life only if the decisive battle against the Quraysh was yet to be fought. His other supplication had been to stay alive to see the destruction of Banu Quraydha, and as we shall see, his prayer was answered.



BANU QURAYDHA'S



TREACHERY



After the Battle of Uhud, the Jewish tribe of Banu Quraydha had entered into a pact with the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam). But in the midst of the battle of the trench, Huyay bin Akhtab, the chieftain of Banu Nadir, met Ka'b bin Asad, the chieftain of Banu Quraydha, and got him to renege on the agreement. After some initial hesitation, Ka'b broke the covenant and sided with the Quraysh and the pagans.



The stronghold of Banu Quraydha lay to the south of Madinah, which was where the Muslims had their fortifications and where they had left their women and children, while the men were massed along the north. With the breach of faith by Banu Quraydha, the Muslim women and children were imperiled. The Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) rushed Muslima bin Aslam at the head of 200 men and Zayd bin Haritha with another 300 men to protect the Muslim women and children.



Moreover, Sa'd bin Mu'adh and Sa'd bin Ubada were sent behind them to investigate the matter. The Prophet's envoys found the Jews openly antagonistic. Banu Quraydha disparaged the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) saying,



□ "Who is the Prophet of God? We have not entered any pact with Muhammad."



The two emissaries reported the situation to the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) in just three words, "Adal and Qara," indicating that the treachery of the Adal and Qara tribes at Raj'i was being repeated by Banu Quraydha. The Muslims were distressed about their new found vulnerability. On this occasion, too, the Hypocrites bared their fangs. Some of them bemoaned,



□ "Muhammad gave us his word that we would possess the treasure of Caesar and Chosroes, and here we are in such a plight that we feel unsafe even to answer the call of nature."



Others among them fumed,



□ "The promise made to us by Allah and His Messenger was nothing but delusion." Some jeered at the Muslims,



□ "O men of Yathrib, you cannot stand the onslaught. Go back!" Another group of Hypocrites, after deciding to flee the spot, came to the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) seeking permission to go back, pleading that their houses were unprotected.



When the news of Banu Quraydha's treachery reached the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam), he covered his face and head with a piece of cloth and lay flat on his back for a while, quietly introspective. When he arose, however, it was to give the Muslims good tidings. Although he had taken the step of sending the two companies under Zayd and Muslima to protect the women and children, the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) contemplated sending a message to Uyaina bin Hisn to renew their old agreement.



He was willing to cede one-third of the fruits of Madinah if Uyaina would retreat with Banu Ghatfan. Sa'd bin Mu'adh and Sa'd bin Ubadah, the two chieftains of the Ansaar, voiced their opposition to any negotiations with their ally turned enemy, saying,



□ "When both they and we were polytheists, they dared not expect even a grain. Today, when Allah has given us Islam and conferred honor upon us through you, are we expected to give them our goods? By Allah, we shall offer them our swords alone." The Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) found their argument reasonable and dropped the idea of sending the offer.

To Be Continued...

