



Assalamu 'alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakaatuhu



SEERAH OF MUHAMMAD

(SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam)



LESSON

81



TOPIC:



Islamic community.



ISLAMIC COMMUNITY



The brotherhood between individual immigrants and their host families created a strong sense of community that was further consolidated when the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) instituted common rules of conduct for all. However, Madinah was also home to two other communities, the polytheists who had not accepted Islam, and the Jewish tribes.



In order to avoid the kind of conflicts the Muslims had experienced in Makkah, the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) entered into a covenant with these two communities. The following points were included in the document:

- ☐ "The Ansar and any other tribes who signed a treaty with them were a distinct Ummah (nation)."
- ☐ The payment of blood money and the release of prisoners between them and the Muslims would take place according to past practice, and the two non-Muslim communities of Madinah would help the Muslims in matters of ransom and blood money.
- ☐ All three communities of Madinah would unite against any criminals, rebels or hostile armies, even if they should be their own offspring.
- ☐ No Muslim was allowed to kill another Muslim to aid a non-Muslim, nor could he help a non-Muslim against a Muslim.
- ☐ The obligations owed to Allah were common to all Muslims, and the entire community was responsible for the discharge of this duty if an individual failed to carry out his responsibility.
- ☐ Jews who became Muslim would be treated as any other Muslim.
- ☐ Booty would be shared by all Muslims.
- ☐ One who deliberately killed a Muslim would be killed, unless the victim's family forgave the killer. It was incumbent upon Muslims to rise against the killer.

- ❑ It was unlawful for a Muslim to support anyone who tried to create dissension among Muslims, or anyone who attempted to tamper with the tenets of Islam.
- ❑ Allah and His Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) would settle all disputes arising among any of the three communities.



The covenant marked a turning point for Muslims. They were bound to each other by a solemn undertaking and through the course of later events, they would prove that the unity, brotherhood and cooperation sown by the covenant had flowered and borne fruit. As for the position of the Muslims vis-a-vis the non-Muslims, the covenant signified that the Muslims were strong enough to set their own terms. It was made apparent to the polytheists that they would not be able to challenge the Muslims' authority.



Most of the chieftains and notables of Madinah had become Muslim, and there was no one capable of leading those opposed to Islam in open rebellion. Realizing this, the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) wanted to ensure that non-Muslims who were discontent with the new power structure did not look to Makkah for help. He made the non-Muslims agree to the following stipulation:

- ❑ "We will not shelter the Quraysh, nor will we refuse to offer protection to Muslims."



The Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) drew up a separate covenant between the Muslims and the Jews:

- ❑ The Jews and Muslims would live together as two separate nations, each with its own way of life, and each in charge of its own financial affairs.
- ❑ Both nations would jointly defend the city from attack, and each would defend its own people.
- ❑ Both nations would coexist peacefully, and neither was to meddle in the affairs of the other or in any way attempt to destabilize the other.
- ❑ Neither nation was responsible for the misdeeds of the other.
- ❑ The oppressed would be helped and supported.
- ❑ Both nations would bear the expenses of war.
- ❑ Subversion and unwarranted bloodshed were unlawful for both nations.
- ❑ All disputes would be referred to Allah and His Prophet.
- ❑ The Quraysh and their allies were not to be aided or given refuge.
- ❑ The covenant would not provide any safeguard to wrong-doers or criminals.



This covenant united the three communities of Madinah and defined the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) as the undisputed head of state. Once everyone understood his rights and responsibilities, the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) began to actively call the other two communities to Islam.

To Be Continued...

