



Assalamu 'alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakaatuhu



SEERAH OF MUHAMMAD

(SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam)



LESSON 82



TOPICS:



Islamic community (continued).



The Quraysh Test The Muslim's Resolve.



Permission To Flight.



ISLAMIC COMMUNITY

(CONTINUED)



Many embraced Islam, and those who preferred their own religion lived in peace with the ruling Muslims. There were others, however, who were interested neither in Islam nor peaceful coexistence. A faction from them became Muslim so as to weaken Islam from within. They were later known as the Hypocrites. Their leader was Abdullah bin Ubayy, and together with the group of hostile non-Muslims, they represented the greatest threat to the security of Madinah.



THE QURAYSH TEST

THE MUSLIM'S RESOLVE



In spite of all the precautions the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) took to ensure that Madinah remained safe and peaceful, the Quraysh were determined to destabilize the city. The Quraysh sent word to the polytheists of Madinah, ordering them to help drive out the Muslims. If the polytheists refused to help, the Quraysh threatened to kill their children and capture their women.



The Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) found out about the threats and convinced the polytheists not to give in to the strong-arm tactics employed by the Quraysh. The Quraysh seethed at the turn of events. Their frustration was apparent when Sa'd bin Mu'adh (radhiAllahu 'anhu) went to Makkah to perform Umrah, the minor pilgrimage. As he circumambulated the Ka'bah with Abu Safwan Umayya bin Khalaf, he met Abu Jahl.



Abu Jahl recognized him as one of the residents of Madinah who had become Muslim and accosted Sa'd.



□ "So you find safety in Makkah while you have provided refuge to the faithless. By God, if you were not with Abu Safwan, you would not return home safe and sound."



Abu Jahls threat indicated that the Quraysh were intent on keeping Muslims from visiting the Ka'bah and performing their religious duties there. It also indicated that they were prepared to kill unarmed Muslims. The Jews of Madinah also represented another threat to the Muslims. They played on the old rivalry between the two tribes of Madinah, the Aus and Khazraj, hoping to rekindle the bitter feud that had once rent them. The fledgling Muslim community faced threats from both within and without. The danger of bloodshed grew so serious that the Muslims began keeping their weapons next to their beds at night.



The Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) was also protected by armed bodyguards until Allah revealed the ayah:



"Allah will guard you from mankind." (5: 67)



PERMISSION TO FLIGHT



Up to this point, the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) had counseled Muslims to endure insults and abuses in silence. Now, however, the Muslims had the upper hand. This new found supremacy triggered off even fiercer opposition from their enemies. At last, Allah made it permissible for Muslims to fight against their oppressors, and this permission later became a duty. The permission to fight was given in stages.



At first the Muslims were allowed to fight only the Quraysh because they were the first to oppress Muslims in Makkah. Muslims were also allowed to seize their goods, but not those of tribes at peace with them. Then the Muslims were allowed to fight any pagan tribe that allied itself with the Quraysh, or any other pagan tribe that oppressed Muslims. Later, the Muslims were permitted to fight any Jewish tribe that broke its covenant with the Muslims. In such a case, the covenant was automatically nullified.



Subsequently, the Muslims were allowed to fight "People of the Book" (Christians and Jews) who harassed or persecuted them. If the "People of the Book" surrendered to the Islamic state and paid

Jiziyah (a nominal tax), then the Muslims were forbidden to fight them. Finally, the Muslims were required to make peace with any polytheists, Jews or Christians who embraced Islam, and to respect their rights and property.

To Be Continued...

