

## SEERAH OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD(PBUH)

### LESSON:83(IN ENGLISH)

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Assalamu 'alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakaatuhu



## SEERAH OF MUHAMMAD

(SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam)



LESSON 83



TOPIC:



Military Expeditions (Saraya and Ghazawat).



## MILITARY EXPEDITIONS

(SARAYA AND GHAZAWAT)



Now that Allah had enjoined Muslims to fight in self defense, the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) molded the formerly oppressed, meek community into a military organization that would fight to survive and would no longer tolerate the depredations of every tribe that decided to prey on them. Archery and horsemanship were held out as activities to excel in. The Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) organized the Muslims into cavalry units called Saraya.



Sometimes he would accompany these squadrons, and the expeditions he took part in were called Ghazawat. The cavalry units undertook four main tasks.

- ☐ Primarily they were to protect the outskirts of Madinah and to gather intelligence about any suspicious activities.
- ☐ Secondly, they worked to intercept Makkan trade caravans passing through the area. Many Muslims had been forced to leave their wealth behind in Makkah when they migrated to Madinah; therefore, Muslims were allowed to retaliate by raiding caravans financed by the Quraysh.
- ☐ Thirdly, it was the responsibility of these cavalry units to make covenants with other tribes outside Madinah. The Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) the need to develop good relationships with these tribes so that they would not ally themselves with the Quraysh.
- ☐ Lastly, the units were entrusted with the task of spreading the message of Islam throughout Arabia.



The first Sariyya (singular form of Saraya) that the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) dispatched was called Sariyya Saif Al-Bahr. It took place in Ramadan, 1 A.H. [the first year of the Prophet's (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) migration or Hijrah: A.H. refers to After Hijrah]. The Prophet's (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) uncle Hamzah bin Abdul Muttalib (radhiAllahu 'anhu) led the squadron accompanied by thirty Muhaajireen. They headed for the coast of the Red Sea on the outskirts of Ais and came across a caravan headed by Abu Jahl that was returning from Syria.



A battle almost erupted when the two parties faced each other, but Majdi bin Amr Jahni intervened and matters subsided. This was the first Sariyya in the history of Islam. The Muslims rode beneath a white standard (the first ever used by Muslims) borne by Abu Marthad bin Haseen Ghanwi (radhiAllahu 'anhu). In the following months, the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) sent a number of Saraya one after another. Abu Ubaydah bin Harith (radhiAllahu 'anhu) led a party of sixty Muhaajireen to Batn Rabi.



They came across Abu Sufyan and two hundred Makkans. Arrows were shot from both sides but there was no combat. Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas (radhiAllahu 'anhu) was dispatched along with twenty Muhaajireen to Rabigh near Kharar, but the men returned without having had to fight. Then in Safar, 2 A.H., for the first time the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) himself went out to battle accompanied by seventy Muhaajireen. They journeyed to Abwa or Wadan, but once again they did not come across any enemies.



However, it was during this journey that the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) finalized a treaty of peace and cooperation with Amr bin Makhshi al Dhamri. The following month (Rabi' Al-Awwal, 2 A.H.), the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) led a group of men to Buwat on the outskirts of Radwi. During the same month, Kurz bin Jabir Al-Fihri rustled some grazing cattle belonging to the Muslims. The Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) gathered seventy Muhaajireen and chased him to Safwan on the outskirts of Badr, but Kurz escaped. This expedition is known as the First Battle of Badr.



The Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) also led a squadron of 150 to 200 Muhaajireen in either Jamad Al- Awwal or Jamad Al-Thani, 2 A.H. They went to Dhul Ashira to intercept a caravan headed for Syria, but it had passed a few days before they arrived. During this journey the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) finalized a non-aggression pact with Banu Madlaj.




To further steel his men in the art of warfare, the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) sent Abdullah bin Jahsh Asadi along with twelve Muhaajireen to Nakhlah (an area between Makkah and Ta'if) in Rajab, 2 A.H. Their objective was to gather intelligence about a caravan financed by the Quraysh. Abdullah's men attacked the caravan and killed one person. They also took two captives whom they brought back to Madinah. When the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) heard about what had happened, he became very upset.



He set the prisoners free and paid blood money to the victim's family. The Quraysh protested vehemently about the attack because it took place in Rajab, one of the "prohibited months," the period during which fighting is unlawful. Allah revealed the following ayah in reference to the Muslim attack on the caravan:



"They ask you concerning fighting in the prohibited months. Say: Fighting during these months is a grave offense, but preventing people from following the path of Allah, disbelieving in Him, preventing

access to the Sacred Mosque, and driving out its residents are greater offenses with Allah. Unrest and oppression are worse than killing."  (2: 217)

To Be Continued...

