

SEERAH OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD(PBUH)

LESSON:98 (IN ENGLISH)



Assalamu 'alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakaatuhu



SEERAH OF MUHAMMAD

(SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam)



LESSON 98



TOPICS:



An appointment at Badr.



The Battle of the Trench.



Digging the Trench.



AN APPOINTMENT

AT BADR



Abu Sufyan had left Uhud with the promise of another military encounter the following year, and with the arrival of Sha'ban, 4 A.H., the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) preempted his adversary in a march towards the battlefield. He camped at Badr, where he waited eight days for Abu Sufyan. He had with him a force consisting of 1500 soldiers and 10 horses.



Ali bin Abu Talib was the standard bearer, while the administration of Madinah was handed over to Abdullah bin Rawaha (radhiAllahu 'anhu). Abu Sufyan also set out with an army of 2000 soldiers, including 50 cavalymen, but from the start he appeared to be lacking fire. Upon arriving at the venue he remarked to his men,



□ "Battle is suitable when there is freshness and greenery throughout so that the animals can graze and we can also drink milk. But now as there is drought everywhere, I am going back. You people should follow me."



Abu Sufyan's entire army seemed to share his sentiments and tamely marched back without meeting the enemy. The Muslims, meanwhile, stayed on in Badr and carried out a number of business transactions. They sold their goods and made handsome profits. The Quraysh had retreated without drawing a single sword, so the Muslims returned with their military reputation in high standing.



In Rabi' Al Awwal that same year the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) launched a punitive attack on a group of bandits at Dumat Al Jandal. At last all the enemies were subdued, and there was peace for an entire year, a year that the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) was able to spend consolidating the faith and teaching his followers.



THE BATTLE OF



THE TRENCH



After the expedition against Banu Nadir and the meek departure of the Quraysh from Badr, a year and a half went by without any disturbances. It seemed that the Muslims were finally free to spread their religion and bring about changes in their environment and daily lives, but the idyll was soon to be disrupted. The exiled Jewish tribes had consolidated their base at Khaybar, and having done so they began to dream of vengeance.



Realizing the need to rally as much manpower as possible, they went about seeking allies against the Muslims. Some biographers say that twenty chieftains and leaders of the Khaybar Jews went to the Quraysh pledging support for a renewed military campaign. When the Quraysh agreed, the Jewish delegation contacted Banu Ghatfan, and they also gave their consent. More and more clans were roped in, and the plan was that each of them should move towards Madinah simultaneously.



DIGGING THE TRENCH



When the news of the coalition reached Madinah, the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) conferred with his Companions as to strategy. The Muslims being so heavily outnumbered, it was imperative that they come up with an impenetrable defense. Salman Al-Farsi advised that the Muslims should dig a trench to keep the enemy away, and everyone approved of the suggestion.



Madinah was naturally fortified on three fronts. With volcanic plains and granite hills to the east, west and south, the city was exposed only on the north, from where the enemy forces could launch an

assault. Therefore, the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) chose to fortify that front. He marked the narrowest spot stretching between the east and west and covering a distance of about one mile.



Both belts were connected at this spot by the trench. In the west, the trench began from the north of the Sal'a hills and joined the end of the easterly belt at Shaykhayn. The Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) divided his men into units of ten with each unit responsible for digging forty cubits. He himself participated in the task of digging the trench and carrying loads of earth. It was a massive undertaking, and the Muslims worked steadily.



Their morale soared as they relied on their faith in Allah and their devotion to His Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) for moral sustenance. The Companions sang praises of Allah and the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) joined in. When he sang, the Companions responded. They bore with quiet heroism the rigorous hardships before them, particularly the biting cold and gnawing hunger.



A handful of barley was procured and cooked in rancid, foul smelling fat. Swallowing the food was a challenge in itself. Once the men went to the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) complaining of debilitating hunger. As proof, each showed him a slab of stone tied to his belly to stave off the hunger pangs. The Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) lifted his shirt. Tied to his abdomen were two slabs of stone.



The pagans had clamored for miracles to confirm the divine nature of the Prophet's message. Allah had sent them signs that they ignored. During the excavation of the trench, Allah sent the Muslims several signs of His grace, signs that increased their faith and sustained them through adversity.

To Be Continued...

