PREFACE

In the Name of Allaah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Over my many years involvement in Islamic activities I have always felt that there was a dire need for a simple book, suitable for children, on the life of our noble Prophet Muhammad (*Sallallaahu 'alaihi wa Sallam*). Accordingly I approached a few persons who I felt were qualified to do this task but there was no positive response. As a result the thought had occurred to me from time to time that I should attempt such a work.

It was not until four years ago that I took a decision to undertake writing this booklet and, through the Grace of Almighty Allaah, I then started work on the draft, completing about one half of the manuscript. It was another two years before the rest of the booklet was written. And it was only at the beginning of this year (1991 C.E.) that I was able to review the draft and make arrangements for the booklet to be published.

I have used as my main references two books by well-known scholars. These books are:

- (1) "The Last Prophet" by Dr. Majid Ali Khan (Associate Professor at the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India) and second prize winner in the World Competition on "Research Works on SIRA of the Holy Prophet" instituted by Rabita. Dr. Khan's work has been published under the title "Muhammad The Final Messenger",
- (2) "Islam Beliefs and Teachings" by Ghulam Sarwar, Director of the Muslim Education Trust of London, England.

I have been fortunate to have the manuscript read by a few friends who made valuable suggestions which were incorporated in the final version. I mention no names for fear of embarrassing them. Their reward is with Almighty Allaah. However, I invite readers who discover any shortcomings in the booklet or who may have suggestions for its improvement to communicate with me at the address below.

I hope *Inshaa Allaah* to be able to prepare a Questionnaire based on this booklet so that the readers' grasp and retention of its contents may be tested.

Should any organisations/persons find that this booklet is worthy of reproduction I have no objection to their doing so, provided it is distributed free of charge. However, I would expect to be informed well in advance in order:-

- (a) that any changes which I wish to make are incorporated in the text, and
- (b) to prevent a duplication of efforts with the consequential waste of scarce financial resources.

Finally, I pray that Allaah *Subhaanuhu wa Ta'ala* will accept this service, that at least a few persons will benefit from it, and that Almighty Allaah will grant me the strength, wisdom and determination to complete those other works which are in draft form or are in the planning stage.

Khudaa Haafiz.

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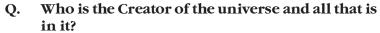




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CHILDHOOD



A. Almighty Allaah is the Creator of the Universe, which includes the earth, the sun, the moon and the planets. Almighty Allaah is also the Creator of everything that is in the universe, for example, human beings, plants, animals and fishes.

Q. Why did Almighty Allaah create human beings?

A. Almighty Allaah created human beings so that they may worship Him.

Q. How do we know how to worship Almighty Allaah?

A - We know how to worship Almighty Allaah from the Messengers He sent from time to time.

Q. Can you name some of the Messengers Almighty Allaah sent to mankind?

A. Yes. Among them were Prophets Adam, Nuuh (Noah), Daoud (David), Ibraahiim (Abraham), Muusa (Moses), and Iisaa (Jesus), may Almighty Allaah be pleased with them all.

Q. Will Almighty Allaah keep sending Messengers to us?

A. No. Almighty Allaah will not keep sending Messengers to us all the time.

Q. Why will He not keep sending Messengers?

A. Almighty Allaah has already sent the last Messenger. Therefore there will be no more to come.

Q. Who was the last Messenger sent by Almighty Allaah?

A. The last Messenger sent by Almighty Allaah was the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.).*

Q. Where was the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) born?

A - The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) was born in the City of Makkah, which is in Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is a country in the Middle East.

Q. When was the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) born?

A. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) was born on Monday the 12th of Rabbi-ul-Awwal in the year 570 C.E.

Q. What is the meaning of the word "Muhammad"?

A. The word Muhammad means "The Praised Person".

Q. What are some of the other names by which the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) is called?

- A Some of the other names by which the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) is known are:
 - (1) Ahmad, which means 'The Most Praised Person',
 - (2) Habib-ul-laah, which means 'The Beloved of Allaah'.

Q. Who was the father of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.)?

A. The Holy Prophet Muhammad's father was Abdullah, who was the son of Abdul- Muttalib. The Holy Prophet's father died six months before the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was born.

Q. Who was the mother of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.)?

* Sallallaahu 'Alaihi wa Sallam (May the Peace and Blessings of Almighty Allaah be upon him).

- A. The Holy Prophet Muhammad's mother was Bibi Aaminah.
- Q. Who nursed the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) when he was a baby and took care of him when he was a young child?
- A. Bibi Haliimah nursed the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) when he was a baby and took care of him until he was six years old.
- Q. Did any unusual events happen while the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was under the care of Bibi Haliimah?
- A. Yes. A number of strange events happened.
- Q. Can you relate one of these?
- A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) used to go out with his foster brothers when they took out the sheep and goats to graze. Once some of his companions ran to Bibi Haliimah and told her that they had seen two angels descend from the skies, take out the Holy Prophet's heart, and then replace the heart in the Holy Prophet's chest. Bibi Haliimah ran to the field immediately but did not see anything. She asked the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) if anything unusual had happened to him and he told her exactly what his foster-brothers related to her before.
- Q. Is it possible to take out a person's heart from his chest and put it back without the person dying?
- A. Until recently, many persons believed this could not be done. Today however this is a common event as doctors regularly perform heart-transplants, that is, if a person has a bad heart, and can find another person with a good heart who is willing to donate it, doctors will perform an operation and replace the bad heart with the good one. But in the case of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) a Mujizah (miracle) happened with Almighty_

Allaah's command as there was no transplant of the heart or any part of the body or any operation.

Q. What did Bibi Haliimah do with the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) when he was six years old?

A. When the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) was six years old he was taken back to the care of his mother, Bibi Aaminah, in Makkah.

Q. What did Bibi Aaminah do then?

A. Bibi Aaminah took the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) to Madinah where his father had died and was buried. She did so because she wanted the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) to meet his relatives.

Q. What happened when they were returning to Makkah?

A. While returning to Makkah Bibi Aaminah fell ill at a place called Al-Abwa. She died there and was also buried at that place.

Q. Who took back the Holy Prophet to Makkah?

A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was taken back to Makkah by 'Ummi-Aiman. She was a slave girl who had accompanied Bibi Aaminah on the journey.

Q. Who became the Holy Prophet's guardian after the death of his mother Bibi Aaminah?

A. After the death of his mother, the Holy Prophet's grandfather Abdul Muttalib became his guardian. However, Abdul Muttalib died when the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was eight years old. The Holy Prophet's uncle, Abu Talib, then became the Holy Prophet's guardian.

Q. What type of life did the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) live during his childhood.

A. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) lived as any

ordinary boy during his childhood. He used to play in the fields with other children and helped to look after the sheep and goats.

Q. Did the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) go to school?

A. No. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) did not go to school because in those days there were no schools as we have today.

Q. Did the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) learn to read and write?

A. No. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) did not learn to read and write. In those days only a few persons had the opportunity to do so.



THE YOUTH



Q. What event took place when the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) was twelve years old?

A. When the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) was twelve years old his uncle and guardian, Abu Talib, took him along as a companion on a business trip to the neighbouring country of Syria.

Q. How did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and his uncle travel?

A. There were no aeroplanes and buses and cars in those days. Arabia is a desert country and people had to walk from one place to another or travel on the backs of camels.

Q. Did anything important happen while the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was in Syria?

A. Yes, when Abu Talib and his companions reached Busra, which is a city in Syria, a Christian priest named Bahiraah invited Abu Talib and the others to

have dinner with him. Bahiraah knew the teachings of the scriptures very well, and when he saw the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) he immediately knew this youth, Muhammad (S.A.W.), was the one who would be the last Prophet. Bahiraah told Abu Talib of his belief and advised him to take special care to ensure that no harm befell the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.).

Q. What did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) do after the visit to Syria with his uncle?

A. On returning from Syria, the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) started his own business.

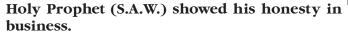
Q. What did the people of Makkah think of this young businessman?

A. The people of Makkah thought highly of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) as a businessman. He was always honest in his dealings with them and so they called him "Al-Amin" ("The Trustworthy") and "As-Sadiq" ("The Truthful").

Q. Name one occasion in the Holy Prophet's life as a teenager when he kept his promise.

A The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) had promised to meet a friend at the corner of a street in Makkah. The friend came at the agreed time and told the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) he had an errand to perform and to wait for him as he would be back shortly. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) waited at that place for three days and nights. On the fourth day the friend was passing by that corner and saw the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.). He asked the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) what he was doing there. In reply the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) told him that he had promised to wait till he (the friend) returned and he was keeping his promise. The friend said he was sorry to have the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) waiting there so long as he had forgotten to return.

Q. Relate an occasion on which, as a youth, the



- A. Once the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) sold a number of camels to a person. After the person left, he remembered that one of the camels was lame and immediately went in search of the person. On finding him the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) took back the camel and returned the amount of money the man had paid for it.
- Q. Did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) only attend to his business when he was a youth? Did he take part in any activities to help the poor and the needy?
- A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was always concerned about the poor and the needy as the following incident will show. When he was fifteen years old a war had broken out between two tribes in Makkah. The war was called the Battle of Fujar and was fought, with a few ceasefires, for four years. Many persons lost their lives and as a result there were many widows and orphans in need.

A number of persons formed a committee called Hilf-ul-Fudul. The purpose was to help those who were in need. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) became an active member of the committee, and worked hard with others to help the less fortunate members of the community.

AH .

MARRIAGE TO BIBI KHADIJAH



- Q. What important event took place when the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) was twenty five years old?
- A. When the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was twenty five years old he married a widow named Bibi Khadiijah.
- Q. What events led to this marriage?

A. Bibi Khadiijah's husband had died some years before and she wanted to get someone to look after the business which he had left. So she enquired from her friends about some trustworthy person to manage the business.

Q. Who did Bibi Khadiijah's friends recommend?

A - Bibi Khadiijah's friends highly recommended the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.), so she asked him to manage her business affairs. He was then twenty four years old.

Q. What happened after?

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A. Bibi Khadiijah, who was fifteen years older than the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.), was very happy with the way the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was managing the business. She also felt he would make a good husband for herself, so she told a very close friend to ask the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) whether he would marry her. He agreed to do so.

Q. Was this a happy marriage?

A. Yes. The marriage lasted for twenty-five years and only ended when Bibi Khadiijah died.

Q. Were there any children by this marriage?

A. Yes. There were six children by this marriage, two boys and four girls. The two boys died during childhood while the four girls all attained womanhood and became Muslims.

Q. Did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) marry again after the death of Bibi Khadiijah?

A. Yes. He did.

Q. Did he have any children other than with Bibi Khadiijah?

A. Yes. Only one, a boy, but he too died while a child.

Q. What type of life did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) live after he married Bibi Khadiijah?

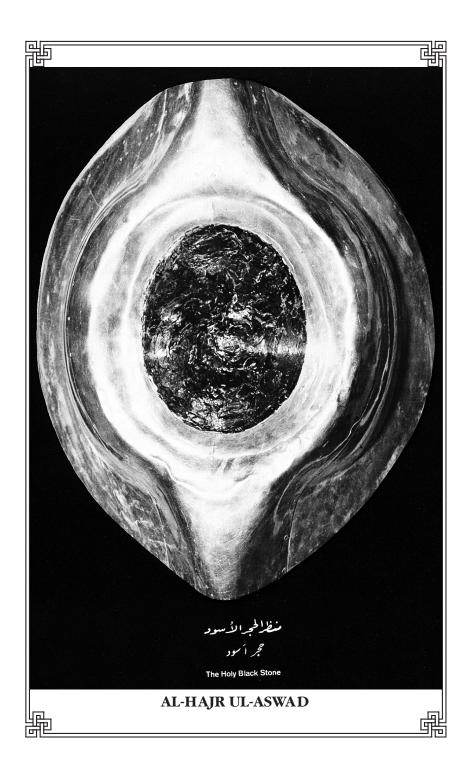
A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had never worshipped idols like the people of Makkah. Nor did he follow the evil ways of the Makkans. He worshipped Almighty Allaah alone. He used to spend a lot of time thinking about Almighty Allaah and about how to get the Makkans to change their evil ways. After his marriage the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) became less and less involved in business, and began to think more and more about Almighty Allaah.

XXX

RE-BUILDING THE HOLY KA'ABA



- Q. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was asked to give a decision on a very delicate matter when he was thirty-five years old. His advice showed his wisdom and averted what could have turned out into a very serious dispute, possibly war, between the Makkan tribes. Please give the details of this event.
- A. The Holy Ka'aba, which is located in Makkah and is the first building to be constructed for the worship of Almighty Allaah, had to be re-built because of the damage caused by a flood. Persons from the various tribes got together and started to re-build it. However, when the time came to replace the sacred Al-Hajr ul Aswad (the Black Stone) a dispute arose because each tribe wanted to have the unique honour of doing so. After heated arguments an elder, Abu Umayyah bin Mughiraah, suggested that the matter should be decided by the first person to enter the Holy Ka'aba the next morning.
- Q. Who was that person?
- A. That person was the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.).
- Q. And what was the Holy Prophet's solution to the





- A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) told them to get a sheet and place the Al-Hajr ul-Aswad on it. When this was done, he then asked the chief of each tribe to hold a part of the sheet and raise it to the required height.
- Q. What did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) do then?
- A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) picked up the Al-Hajr ul-Aswad and placed it in position.
- Q. Were the Makkans happy at the way in which the matter was resolved?
- A. Yes, they were because each tribe had a part in placing the Sacred Stone in its proper position.

XX

PROPHETHOOD



- Q. You said previously that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) had began to think more and more of Almighty Allaah. Was there any special place where he went to meditate?
- A. Yes. The Holy Prophet's favourite place of retreat was a cave named Hiraa in Mount Thaur, which is near to Makkah. Sometimes he used to spend many days and nights meditating in this cave.
- Q. Did anything special or important happen in the cave of Hiraa?
- A . Yes. A very important event took place in the cave of Hiraa. It was there that he received the first revelation of the Holy Qur'aan from Almighty Allaah.
- Q. Describe how the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) received this first revelation?
- A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was forty years old at the time. One night in the month of Ramadaan he was in the cave of Hiraa as usual when he heard a voice say to him "Read".

Whose voice was it?

Q.

A. It was the voice of the Angel Gabriel who had been sent by Almighty Allaah with the first revelation of the Holy Qur'aan.

Q. Did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) obey the Angel Gabriel and read?

A. No. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) did not because, as you know, he could neither read nor write.

Q. What then did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) do?

A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was frightened and trembled; he replied that he could not read.

Q. Did the Angel Gabriel accept this?

A. No. The Angel did not. He hugged and squeezed the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.), and again told him to read.

Q. What did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) say this time?

A. The Holy Prophet gave the same answer as before: that he could not read.

Q. What did the Angel Gabriel do then?

A. The Angel hugged and squeezed the Holy Prophet again, this time to the limit of his endurance, and then told him to "Read."

Q. Did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) respond positively this time?

A. No. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) again told the Angel that he could not read.

Q. Did the Angel now accept this answer?

A. No. The Angel did not. He hugged and squeezed the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) for the third time, again to the limit of his endurance, then recited the words!

"Proclaim! (or Read!). In the name of thy Lord and

Cherisher, Who created - created man out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood: Proclaim! And thy Lord is Most Bountiful, - He Who taught, (the use of the Pen)), taught man that which he knew not."

Q. What happened next?

A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) repeated the words and felt as if he could never forget them.

Q. What do you know of these words?

A. These words are the first verses of the Holy Qur'aan to be revealed and are to be found in Chapter 96 Verses I-V of that book.

Q. What did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) do after Angel Gabriel left?

A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.), still trembling, returned home and told his wife what had happened.

Q. Did Bibi Khadiijah believe what her husband told her?

A. Bibi Khadiijah had great faith and confidence in the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and told him she was sure that Almighty Allaah would make him a prophet. She then wrapped him up in blankets, after which he fell asleep.

Q. What happened when the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) awoke next morning?

A. Bibi Khadiijah had an elderly cousin named Waraqah bin Naufal who was a Christian and who also knew the scriptures very well. Bibi Khadiijah took the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) to her cousin and explained what had happened the night before. She then asked Waraqah bin Naufal for his opinion of the incident.

Q. What did Waraqah bin Naufal say?

A. He told the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) that the Angel was the same one who had been sent down to the Prophets



Q. Did Waraqah bin Naufal say anything else?

- A. Yes. He said that he wished he was young so that he would live to see the time when the people would drive out the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) from his home.
- Q. What did the Holy Prophet, (S.A.W.) say to this?
- A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) asked whether he would be driven out from his home.

Q. And what was Waraqah bin Naufal's reply?

- A. His reply was that every Prophet who had brought a message from Almighty Allaah had been driven out from his home.
- Q. Did Waraqah bin Naufal live to see the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) driven from his home?
- A. Waraqah bin Naufal died a few days after and so did not live to see the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) driven from his home.



- Q. Who was the first person to believe that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) was a Messenger of Almighty Allaah?
- A. The first person to believe that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was the Messenger of Almighty Allaah was, of course, his beloved wife Bibi Khadiijah.
- Q. Besides Bibi Khadiijah, who were the others to first believe in the message of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.)?
- A. Those who knew the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) very well were the first to believe in him when he said that he was the Messenger of Almighty Allaah. Besides his wife Bibi Khadiijah his very close friend, Abu Bakr, was the

first male adult to accept Islam. The Holy Prophet's ten year old cousin, Ali, was the first child to become a Muslim, while the first slave to accept Islam was the Holy Prophet's household slave, Zaid. These were the first four persons to become Muslims.

- Q. Did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) start to preach the message to the inhabitants of Makkah immediately?
- A. No. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) did not do this and for the first three years he was very careful about where and to whom he preached.
- Q. Did many people accept the teachings of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and become Muslims during these first three years?
- A. No. There were only about forty converts during this period. We must remember however that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had not yet started to preach publicly.
- Q. What happened after three years?
- A. At the end of the third year Almighty Allaah commanded the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) to publicly preach the message of Islam.
- Q. How did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) start to do this?
- A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) started by inviting some of his close relatives to dine with him. After the dinner, he told them of his Divine Mission and invited them to accept the Message and to become Muslims.
- Q. Did the Holy Prophet's relatives accept the Message?
- A. The older relatives did not accept the Message. It was only the Holy Prophet's ten year old first cousin Ali who expressed belief and promised support for the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.).

Q. What did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) do after his relatives refused to believe in him?

A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) decided to address the Makkans and invite them to believe in the Message from Almighty Allaah.

Q. How did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) do this?

A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) climbed to the top of a small mount called As-Safa. He called out to the passers-by and when they saw him there some of them stopped to listen.

Q. What did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) say to those persons who stopped to listen to him?

A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) asked them whether they would believe him if he told them there was an army of enemies on the other side of the mountain.

Q. And what was the reply?

A. The Makkans, knowing that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had always spoken the truth, replied that they would believe him if he told them that.

Q. What did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) tell them after that?

A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) then told the Makkans who had assembled at the foot of Mount As- Safa that they must believe in Almighty Allaah and worship Him alone; that Almighty Allaah is One; that he (Muhammad) is the Prophet of Almighty Allaah; and that they must obey Almighty Allaah otherwise they would be punished.

Q. And what was the reply of the Makkans?

A. The Makkans told the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) that he was mad. After saying this, they left the foot of the mount and went about their business as usual.

Q. Were the Makkans happy with what the Holy

Prophet (S.A.W.) told them from atop Mount As-Safa?

A. No. They were not.

Q. Why were they unhappy?

A. They were unhappy because they worshipped many gods and prayed to many idols and now the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was telling them that what they were doing was very wrong and they must only worship one God: Almighty Allaah.

The Makkans were also unhappy because more and more persons were giving up the practise of worshipping idols and were accepting the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) as the Messenger of Almighty Allaah.

Q. Did the Makkans allow the matter to stop there?

A. No. They went to the Holy Prophet's uncle Abu Talib and warned him to stop the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) from preaching about this new religion, or else suffer the consequences.

Q. And what did Abu Talib do?

A. Abu Talib was also the leader of the Quraysh tribe and thus under much strain. He accordingly explained the position to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and asked him to ease the strain he was undergoing.

Q. And did the Holy Prophet. (S.A.W.) agree to this?

A. No. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) told his uncle that if the Makkans placed the sun in his right hand and the moon in his left hand as a reward for giving up his Divine Mission, he would not stop preaching the Truth. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) continued that he would carry on his sacred task until he was successful or died in the effort.

Q. Did Abu Talib then stop protecting his nephew?

- A. Abu Talib did not. On the contrary, he told the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) to continue preaching and that he would give him all the protection necessary.
- Q. Did the Makkans try any other device in order to stop the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) from preaching?
- A. Yes. They did. They told the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) that if he gave up his Mission they would give him money, or power or a beautiful wife, whatever he wanted.
- Q. Did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) accept any of these offers?
- A. No! Of course the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) did not accept any of these bribes and he went about preaching the words of Almighty Allaah, as usual.
- Q. Did the Makkans now allow the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and the new Muslims to live in peace?
- A. The Makkans did not. They continued to take every opportunity to persecute the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and the new Muslims.



THE FIRST EMIGRANTS



Q. Did all the Muslims remain in Makkah?

- A. No. In the seventh month of the fifth year of the mission fifteen Muslims (eleven men and four women) migrated to Abyssinia which is now called Ethiopia. They went to that country in the hope that they would be able to practise their religion peacefully.
- Q. Were the Muslims allowed to practise their religion peacefully in Abyssinia?
- A. Yes. The Negus, or the ruler of Abyssinia, permitted

them to do so.

Q. And what happened to the Muslims remaining in Makkah?

A. Well, the Makkans found the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was converting many of their people so they continued to persecute them.

Q. What important event occurred in the seventh year of the Holy Prophet's mission?

A. The Quraysh met and agreed to banish all the people of the Holy Prophet's tribe, and to stop trading with them. Abu Talib and all his family, including the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.), were forced to move to a valley where they suffered great hardship because of the living conditions and the trade boycott.

Q. How long were the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and the others forced to stay in the valley?

A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and the others were forced to stay in the valley for three years. They were then allowed to leave and return to their homes because the Quraysh started to disagree among themselves.

Q. Did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) continue spreading the message of Islam after he and the others were allowed to leave the valley?

A. Yes. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) continued to proclaim to one and all the teachings of Islam and more and more persons began to accept Islam as the only true religion.

Q. Were those who were accepting Islam only from the city of Makkah, or were there also people from other places?

A. People from all over Arabia were accepting Islam at this point in time.

THE YEAR OF SORROW



Q. What year in the Holy Prophet Muhammad's mission is called "The Year of Sorrow"?

- A. The tenth year of the Holy Prophet's mission is called "The Year of Sorrow". The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was fifty years old at the time.
- Q. Why was that year called "The Year of Sorrow"?
- A. "The Year of Sorrow" was so called because two sad events occurred in that year of the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.).

Q. What were these sad events?

A. The first sad event was the death of Abu Talib, who was the Holy Prophet's uncle. You will remember that after the death of the Holy Prophet's grandfather his paternal uncle, Abu Talib, became his guardian. Abu Talib was a prominent person in Makkah and had always protected the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) from abuse by the Makkans.

Q. What was the second sad event in "The Year of Sorrow"?

A. The second sad event was the death of his beloved wife Bibi Khadiijah to whom he had been married for twenty-five years. They had lived happily together and she had always been a source of joy, comfort and support to him.

Q. What other important event happened in "The Year of Sorrow?

A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) went to a city in Arabia called Taa'if to invite the people there to accept Islam.

Taa'if is about one hundred kilometres (sixty miles) west of Makkah. However, the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was not successful in this mission. A few of the elders



caused some of the wicked people of the city to stone the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and to shout bad things at him. He was injured by these missiles yet he did not wish any bad or evil things to happen to the people of that city.

THE ISRAA' AND MI'RAAJ



- Q. Was there any relief or happiness for the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) after "The Year of Sorrow"?
- A. Yes. The very next year, that is the eleventh year of his mission, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) was honoured by Allaah, Who called the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) to His presence in the heavens.
- Q. Do you mean the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) went to the heavens, was in the presence of Almighty Allaah, and returned to the earth?
- A. Yes. All that took place.
- Q. Tell me how this happened?
- A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was asleep at the house of his cousin Umma-Hani in Makkah when the Angel Gabriel came and told him that he was summoned to the presence of Almighty Allaah. The Angel first took the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) to Masjid-ul-Aqsa (the Great Masjid) at Jerusalem on an animal called the *Buraaq*. There the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) led all the past Prophets in salaat or prayer. This part of the journey is called the *Isra*'.

Q. What happened afterwards?

A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was then taken to each of the heavens, and then to the presence of Almighty Allaah. This is called the *Mi'raaj* and during this journey he saw all the mysteries of the Universe.

Q. Did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) actually see Almighty Allaah?

- A. No. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) did not see Almighty Allaah. But Almighty Allaah told him many things and gave him the gift of salaat (prayer five times a day) for himself and his followers. After this the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) returned to his home in Makkah.
- Q. How long did this journey take?
- A. The Isra' and Mi'raaj took only a very, very short part of the night.
- Q. Did the people believe the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) when he told them of the journey?
- A. The Muslims believed. However the non-Muslims did not believe the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) when he told them of the journey, although he was able to give certain details which would have confirmed what took place while on it.
- Q. Is it possible for such a journey to take place in so short a space of time?
- A. Yes. We must understand that Almighty Allaah can do anything, and everything is possible with Him. These days we read and hear about people going to the moon and into space. Why then should we not believe that Almighty Allaah took His beloved Messenger to the heavens and unto His presence?
- Q. On what night did the Isra' and Mi'raaj take place.
- A. These two events took place on the 27th night of the month of Rajab.



THE COVENANTS OF AL-A'QABAH



Q. What other important event took place in the eleventh year of the Holy Prophet's call?

A. The First Covenant of Al-A'qabah was made in that year.

Q. What is the First Covenant of Al-A'qabah?

A. First you must understand that a covenant is an a agreement. Now let me explain to you what this is all about. You will remember that people from all over Arabia and nearby countries went annually to Makkah for pilgrimage. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) took this opportunity to invite them to accept Islam and many of them did so.

Q. Yes. We remember that. But you still have not explained to us what the First Covenant of Al-A'qabah is about.

A. We are coming to that now. As a result of the Holy Prophet's preaching, six persons from the city of Yathrib (now called Madinah) accepted Islam. Upon returning to their homes in Madinah they told others of their new beliefs and also invited them to join the new religion.

In the eleventh year of the call twelve persons from Madinah who had gone to Makkah to perform pilgrimage accepted Islam as their new religion and made an agreement with the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) This agreement is called the First Covenant of Al A'qabah.

Q. Can you tell us briefly what the First Covenant is about?

- A. Yes. We will. The persons from Madinah agreed, among other things, that:
 - (i) they would obey Almighty Allaah alone and would not disobey His commands,
 - (ii) they would not steal,
 - (iii) they would not kill their children,
 - (iv) they would not commit any evil.

Q. So that is what the First Covenant of Al-A'qabah is about? How many other covenants of Al-A'qabah were there in all?

- A. There was only one other pledge made by the people of Madinah at Al-A'qabah. This is called the Second Covenant of Al-A'qabah and was made in the following year, that is the twelfth year of the call, when about seventy-three Muslims came from Madinah for the pilgrimage.
- Q. In what way was the Second Covenant of Al-A'qabah different from the First?
- A. The Second Covenant of Al-A'qabah included all that was agreed upon in the First Covenant. However, a very important addition was made.
- Q. What is this important addition of which you speak?
- A. The important addition was that the Muslims of Madinah now agreed to defend the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) against his enemies.
- Q. In what way did the Second Covenant of Al-A'qabah help the Muslims in Makkah?
- A. You will remember that the Muslims living in Makkah were being persecuted and harassed. Because of the pledge made in the Second Covenant of Al A'qabah, the Muslims in Makkah were now able to migrate to Madinah and practise their religion without much persecution.



THE HIJRAH OR MIGRATION



- Q. Did the Muslims in Makkah in fact now start to migrate to Madinah?
- A. Yes. They did so on the instructions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.).

Q. Did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) also migrate to Madinah?

A. Yes. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) eventually migrated to Madinah. But we shall tell you about this shortly, Inshaa Allaah.

Q. How was Islam thriving in Makkah?

A. More and more Makkans were accepting Islam but the Quraysh were persecuting the Muslims more and more also. The Quraysh were also annoyed because the Muslims started to migrate, first in small, then in larger numbers to Madinah.

Q. The Quraysh should have been happy that the Muslims were leaving Makkah. Why were they annoyed?

A. The Quraysh were annoyed because the Muslims were able to practise their religion in relative peace in Madinah. As a result of this, Islam would spread and after a while very few persons, if any, would be worshipping idols.

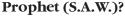
Q. You said that most of the Muslims went to live in Madinah. Did the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) also go to live in that city?

A. Yes. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) also went to live in Madinah.

Q. Can you describe how this took place?

A. It was the thirteenth year after the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had received the first revelation and, as we said before, only a few Muslims remained in Makkah. Among these were Abu Bakr and Ali. The unbelievers now planned to kill the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) as they felt this was the only way they could stop him from spreading the Message.

Q. How did the unbelievers plan to murder the Holy



A. They selected a small number of persons and told them to wait outside the Holy Prophet's house during the night and to kill him when he came out the next morning.

Q. Did this plan succeed?

A. Of course not.

Q. Please continue and tell us what happened.

A. Well, Almighty Allaah commanded the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) to leave Makkah and go and settle in Madinah. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) knew of the plans of the unbelievers to kill him so he told Ali to sleep in his bed. During the second part of the night he left the house unseen, through the power of Almighty Allaah. He first went to Abu Bakr's house and took Abu Bakr with him. Then they both went to the cave of Thaur to hide as they knew their enemies would be looking for them.

Q. What about the unbelievers? What did they do when they did not see the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) come out of his house in the morning?

A. They suspected something was wrong so they went into the house and were very surprised to find Ali in the Holy Prophet's bed. They were very angry to find that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had escaped.

Q. What did the unbelievers do, then?

A. They suspected that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was hiding somewhere in or around Makkah. Therefore they started to search all the possible places where he could have hidden.

Q. Did they find him?

A. No, they did not. They reached outside the Cave Thaur but did not enter it.

Q. Why didn't the unbelievers search the cave to look for the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.)?

A. Almighty Allaah had caused a tree to spread its branches over the entrance to the cave, and a bird to build a nest on one of its branches. In addition, Almighty Allaah had caused a spider to spin its web across the entrance to the cave. The unbelievers, seeing these, felt no one could have entered the cave without breaking the web and disturbing the nest. So they stopped in front of the cave for a while and then went away.

Q. What happened when the unbelievers were outside the cave?

A. Abu Bakr heard their footsteps and feared that they would be discovered. He told the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) that the enemies were outside the cave.

Q. And what was the reply of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.)?

A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) said:
"Have no fear, for God is with us."

(Holy Qur'aan Chapter 9 Verse 40)

Q. Were the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and Abu Bakr able to obtain food while they were in the cave?

A. Yes, Abu Bakr's daughter Asma' used to hide and carry meals for them during the night.

Q. How long did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and Abu Bakr stay in the cave?

A. They stayed three days and then left for Madinah.

Q. As the unbelievers did not find the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) in the cave did they give up the pursuit?

A. No. The unbelievers realised that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had outwitted them and must have started to travel to Madinah, so they began to search the route

to that city.

Q. Did they find him?

A. Yes. One warrior named Suuraqa, who was riding a horse, came upon the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and made three attempts to kill him.

Q. Did Suuraqa succeed in killing the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.)?

A. Of course not. Suuraqa charged at the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) three times with upraised sword. Each time however his horse's legs sank into the sand and he failed in all the attempts to kill the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.).

Q. What did Suuraqa do after his third attempt to kill the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.)?

A. Suuraqa realised that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was divinely protected so he did not make any further attempts to kill him. He then became a Muslim.

Q. Did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and Abu Bakr then continue their journey to Madinah?

A. Yes. They did.

Q. Was the journey an easy one?

A. No. It was not. It was a very hard and tiring one. You must remember that the distance was about four hundred and thirty kilometres (270 hundred miles) and that they were travelling on camel through the desert. You must also remember that there were no highways, motor vehicles and hotels in those days.

Q. Please continue telling us about this journey.

A. Well, after many days the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and Abu Bakr reached a place called Qubaa, which is about five kilometres (three miles) before Madinah.

Q. Did anything important happen in Qubaa?

A. Yes, the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and Abu Bakr spent two weeks there and were joined by Ali. During his stay there the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) built a Masjid, which is the first to have been built by the Muslims.

THE EARLY YEARS IN MADINAH



- Q. Will you now tell us what happened when the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) arrived in Madinah?
- A. We will tell you this shortly. But first you must know that the migration of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) to Madinah is called the Hijrah and that the Islamic calendar begins from the date the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) arrived in that city.
- Q. So that is the Hijrah? Now, please tell us about the Holy Prophet's arrival in Madinah.
- A. The Muslims in Madinah already knew that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had left Makkah and was in Qubaa. So they were eagerly awaiting his arrival in their city.
- Q. What happened when the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) actually arrived in Madinah?
- A. The streets were lined with men, women and children and the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was given a very hearty welcome.
- Q. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had left his home in Makkah to go and live in Madinah? Where did he stay in Madinah?
- A. Many of the Muslims wanted the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) to stay at their home. However, the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) decided that he would stay at the home of the person in front of whose house his camel kneeled down.
- Q. And who was that fortunate person?
- A. You must know that the Holy Prophet's camel first

knelt for a short while in front of the property of two orphans, then it started to walk again. It then knelt in front of the home of Abu Ayyub Ansari. So the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) stayed at his home for a while.

- Q. What about the other Muslims from Makkah who had left their homes and businesses and had migrated to Madinah to avoid persecution? How were they faring?
- A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) asked the Muslims from Madinah to accept those from Makkah as their brothers. They willingly agreed to do so and gave half of their property to their brothers in -faith who had been forced to leave their homes and businesses in Makkah. Thus the Muslims from Madinah became known as the Ansar or helpers while those from Makkah were called the Muhajirun or migrants.

Q. What was one of the first tasks which the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) undertook?

A. One of the first tasks which the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) undertook was to build a simple Masjid so that the Muslims could have a place in which to pray together.

Q. Where was this Masjid built?

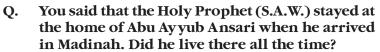
A. The Masjid was built on a parcel of land bought from the two orphans. This parcel was the same parcel in front of which the Holy Prophet's camel had knelt for a short while when the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was entering Madinah.

Q. Did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) also help in constructing the Masjid?

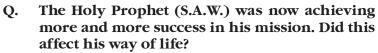
A. Of course he did. He worked as any ordinary labourer in the project.

Q. What is this Masjid called?

A. This Masjid is called Masjid al-Nabawi.



- A. No. Shortly after the Masjid was built a small house was constructed next to it for the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.).
- Q. What type of house was this?
- A. It was a very simple mud hut.
- Q. Is there anything important again about the Masjid that we must know?
- A. Yes. There is. A training centre was built in one corner of the Masjid. It was a very simple structure and was called As-Suffah.
- Q. So far you have not told us whether the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) received any revelations from Almighty Allaah while he was in Madinah. Did he?
- A. Of course he did. These revelations continued to come until the final one was received shortly before he passed away at the age of sixty three.
- Q. What about the response to the Holy Prophet's teachings? Did the people of Madinah also persecute the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) like the people of Makkah did?
- A. You will recall that a number of persons from Madinah who had accepted Islam had invited the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) to live in that city. They had promised him protection and support. They kept their promise.
- Q. What about the other citizens of Madinah? Did they also accept the teachings of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.)?
- A. Yes. More and more persons, not only from Madinah but also from the surrounding towns and nearby countries, were now accepting Islam as their religion.



A. As the number of persons accepting Islam was now increasing very fast, greater and greater responsibility was being placed on the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.). Besides being the religious leader, he was now involved in administering the city of Madinah. This however did not affect his way of life, and he remained as simple as before.

SOME OF THE BATTLES

- Q. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and all the other believers had left their homes in Makkah and settled in Madinah so that they could practise their religion in peace. Were they allowed to do so by the Makkans?
- A. No. They were not allowed to do so and eventually they had to fight a number of wars in order to protect themselves and so preserve the faith.

Q. How were battles fought in those days?

A. There were no guns, or aeroplanes or tanks or warships at that time. These had not yet been invented. People had to fight on foot or on horseback and they sometimes wore armour. The weapons used were mainly swords, bows and arrows, and spears.

Q. What were the names of the major battles which the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) fought?

- A. Among the battles which the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) fought were:
 - (i) the Battle of Badr
 - (ii) the Battle of Uhud, and
 - (iii) the Battle of Ahzaab or the Battle of the Trench
- Q. Tell me briefly about the Battle of Badr.

A The Battle of Badr was the first battle fought by the Muslims. It was so called because it was fought at a place called Badr, which is about eighty miles (one hundred and thirty kilometres) from Madinah.

The battle took place on the 17th of Ramadaan in the year 2 A.H. The Makkans had a well-trained and well-equipped army of one thousand persons, and many horses. The Muslims on the other hand numbered only three hundred and thirteen. This number included young boys. In addition to being out-numbered the Muslims were also not as well-trained and as well-equipped as the Makkans.

Q. What happened at the Battle then! Did the Muslims win or lose?

A. You will hear of the result shortly. The night before the battle the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) prayed right through seeking Almighty Allaah's help, because if they were killed no one would be left to worship Almighty Allaah and spread His word. During that night a revelation from Almighty Allaah came to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.).

Q. What was the revelation which came to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) on that night?

A. The following is the revelation:

"Soon will their multitude Be put to flight, And they will show Their backs".

This is found in Chapter 54 Verse 45 of the Holy Qur'aan.

Q. Did Almighty Allaah fulfil His promise to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.)?

A. Almighty Allaah always keeps whatever promises He makes. The Muslim army, although out-numbered three to one, fought valiantly and won the battle.

Q. How could an army defeat one which is not only bigger, but also better equipped?

A. The Muslims were able to defeat the Makkans because they were helped by Almighty Allaah. This is stated in Chapter 3 Verse 123 of the Holy Qur'aan which reads as follows:

"God had helped you At Badr, when ye were A contemptible little force; Then fear God: thus May ye show your gratitude".

Q. How did Almighty Allaah help the Muslims in this battle?

A. Almighty Allaah assisted the Muslims by sending three thousand angels to fight side by side with them.

Q. Did the Makkans learn any lesson from their defeat at the Battle of Badr?

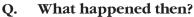
A. No. The Makkans continued to plan to destroy the Muslims. They amassed an army of three thousand which proceeded to march towards Madinah. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) learnt of this very late and organised a small army which totalled seven hundred persons. The battle was fought at Mount Uhud, which is a small hill, and so is called the Battle of Uhud.

Q. When was this Battle fought?

A. This battle was fought on the 7th Shaw wal in the year 3 A.H.

Q. Briefly describe the Battle of Uhud.

A. In the early stage of the battle the Muslims were winning and the Makkans started to retreat. However, a number of Muslims who had been placed so that they could guard the rear of the Muslim army left their positions in order to grab the booty left by the fleeing Makkans.



A. The Makkans looked back and, seeing the rear of the Muslim army unguarded, turned around and again started to fight the Muslims. The Muslims then started to flee.

Q. Did the Muslims lose the battle?

A. No. They did not. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) called upon the Muslims to rally and this they did. After a while the Makkans were chased away from Uhud. The next day they left for Makkah.

Q. Did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) sustain any injury while this battle was being fought?

A. Yes. A few of his teeth were broken when one of the enemies threw a stone at him. His face was also injured.

Q. Did the Muslims learn anything from the Battle of Uhud?

A - Yes. They learnt that they must be disciplined, that they must follow the orders of their commanders, and that they must not be greedy for anything.

Q. The third battle mentioned was that of Ahzaab. Give, in short, the details of this battle.

A. The Makkans continued to make plans to try and defeat the Muslims. They obtained the support of the people of a few other cities and raised an army of ten thousand soldiers. As usual, these soldiers were well-armed and well-trained. This army marched towards Madinah to fight the Muslims.

Q. How large was the Muslim army?

A. The Muslim army numbered only three thousand. As in the past, the Muslim soldiers were not as well-armed and as well-trained as the Makkans.

Q. How did the battle go?

A. Well, when the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) heard of the approach of the Makkan army, he was advised by one of the Muslims by the name of Salman Al-Farsi to dig a big trench around the open sides of the city in order to hinder it.

Q. How would a trench help in fighting a war?

A. The enemy would have to slow down in order to cross the trench. In addition only a few of them could cross at the same time. Because of these two facts, it would be easier for the Muslims to defeat them.

Q. Did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) follow the advice given to him?

A. Yes. He did. The Muslim soldiers, including the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.), dug a very wide and deep trench around the open sides of the city.

Q. Was this tactic successful?

A. Yes. It was very successful. The Makkans were surprised when they reached the trench. It was the first time they had seen something like that. They were afraid to cross the trench and so camped on its edge. They knew that the stocks of food held in Madinah would be exhausted after some weeks, and then the Muslims would have to surrender.

Q. Did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and his army surrender to the Makkans?

A. They did not although after a while many of them were weak because of lack of food. Some became so hungry that they had to tie stones in the hollow of their stomachs to relieve the pangs of hunger.

Q. What about the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.)? Did he also suffer from hunger as the others?

A. Yes. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) suffered like the others and he also had to tie stones in the hollow of his



MASJID AL-NABAAWI (THE HOLY PROPHET'S MASJID)

stomach in order to ease his hunger.

Q. What was the eventual result of this battle?

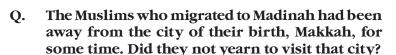
A . As the days passed the Makkans became more and more restless. Their stocks of food were also becoming less and less and they were also missing their families. After four weeks the weather changed suddenly. The wind started to blow very strong and it became very cold. The rain also started to fall heavily. The Makkans became very discouraged and the very next day they broke their camp and started on the return journey to their homes. They had in fact lost another war.

Q. Did Almighty Allaah also help the Muslim army to win this battle?

A. Yes. Almighty Allaah did help the Muslims. Without His assistance they could not have won. The following verse from the Holy Qur'aan (Chapter 33 Verse 9) confirms this:

"O ye who believe!
Remember the Grace of God
(Bestowed) on you, when
There came down on you
Hosts (to overwhelm you):
But we sent against them
A hurricane and forces
That ye saw not:
But God sees (clearly)
All that ye do".

THE TRUCE OF HUDAIBIYAH



A. Yes. Indeed they did, and in the 6th year of the Hijrah the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) set out with fourteen hundred of his followers to perform the Umrah or

Lesser Pilgrimage.

Q. Did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) find any changes in Makkah when he reached there?

A. Well, you must know that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and his followers were not allowed to perform the Umrah that year.

Q. Why was this so? What happened?

A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and his followers had camped at a place just outside Makkah called Hudaibiyah when the Makkans informed the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) that he and his followers would not be allowed to enter the city.

Q. What did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) do?

A. Talks were held and an agreement was reached between the two parties. This agreement is called "The Truce of Hudaibiyah".

Q. What were the main terms of this Truce?

- A. The main terms of the agreement or Truce were as follows:
 - (i) the Muslims would not be allowed to enter Makkah that year but could do so the following year,
 - (ii) the Truce would last for ten years.

Q. Were the Muslims happy with the Truce?

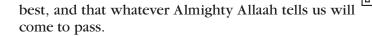
A. The Muslims were not happy, but then the following revelation came to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.):

"Verily we have granted

Thee a manifest Victory;"

(Holy Qur'aan Chapter 48 Verse 1)

- Q. How could this be a victory for the Muslims when they had to return home without performing the Umrah?
- A. You must realise that Almighty Allaah always knows_



- Q. We know that. But you still have not told us how the Muslims became victorious.
- A. Well, the Makkans broke the Truce of Hudaibiyah two years after it was made. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) gave them an opportunity to make amends, but they did not do so.
- Q. What did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) do then?
- A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had no alternative but to punish the Makkans. So he gathered an army of ten thousand and marched on the city of Makkah.
- Q. Was there much fighting in the city when the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) reached it?
- A. There was little or no fighting. The Makkans realised that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had a very powerful army, so most of them remained locked up in their homes and allowed the Muslims to conquer the city.
- Q. What punishment did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) give to those persons who had caused so much misery to himself and so many other Muslims?
- A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) did not punish any of his enemies. He set an example for all of us to follow by forgiving them.

A S

THE FAREWELL ADDRESS



- Q. Now that Makkah was under the control of the Muslims, did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and those who migrated to Madinah with him decide to remain in the city of their birth.
- A. No, the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) did not remain in Makkah. He returned to Madinah, as he had taken up permanent residence there.

Q. As the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) did not have to worry about the Makkans, did he have more time to devote to the preaching of Islam?

- A. Yes. He did. But you must realise that at the time Makkah was conquered the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was sixty one years old and that his time on earth was becoming more limited.
- Q. Yes. We do. What was the most important event that took place before the Holy Prophet's death?
- A. This was the Farewell Address which he gave in 10 A.H. at Mount Arafaat during the Pilgrimage or Hajj.
- Q. Could you tell us what were the main points the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) made in that Farewell Address?
- A Yes. I will. The main points the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) made in his Farewell Address are as follows:
 - (i) the life and property of all Muslims must be regarded as sacred,
 - (ii) we will all have to appear before Almighty Allaah and answer to Him for our actions.
 - (iii) interest is forbidden,
 - (iv) husbands and wives have certain rights over each other, and wives must be treated kindly,
 - (v) we must be careful of Satan, because he wants to prevent us from worshipping Almighty Allaah.
 - (vi) all Muslims are brothers,
 - (vii) no man is higher than another one, except in obedience to Almighty Allaah and in piety,
 - (viii) he was leaving two things, namely the Holy Qur'aan and his example, which we must follow, and if we follow these two things we will never go wrong,
 - (ix) we must always worship Almighty Allaah, offer our five daily prayers, fast during the month of Ramadaan, and pay the Zakaat or poor-rate,
 - (x) we must treat our employees well, and give

- them such a wage as would enable them to eate and dress as we do.
- (xi) there will be no messenger after him, nor will there be a new religion,
- (xii) and finally, those who were present must convey his message to others, and the others who hear the message must convey it yet to other persons.
- Q. You have given us the main points of the Holy Prophet's Farewell Address. How did he end the Address?
- A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) ended his Address by turning his face to the heavens and asking the assembly whether he had conveyed Almighty Allaah's Message to them.
- Q. And what was the response?
- A. They all replied that he had done so, and that Almighty Allaah was witness to that.
- Q. Did anything of importance happen when the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) finished the address?
- A. Yes. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) received the following revelation from Almighty Allaah: "This day have I Perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, And have chosen for you Islam as your religion". (Chapter 5 Verse 4)
- Q. Was there any significance in this revelation?
- A. Yes. It meant that the Holy Prophet's mission had been completed.

THE DEMISE

- Q. What did the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) do after the Hajj?
- A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) returned to Madinah and he became ill shortly after his arrival there.

Did the Holy Prophet's health improve?

A. No. It did not improve. As a matter of fact, he became more and more ill as the days went by and eventually he could not lead the Salaat.

Q. Who led the Salaat when the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) could not do so?

A. Whenever the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) could not lead the salaat he asked Hazrat Abu Bakr to do so.

Q. What happened to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) eventually?

A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was, as we know, a mortal and as such had to pass away. This sad event took place some three months after his Farewell Address on the 12th of Rabbi-ul-Awwal 11 A.H. (8th June 632 CE). He was then sixty three years old.

Q. Where was the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) buried?

A. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was buried in the apartment of one of his wives, Bibi Aishah, where he had passed away. This apartment is now included in Masjid al-Nabaawi in Madinah.

Q. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was sent by Almighty Allaah as an exemplar to mankind. Was he successful in his mission?

A. Indeed he was, as can be seen by the fact that at the time of his death the whole population of Arabia and that of many surrounding areas had accepted Islam. Islam is gaining more and more followers all the time and at present about one fifth of the world's population follow the teachings of Islam.

Q. One final question. What can I do to gain the pleasure of Almighty Allaah and success in the hereafter?

A. In order to gain the pleasure of Almighty Allaah and achieve success in the Hereafter you should study the teachings of the Holy Qur'aan and the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) and take these two as your guides in all matters.

Ameen