

Prophet Muhammad His Life and His Times

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On the Occasion of 1,425 birth anniversary of the Prophet

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In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious,
Most Merciful

INTRODUCTION

We three have written this book on the occasion of the birth and death date of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, Allah's greatest Messenger. We collected the important facts of the life of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, from books written by famous Muslim scholars to write this book. It was a great honor for us to have the opportunity to write this book for English-reading Muslims so they can improve their Islamic knowledge by learning about our great leader.

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IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL

Life at Makkah when the Prophet was born

Muhammad, peace be upon him, was born at the time when the message of previous messengers of Allah was lost and mankind was living in the darkness of ignorance. The Arabs had forgotten the religion of their forefathers, Ibrahim and Ismael, peace be upon them, and were worshipping idols made of stone and wood in the house of Allah, the Kabah.

Islam, in a sense, was not a new religion. It was the religion of all the prophets. They all taught the principle of worshipping one god. Even the Jews and Christians, who are called the people of the book, had given up their true religion.

So the last messenger of Allah was born at a time when the whole world had forgotten the message of the creator and was lost in the wilderness of ignorance and were worshipping things other than Allah.

BIRTH TILL PROPHETHOOD OF MUHAMMAD

Muhammad, peace be upon him, was born in Makkah, Arabia, on Monday, in the month of August, 570 A.D. to the family of Bani Hashim of the Quraish tribe.

He was born as an orphan. His father, Abdullah, had died before his birth. According to tradition of noble families of Makkah, he was taken by a foster mother, Halima, to her village. The boy was returned to his moth

er, Aminah, at the age of five. His mother took him to Madina when he was six. She died on the journey back.

After the death of his mother, his grandfather, Abdul Muttalib, took care of him. But he too died when Muhammad, peace be upon him, was eight. And then, he lived with his uncle, Abu Talib.

At the age of twelve, Muhammad, peace be upon him, became a shepherd. He was anxious to become a shepherd because he loved to be outside in the beauty of nature and away from the evils of the city. The job taught him responsibility and trust. It also gave him time to think about the ways of the people, and he desperately wished they would change.

Abu Talib needed to participate in a caravan of merchants to Syria, and Muhammad, peace be upon him, accompanied him on the trip. Before they reached Syria, they stopped in a town called Basra. Buhaira, a Christian priest, informed Abu Talib that Muhammad had signs of the prophet to come and he should be watched over carefully so that the young boy's life was not in danger.

When Muhammad became a teenager, he was very clean cut, and had a wonderful disposition. He was always the model for others, and was known for being honest and fair. Muhammad was always honest, and always kept his promises. Because of all this, Muhammad was named Al-Sadiq Al-Ameen, which meant "he who is truthful and trustworthy".

At the age of twenty-four, Muhammad once again went to Syria. Khadija, a wealthy widow, needed an agent for a caravan, and Abu Talib referred her to Muhammad. Khadija had heard about Muhammad many times and was very happy to employ him.

Surprisingly, all the merchandise was sold at a good profit, thanks to Muhammad's honesty and responsibility.

Soon, Khadija began to feel her affection for Muhammad grow, and she told her best friend, Nafisa, about her feelings. Nafisa offered to be a go-between, to see if Muhammad would accept a proposal of marriage. And he did, even though he was twenty-five and she was forty.

During his life, Muhammad, peace be upon him, married 10 times but after the death of Khadija. All his wives, except Aisha, were either widows or divorces. Some of the marriages were arranged in order to help the widows of his companions, some were for the purpose of winning the support of the enemy tribes or to respect the head of a tribe. He treated all his wives with love, kindness, and fairness.

Muhammad was a very hardworking man who was prepared to do any honest work to earn his living. He lived a very simple life and was modest even in his youth and hated bad manners and bragging and boasting. He was completely faithful in his promises. He cared for the poor, widows, and orphans by helping them. Even before becoming a prophet he was able to solve an important

dispute which otherwise would have resulted in bloodshed. The Kabah, in Mecca, was very old and collapsing. The tribe of Quraish, the most powerful tribe in Mecca, wanted to rebuild it. Everything was going well with the construction until the blackstone, a very holy stone, needed to be put in place. Each family wanted to have the honor, and there was a lot of arguing going on. Muhammad, being known as a very fair man, gave a simple solution. He put the blackstone on a robe, and told the head of each family to hold a corner. When the robe was lifted high enough, Muhammad put the stone in place.

Muhammad, peace be upon him, always tried to find the truth. He was very much unhappy by the misery and evil of his time. His wife gave him great support in his efforts to find the way out of the darkness of evil and idol-worshipping. He often went to the mountain Hira and stayed there for days to think things over. His wife would send him food there. He could never believe in worshipping the things that the people of Makkah did. In the Holy Quran, this state of mind of our holy prophet, peace be upon him, is described in these words, "And he found you wandering, and gave you guidance." (93:7)

One day at Hira, Muhammad heard a voice telling him, "READ!" Muhammad was scared. Furthermore, he was illiterate, which means he couldn't read or write. "I cannot read," he exclaimed. Once again, the voice

repeated, "READ!"

"But I cannot read!" said Muhammad.

And one more time, the voice urged, "READ!"

"What shall I read?" inquired Muhammad.

And the voice said:

"Read in the name of your lord who creates

"He created man from a living cell.

"Read and your Lord is most generous,

"Who taught by the pen,

He taught man what he knew not."

Muhammad, peace be upon him, repeated those words, and he felt as if they were engraved in his mind and heart. He could never shake those words out of there.

Muhammad, peace be upon him, was out of the cave in a flash. When he was at the bottom, the voice called his name. He looked up, and there was the Angel Gabriel on the horizon.

"I am Gabriel, Muhammad, I am God's messenger to His prophets. You are His prophet, and you will guide humanity to the right path, the path of truth." Thus, at the age of forty, Muhammad, peace be upon him, became a prophet of Allah.

He also said that the prophet would be turned out of his city by his enemies. But Allah Almighty would always be on his side.

FROM PROPHETHOOD TO MADINA

When Muhammad, peace be upon, came home, he told Khadija all about his experience. She immediately declared her belief in Islam. Muhammad, peace be upon him, was running a high temperature and wanted to hide himself under a blanket. The weight and awe of the job and responsibility was too heavy.

For some time, Angel Gabriel did not bring anymore revelations. But Muhammad still preached that Allah was the only god and he taught his relatives and friends good ways of life. His very close friends such as Abu Bakr, his slave Zaid, his cousin, Ali, Uthman, Talha, Zubair and Abur Rahman bin Auf became Muslims.

In the beginning, he was preaching in secret. Then Allah commanded him to start teaching in the public.

He continued his preaching in spite of the unkindness and abuses of the leaders in Makkah, especially his uncle Abu Lahab and Abu Jahl. But the sincere, righteous, and god-loving individuals slowly came to the religion of Islam. Most of the people who came to Islam were the poor and the weak, such as Bilal. He and Ammar bin Yasir, Khatab, and others like them suffered torture at the hands of the Makkan chiefs.

Just to show how badly the new converts to Islam were tortured, read the story of Bilal: He was a black African slave, who heard about

Islam and became a Muslim. Soon his master found out, and got very angry at him. He tortured him almost to the point of death. On the hot blistering days, he would take the poor man and throw him on his back. He would then place hot heavy stones on his chest. How horrible! The master would stop for a few minutes sometimes, because Bilal's lips were moving. To the greatest surprise of his master, he would still be saying, "God is One." Abu Bakr saw his pain, and he made sure he was bought, and then set free.

A Muslim woman was also tortured so much, she went into a shock and died. Her husband was split in half, all because they were Muslims, and they believed in the truth.

The opposition to the message of Muhammad, peace be upon him, gradually increased but it did not stop him from preaching. Rubbish and thorny bushes were thrown at him and the pagans shouted abuses at him.

Omar, who later became the second khalif of Islam, also in the beginning was a sworn enemy of Islam. He used to torture the Muslims. He was a strong man, spiritually and physically. He was in his 30's. Once he was fuming at the Prophet, and decided to kill him. As he was going to the area where the Prophet was, he ran into a friend. As they talked, Omar's friend told him that he should probably start with his family, first. Omar's sister, and her husband had become Muslims. So, he turned his destination to his sister's house. When he arrived he heard the Quran being read.

Omar was furious now, and he got hold of her husband, ready to hit him. His sister got in front of her husband, trying to defend him, so, accidentally, Omar hit her instead. Omar was shaken, because he loved his family. She had a cut on her head, and blood was pouring down her face. Omar felt bad and guilty. His sister and her husband replied by telling him that they were very strong Muslims, and that they didn't care if they were killed for their belief.

Omar was surprised, and wanted to read a few passages of the Quran, to see how it could make them so fearless. After reading a few passages, he decided to become a Muslim!

Omar went to the area where the Prophet was in a meeting with some of the other Muslims. Everybody hushed, waiting for what trouble Omar was up to. They were all surprised, and happy that he wanted to be accepted in Islam.

Omar began urging and encouraging others to become Muslims. He would pray at the Ka'ba. Others would not dare pray there because of fear that they would be attacked and killed. But now with strong, brave Omar around, they prayed happily with no worries.

The Quraish were fuming because of their great loss of Omar. And now a major enemy of Islam was now their major supporter.

Migration to Abyssinia

As the cruelty and torture continued, about 80 Muslims were

allowed to take refuge to the neighboring, friendly country on the other side of the Red Sea, Abyssinia. The king of Abyssinia was a gentle and trustworthy Christian. His name was Najashi (Negus), who later himself became a Muslim. The pagans of Makkah tried to persuade Najashi to refuse the Muslims to live in his country. Ja'far, the brother of Ali, and a cousin of Muhammad, peace be upon him, was the chosen one to present the Muslims' story. He told the King that they used to be ignorant people, they worshiped idols and the strong tortured the weak. But then God sent us the Prophet, who helped us find the truth. He taught us not to lie, and to respect our neighbors. But then, the other people became our enemy and tortured us, and they hated us for what we believe in. So we decided to come to your land, because we thought you would give us freedom. King Negus decided to let the Muslims in his land, because he was so impressed by Ja'far's speech. The Muslims were very happy, as they practiced their religion in peace and harmony.

Boycott

When the Quraish found that their threats, cruelty, and torture had no real effect on Muhammad, peace be upon him, and his followers and the number of Muslims was slowly increasing they asked his uncle to hand him over to them. When Abu Talib refused, all the tribes of Makkah decided to boycott the Benu Hashim (the family of the Prophet). The Benu Hashim

took refuge near a hillock quite close to the Kabah. They suffered for three years, and had to live very often without food, and water for days.

A few unbelievers, who took pity, decided to smuggle in food for the Muslims. They also wanted to destroy the document under which the Benu Hashim was put in such a miserable condition. They found out that termites had eaten the entire document, but the part where it said "In your name, Oh Lord, Allah" was intact.

Loss of Two Friends

Just after the end of the boycott, Muhammad, peace be upon him, lost his most dear uncle, at the age of 77. Despite all Muhammad's efforts, Abu Talib died an unbeliever. One year after, his faithful and loving wife Khadija, at the age of 65. He was left alone and without family support. The Quraish, seeing their opportunity, increased their threats and torture.

Muhammad Goes to Taif

As Muhammad, peace be upon him, found out that he was not making real progress in his mission, in Makkah, he went to Taif, a town in the mountains, about 30 miles from Makkah to preach. But after the leader of the city turned him down, he was mercilessly attacked and stoned by the people. At the end, he fainted there with blood pouring from his wounds. Meanwhile, he had sought refuge in an orchid. When he was cleaned up, a Christian slave brought him some grapes, and they talked about Islam, in

affairs of his world and of the next,
from Your wrath and Your displeasure.
I seek nothing but your pleasure, and
I have no power to do any good or to prevent
any evil except with Your help.”

It was after his journey to Taif and his famous prayer to Allah that things started to move positively for the Prophet, peace be upon him.

Mi'raj (Ascension)

When he was abused and his followers tortured by the Makkan chiefs, he was honored by Allah with a mirage. One night Muhammad was awakened by Angel Gabriel. He was taken to Mount Toor, where Moses gave the 10 Commandments, Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, and to Jerusalem, where he met Prophets Ibrahim, Moses, Jesus, and a good many others. They had a prayer, and the Prophet led it. Then Muhammad, peace be upon him, was taken to the Heavens. He saw many prophets such as Adam, Ibrahim, Moses, and Jesus.

The greatest honor came last. He saw God Almighty himself. He also saw the mysteries of the universe, and the horror of Hell from a distance.

The Treaty of Aqabah

In the 11th year of his prophethood, six men came from Madina for the Pilgrimage and saw the Holy Prophet. They embraced Islam and next

year, 12 pilgrims, came to Makkah. They too embraced Islam, and swore, "We will not worship any god but Allah, we will not steal, not commit adultery, nor kill our children. We will obey the messenger of Allah in all that is good."

The next year, 72 people came to Makkah to Pilgrimage. They invited Muhammad, peace be upon him, to Madina and promised full support for him, and his mission, as well as his followers. They also signed a pledge in these words, "We will all obey you, O Messenger of Allah, In all circumstances, in plenty and scarcity, in joy and in sorrow, and we will not wrong anyone. We will speak the truth all the times and we will fear man in the service of Allah."

Hijrah(Emigration)

By this time the leaders of Makkah had become desperate and wanted to put an end to the whole affair. They decided to kill the Prophet, one night. The Holy Prophet was informed by Angel Gabriel of the plot and was instructed to leave Makkah that very night.

By this time most of the Muslims had already left Makkah for Madina. Only a few Muslims were still in Makkah. They included Abu Bakr and Ali.

The Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, asked Ali to stay in his bed. Ali was to leave as soon as he had returned all valuables entrusted to Muhammad. The Prophet, peace be upon him, left the house quietly unno

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ticed by anyone. Accompanied by Abu Bakr, he made his way to Madina. As his enemies were looking for him everywhere, he stayed on the mountain of Thaur, about six miles from Makkah for three days and nights. It was here that Allah told him in revelation that He helped him when the unbelievers drove him out, and that they were two in the cave, and that he said to his companion, Abu Bakr, "Have no fear, for Allah is with us." (9:40)

In search for him, they even came to the cave where Muhammad, peace be upon him, was in, but a huge spider web covered the opening, and a dove had her nest there. If the Prophet is in there, the dove would have been scared, and left, and he must have had to rip this web, he can't possibly be in there, the pagans thought. What they didn't know, was that Allah, ordered these creatures to build their homes there, to save Muhammad. The spider had just finished its web, and the dove had just built its nest.

When the chiefs of Makkah found Ali in Muhammad's bed next morning, they were very furious and even more determined to find Muhammad, peace be upon him, and kill him. They offered a huge reward of 100 camels for his capture, dead or alive.

Suragah ibn Malik, a well-known horseman, set off to find the prophet and his companion. Alas, he fell from the horse three times, something that had never happened to him before. By the time he had reached Muhammad, peace be upon him, instead of trying to capture or kill

him, he decided to help them. He went back and told the searching pagans that he was unable to find Muhammad. Meanwhile Muhammad, Abu Bakr, and the guide reached Madina safely

The Islamic Calender

Later on, the year of Muhammad's immigration to Madina was selected to mark the beginning of the Islamic Calender. It began at the month of Moharram on July 15th, 622 A.D.

LIFE AT MADINA TILL DEATH

Muhammad, peace be upon him, and Abu Bakr were greeted with joy by the people of Madina who were waiting for this moment. A few days later Ali arrived, safe and sound.

Upon Muhammad's arrival, everyone wanted the Prophet to stay in his home. So, as not to hurt anyone's feelings, he said let his camel roam free and wherever she kneeled, he would stay there. The camel kneeled down in front of a home that belonged to two orphans. A mosque and Muhammad's home were built in that spot.

The mosque was to serve a community center for all religious, social, and other activities. The land was bought from the two orphans, and the prophet, peace be upon him, worked hard with his companions to complete the building. The mosque came to be known as the Masjid-e-Nabawi (The

mosque of the Prophet). In the Quran there is a reference to this mosque as a place where “Men who love to be purified” offer their prayers.

Brotherhood

The second most important thing that the prophet, peace be upon him, did in Madina was to set forth a feeling of brotherhood between the immigrants from Makkah or the Muhajireen and the helpers of Madina or Ansar. He did so partly to solve the problem of refugees and displaced persons and partly to strengthen ties between them. Thus the hosts shared all their belongings with the immigrants who had left everything in Makkah.

Even age-long enmity between the two tribes of Madina was forgotten.

Treaty with Jews

The next important step the Holy Prophet took was to improve the position of Muslims with neighboring Jewish tribes for helping each other and defending the city of Madina. He signed an agreement with them about this. This agreement guaranteed (1) freedom of thought and worship for Jews as well as Muslims, (2) common defense of Madina, and (3) accepting the holy prophet, peace be upon him, as the leader of Madina.

Organization

After the Muslims settled down in Madina, their lives along with the native Muslims of the city, were gradually organized on the basis of the law of Allah. The affairs of the community relating to food, drink, marriage, trade, crime and punishment, war and peace, and social manners and morals were gradually brought under the law of the Quran. Muhammad, peace be upon him, was the undisputed leader, ruler, judge, and commander of the people. Fasting and Zakat became obligatory.

Change of Qiblah

The Holy Messenger and his followers used to pray facing in the direction of the Mosque Al-Aqsa (in Jerusalem) when they were in Makkah. When he came to Madina, he was ordered to pray in the direction of the Kabah. This was a clear sign that the era of the prophets of Israel had come to an end with the coming of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. It was therefore the right moment to establish the Kabah at Makkah as the religious center for all Muslims.

Wars with the Quraish

Even in Madina the Quraish chiefs did not let the Muslims live in peace for long. The increasing power of Muslims in Madina was seen by them as a threat, both to their position as protectors of the Kabah and to their leadership and economic interests.

Battle of Badr

In the second year of Hijra, the Makkans fought with the Muslims at Badr with one thousand armed men. The Muslims could only gather 313 men, including some boys of 14 and 16 against them. The Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, prayed to Allah to help them against the enemies of Islam. His prayer was accepted and heavenly help was promised in these words of the Quran, "Remember you asked for the assistance of your lord and He answered you, 'I will assist you with one thousand angels with ranks'" (8:9)

In the beginning of the battle, a rain fell that refreshed the Muslim spirit and cleansed them. Then they were given moral encouragement to boost their determination. The enemy was defeated and many arch enemies of Islam were killed in this battle. Among those killed was Abu Jahl the sworn enemy of Muhammad, peace be upon him, and the Muslims.

Battle of Uhud

The pagans of Makkah again fought the Muslims a year after Badr in order to avenge the last year's battle. The pagan army had 3,000 fully armed men while the Muslims had only 700, poorly armed. The Muslims camped at Uhud a few miles from Madina. The Prophet, peace be upon him, placed 50 archers to guard the pass in the mountain to make sure they defend the Muslims by any attack from behind. They were given strict orders by the Prophet not to leave their post under any condition.

The fighting started and it seemed as though the Muslims had again won except for one grave mistake. While the enemy was retreating, the 50 archers left their post to start collecting booty left behind by the enemy. Khalid bin Waleed, head of the enemy army, who later became a Muslim and a great commander of Islamic army, found the opening in the Uhud undefended and attacked from behind. Thus, the victory was turned into defeat as a result of the greed of some who disobeyed the Prophet. The Prophet was injured in lost four teeth. Seventy Muslims were killed, 40 injured while the enemy lost only 30. Hamza, the uncle of the Prophet was killed in the battle. He was one of his nephew's arch supporters.

The Battle of the Trench

In the fifth year of Hijra, the Makkans collected an army of 10,000 from all over Arabia and marched on Madina. The Muslims decided to dig trenches around the open areas of the city. The enemy could not enter the city but they sieged it for about four weeks. One night, the enemy stricken by cold and terror from a severe storm, withdrew in complete terror and confusion. This was the end of the series of attacks which the Makkan pagans were launching against the Muslims.

Treaty of Hudaibiyah

In the sixth year of Hijra, our prophet with 1,400 companions set out to Makkah for the pilgrimage. The Muslims camped at Hudaibiyah a few

miles from Makkah. Muhammad, peace be upon him, sent Uthman, who later became the third Kaliph of Islam, to talk over the conditions for the pilgrimage with the chiefs of Quraish. Uthman did not return for a long time and rumor spread that he was killed. The Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, collected all his companions and took a pledge from them to sacrifice even their lives, if needed, in the cause of Islam. This is known as the Oath of Ridhwan. The pledge was made under a tree and is referred to in the Holy Quran.

The leaders of Makkah heard about the Muslims resolve and decided to negotiate a treaty of peace with the Muslims. It was called the treaty of Hudaibiyah. It said:

- The Muslims would go back to Madina that year,
- They would go to Makkah for pilgrimage next year but only for three days,
- They would not take any Muslims with them from Makkah, and would not stop any Muslims from staying in Makkah,
- If any Makkan Muslim went to Madina, he would be sent back to Makkah, but if a Muslim from Madina went to Makkah, he would not be sent back
- The Quraish would neither attack Muslims nor help others against them but would remain neutral in case Muslims fight a third party.

These terms were very harsh and, on the surface, against Muslim interest and many Muslims including Omar felt humiliated and were very angry. But they were the command of Allah and the prophet had to accept it. And, in the long run, it proved to be helpful to the Muslims.

Conquest of Makkah

The treaty of Hudaibiyah gave the Muslims a feeling of security and they had the opportunity to organize the Islamic state of Madinah, The Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, even wrote letter to the east and west rulers inviting them to Islam. But the peace was short and the Makkan chiefs broke the treaty. Muhammad, peace be upon him, marched into Makkah with an army of 10,000 on the 10th of Ramadan in the 8th year of Hijrah. The Makkans did not resist and the city of Makkah was captured without any fighting. The Holy Prophet, peace by upon him, forgave all his enemies and treated the people of that city with kindness. The Holy Quran mentions this events in these words, "When the help of Allah and victory comes, and you see the people enter the religion of Allah in crowds, celebrate the praise of your Lords and pray for His forgiveness." (110:1-3).

Battle of Hunain

The tribes of Hawazin and Thaqif, along with many of their friendly tribes, marched on Makkah and encamped in the valley of Hunain between Makkah and Taif. The Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, on hearing of the movements of these tribes, marched to Hunain with about 12,000 Muslims.

to renew the peace agreement with the Muslims and actually tried to kill the leader of Islam.

Among Jewish tribes with whom the Prophet had to specially deal was Banu Quraizah. They were not willing to enter into any kind of peace agreement with the Muslims and were even preparing to fight back. After a siege of one month, they surrendered and requested that their fate be decided by their old friend Sa'd Bin Mu'az. According to his decision, which was in accordance with the Commandments of the Old Testament, all men were killed, women and children made captives and their property and possessions were declared spoils of war.

The Jewish tribes of Khaibar also continued their plots against the Muslims. They were expecting some kind of war with the Muslims, so they got prepared in case the Muslims came to attack them. The Jews got the surprise of their lives as the Muslims attacked them in one of the most severe fights ever. Soon the whole fort fell into the Muslims hands. The Jews, however, were allowed to stay in Khaibar provided they live in peace and cultivate their lands and give half the produce to the Muslims.

Soon after the war, a Jewish woman invited the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, and some other Muslims to dinner. A roast lamb was presented to them. When the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, tasted the meat, it tasted somewhat odd. So he stopped eating and also asked his

companions to stop also eating.

The meat had been poisoned! Another Muslim, who had a good helping of the meat soon had a bad stomach ache and vomiting. Later he collapsed and died. It is being said that even Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, became sick after eating some of this meat.

She was later questioned by the Muslims and she admitted she had poisoned the meat. She was later forgiven because her husband had been killed in the battle.

March on Tabuk

Tabuk is about 300 miles to the north of Madinah. The Romans were planning to attack Madinah with the help of others. The Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, as a precautionary measure, decided to meet this threat from imperial Rome. He marched with 30,000 men towards Tabuk, but the enemy did not show up. He stayed there for about 20 days and made peace with the tribal chiefs in that region.

Farewell Pilgrimage

With the conquest of Makkah, many people who had been waiting to see the result of the fighting between the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, and the Quraish were fully convinced of the truthfulness of his Message and readily accepted Islam. Delegations from all over Arabia came to Madinah to embrace Islam. Thousands of people came into the fold of Islam after the conquest of Makkah.

The Holy Prophet's, peace be upon him, mission was now completed and Islam spread into almost every home in Arabia. The Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, made preparations for the last pilgrimage in the 10th year of hijrah. In the plain of Arafat, near the Mount of Mercy (Jabal al-Rahmat), he delivered his Farewell Sermon to over 1,000,000 Muslims who had come from all over the country, for the pilgrimage.

In this sermon, he emphasised the importance of the Doctrine of Unity (Tawhid) and the coming of the day of Judgment, and the fact that human life was to be respected. He also spoke about honor and property of every Muslim. He emphasized the rights of women and getting rid of usury in Muslim societies. In the end, he told the Muslims that he was leaving the Book of God and the record of his own daily practice (Sunnah) with them. If they would hold fast to, and follow these two things, they would never go wrong.

Death

Two months after his return from the pilgrimage the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, became sick, and died on Monday 12th of Rabi-al-Awwal in the 11th year of the Hijrah (the 23rd year of his Prophethood), June, 633 A.D.