



Life of Muhammad^{sa}

BY

**HADRAT MIRZA BASHIRUDDIN
MAHMUD AHMAD^{ra}**

LIFE UNSAFE AT MEDINA

Within a few days of the Prophet's^{sa} arrival in Medina, the pagan tribes there became interested in Islam and a majority of them joined.

Some of them became sincere Muslims. Others remained insincere ... Some refused to join at all. ..., so they migrated from Medina to Mecca.

Medina became a Muslim town.

In Medina itself a party of Arabs had only outwardly joined Islam. Inwardly, they were the sworn enemies of the Prophet^{sa}.

Then there were the Jews, who continuously intrigued against him.

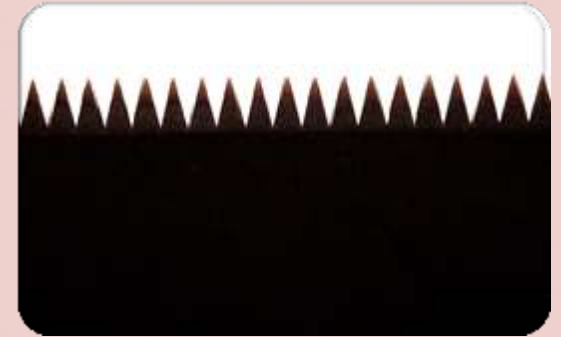
LIFE UNSAFE AT MEDINA



The Prophet^{sa} was aware of these dangers. He remained alert and urged his friends and followers to be on their guard. He often remained awake the whole night.



Medina were alive to their great responsibility. ...The tribes took counsel and decided to guard the Prophet's^{sa} house in turn.



In the unsafety of his person and in the absence of peace for his followers, there was no difference between the Prophet's^{sa} life at Mecca and his life at Medina.

LIFE UNSAFE AT MEDINA

The only difference was that at Medina Muslims were able to worship in public in the mosque which they had built in the name of God.

They were able to assemble for this purpose five times in the day without let or hindrance.

LIFE UNSAFE AT MEDINA

Two or three months passed. The people of Mecca ..started making plans for the vexation of Muslims

They soon found that it ... was necessary to attack the Prophet^{sa} and his followers at Medina and turn them out of their new refuge.

Accordingly they addressed a letter to 'Abdullah bin Ubayy ibn Salul, a leader of Medina, who, before the Prophet's^{sa} arrival, had been accepted as king of Medina by all parties.

LIFE UNSAFE AT MEDINA

They (Meccans) wrote a letter to 'Abdullah bin Ubayy ibn Salul

They said in this letter that they had been shocked at the Prophet's^{sa} arrival at Medina and that it was wrong on the part of the people of Medina to afford refuge to him. In the end they said: Now that you have admitted our enemy in your home, we swear by God and declare that we, the people of Mecca, will join in an attack on Medina unless you, the people of Medina, agree to turn him out of Medina or give him a joint fight. When we attack Medina, we will put to the sword all able-bodied men and enslave all women

PACT BETWEEN VARIOUS TRIBES OF MEDINA

At this time, the Prophet^{sa} took another important step.

He collected the Muslims and suggested that every two Muslims should become linked together as two brothers.

Medinite took Meccan as his brother. Under this new brotherhood, the Muslims of Medina offered to share their property and their belongings with the Muslims of Mecca.

PACT BETWEEN VARIOUS TRIBES OF MEDINA

Besides uniting Meccan and Medinite Muslims in a brotherhood, the Holy Prophet^{sa} instituted a covenant between all the inhabitants of Medina.

- By this covenant, Arabs and the Jews were united into a common citizenship with Muslims.
- The Prophet^{sa} explained that it was but proper that they should enter into an agreement which should be binding upon them all, and which should assure to all of them a measure of peace.

The agreement said: Between the Prophet^{sa} of God and the Faithful on the one hand, and all those on the other, who voluntarily agree to enter.

- If any of the Meccan Muslims is killed, the Meccan Muslims will themselves be responsible. The responsibility for securing the release of their prisoners will also be theirs. The Muslim tribes of Medina similarly will be responsible for their own lives and their prisoners.
- Whoever rebels or promotes enmity and disorder will be considered a common enemy. It will be the duty of all the others to fight against him, even though he happens to be a son or a close relation.
- If a disbeliever is killed in battle by a believer, his Muslim relations will seek no revenge. Nor will they assist disbelievers against believers.
- The Jews who join this covenant will be helped by Muslims. The Jews will not be put to any hardship. Their enemies will not be helped against them.
- No disbeliever will give quarter to anybody from Mecca. He will not act as a trustee for any Meccan property. In a war between Muslims and disbelievers he will take no part.
- If a believer is maltreated without cause, Muslims will have the right to fight against those who maltreat.
- If a common enemy attack Medina, the Jews will side with the Muslims and share the expenses of the battle.
- The Jewish tribes in covenant with the other tribes of Medina will have rights similar to those of Muslims.

The agreement said: Between the Prophet^{sa} of God and the Faithful on the one hand, and all those on the other, who voluntarily agree to enter.

- The Jews will keep to their own faith, and Muslims to their own. The rights enjoyed by the Jews will also be enjoyed by their followers.
- The citizens of Medina will not have the right to declare war without the sanction of the Prophet^{sa}. But this will not prejudice the right of any individual to avenge an individual wrong.
- The Jews will bear the expenses of their own organization, and Muslims their own. But in case of war, they will act with unity.
- The city of Medina will be regarded as sacred and inviolate by those who sign the covenant. Strangers who come under the protection of its citizens will be treated as citizens. But the people of Medina will not be allowed to admit a woman to its citizenship without the permission of her relations.
- All disputes will be referred for decision to God and the Prophet^{sa}.
- Parties to this covenant will not have the right to enter into any agreement with the Meccans or their allies. This, because parties to this covenant agree in resisting their common enemies.
- The parties will remain united in peace as in war. No party will enter into a separate peace. But no party will be obliged to take part in war. A party, however, which commits any excess will be liable to a penalty.
- Certainly God is the protector of the righteous and the Faithful and Muhammad^{sa} is His Prophet^{sa}

MECCANS PREPARING TO ATTACK MEDINA

The people of Medina were invited to take up arms against the Muslims and were warned that, if they refused to do so, the Meccans and their allied tribes would attack Medina, kill their men and enslave their women.

If the Prophet^{sa} had stood aside and done nothing for the defence of Medina, he would have incurred a terrible responsibility

The Prophet^{sa}, therefore, instituted a system of reconnaissance.

He sent parties of men to places round about Mecca to report on signs of preparations for war.

Now and then, there were incidents—scuffles and fights—between these parties and Meccans.

MECCANS PREPARING TO ATTACK MEDINA

But the Prophet^{sa} declared no war. He showed tolerance and confined his defensive activities to reconnaissance.

While the Prophet^{sa} was busy reconnoitring, he was not neglecting the normal and spiritual needs of his following in Medina.

The Prophet^{sa} introduced juridical procedures. Judges were appointed to settle claims which individuals or parties brought against one another.

MECCANS PREPARING TO ATTACK MEDINA

The Prophetsa took steps to promote literacy and love of learning.
The rights of women were established.
The rich were to pay for the needs of the poor and for improving the social amenities of Medina. Labourers were protected from exploitation.
For weak and incompetent heirs, arrangements were made for the appointment of trustees.
Loan transactions began to be committed to writing.
The importance of fulfilling all undertakings began to be impressed.
The excesses committed against slaves were abolished.
Hygiene and public sanitation began to receive attention.
A census of the population was undertaken.
Lanes and highways were ordered to be widened, and steps were taken to keep them clean.
In short, laws were instituted for the promotion of an ideal family and social life.

The savage Arabs for the first time in their history were introduced to the rules of politeness and civilized existence.