



# Life of Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>

BY

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# BATTLE OF BADR

It was the eighteenth month after the Hijra. A commercial caravan led by Abu Sufyan<sup>ra</sup> was returning from Syria.

Under pretence of protecting this caravan, the Meccans raised a large army and decided to take it to Medina.

The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> came to know of these preparations. He went out of Medina with a number of followers.

Nobody at the time knew whether this party of Muslims would have to confront the caravan which was coming from Syria or the army which was coming from Mecca.

The party numbered about three hundred

# BATTLE OF BADR

The uncertainty under which the Muslims left Medina redounds to the credit of their faith and their tremendous sincerity.

The number accompanying the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> was only three hundred and thirteen, and of these many were unskilled and inexperienced, and most were ill-armed.

A great majority of them went on foot, or mounted on camels. There were only two horses in the whole party.

This party, which was as poorly equipped with the weapons of war as it was raw in experience, had to confront a force three times its number, consisting mostly of experienced fighters.

# BATTLE OF BADR

The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> told his party clearly that it was no longer the caravan they had to confront but the army from Mecca

He asked the party for their counsel.

One after another, his Meccan followers stood up and assured the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> of their loyalty and zeal, and of their determination to fight the Meccan enemy.

The Muslims of Medina had been silent.

Muslims of Medina were afraid lest their zeal to fight the Meccan enemy should injure the feelings of their Meccan brethren

# BATTLE OF BADR

One of the Medinite  
Muslims stood up and  
said

"We now stand by you, Whatever you ask us to do. We will not behave like the followers of Moses<sup>as</sup> who said, 'Go you and your God and fight the enemy, we remain here behind.' If we must fight, we will and we will fight to the right of you, to the left of you, in front of you and behind you. True, the enemy wants to get at you. But we assure you that he will not do so, without stepping over our dead bodies.

Prophet<sup>sa</sup> of God, you invite us to fight. We are prepared to do more. Not far from here is the sea. If you command us to jump into it, we will hesitate not."



# BATTLE OF BADR

The Muslims who joined the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> from Medina had been in his companionship only for a year and a half.

- But they had attained to such strength of faith that, had the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> but ordered, they would have plunged themselves heedlessly into the sea.
- Meccan and the Medinite Muslims vied with one another in the expression of their devotion
- Assured of this devotion by both Meccan and Medinite Muslims, the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> advanced.
- When he reached a place called Badr, he accepted the suggestion of one of his followers and ordered his men to settle near the brook of Badr.
- The Muslims took possession of this source of water, but the land on which they took up their positions was all sand, and therefore unsuitable for the manoeuvres of fighting men.

# BATTLE OF BADR

The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> spent the whole night praying.

- My God, over the entire face of the earth just now, there are only these three hundred men who are devoted to Thee and determined to establish Thy worship. My God, if these three hundred men die today at the hands of their enemy in this battle, who will be left behind to glorify Thy name?

God heard the supplication of His Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. Rain came over-night.

- The sandy part of the field which the Muslims occupied became wet and solid. The dry part of the field occupied by the enemy became muddy and slippery.

# BATTLE OF BADR

During the night the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> had a clear intimation from God that important members of the enemy would meet with their death.

In the battle itself this little party of Muslims displayed wonderful daring and devotion.

One incident proves this.



# BATTLE OF BADR

One of the few Generals which the Muslim force included was 'Abdur Rahman bin 'Auf<sup>ra</sup>, one of the chiefs of Mecca and an experienced soldier in his own way.



When the battle began, he looked to his right and to his left to see what kind of support he had. He found to his amazement, that he had only two lads from Medina on his flanks.



His heart sank and he said to himself, "Every General needs support on his sides. More so I on this day. But I only have two raw boys. What can I do with them?".

# BATTLE OF BADR

'Abdur Rahman bin 'Auf<sup>ra</sup> says he had hardly finished saying this to himself when one of the boys touched his side with his elbow.

As he bent over to hear the boy, the latter said, "Uncle, we have heard of one Abu Jahl, who used to harass and torment the Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. Uncle, I want to fight him; tell me where he is.

" 'Abdur Rahman bin 'Auf<sup>ra</sup> had not yet replied to this youthful inquiry, when his attention was similarly drawn by the boy on the other side, who asked him the same question

Abdur Rahman<sup>ra</sup> was not a little amazed at the courage and determination of these two boys. A seasoned soldier, he did not think that even he would select the commander of the enemy for an individual encounter.

# BATTLE OF BADR

'Abdur Rahman<sup>ra</sup> raised his finger to point at Abu Jahl—armed to the teeth and standing behind the lines protected by two senior Generals, with drawn swords.



'Abdur Rahman<sup>ra</sup> had not dropped his finger, when the two boys dashed into the enemy ranks with the speed of an eagle, making straight for their chosen target.



The attack was sudden. The soldiers and guards were stupefied. They attacked the boys. One of the boys lost an arm. But they remained unnerved and unbeaten.



They attacked Abu Jahl, with such violence that the great commander fell to the ground, mortally wounded.

# BATTLE OF BADR

How determined this small Muslim force was to die fighting can be gauged from another incident.

Battle had not yet been joined when Abu Jahl sent a Bedouin chief to the Muslim side to report on their numbers. This chief returned and reported that the Muslims were three hundred or more. Abu Jahl and his followers were glad. They thought the Muslims easy prey. "But," said the Bedouin chief, "my advice to you is—Don't fight these men, because every one of them seems determined to die! I have seen not men but death mounted on camels" (Tabari and Hisham).

The Bedouin chief was right—those who are prepared to die do not easily die.