



Life of Muhammad^{sa}

BY

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MAHMUD AHMAD^{ra}

BANU QURAIZA PUNISHED

The Banu Quraiza had dishonoured their pact with the Muslims and this could not be passed over.

(The Holy Prophet^{sa}) sent 'Ali (ra) to the Banu Quraiza to ask them why they had gone back on their solemn word.

The Banu Quraiza showed no regret and no inclination to ask for forgiveness. Instead, they insulted 'Ali (ra) and the other Muslim delegates and started hurling vile abuse at the Prophet (sa) and the women of his family.

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Fearing lest this should pain the Prophet (sa), 'Ali (ra) suggested there was no need for the Prophet (sa) to take part as the Muslims themselves could deal with the Jews.


The Prophet (sa) understood 'Ali (ra) and said, "You want me not to hear their abuse?". "Exactly," said 'Ali (ra).

"But why?" said the Prophet (sa). "Moses (as) was of their kith and kin. Yet they inflicted more suffering on him than they have on me."

The Prophet (sa) continued to advance.

The Jews put up their defences and started fighting. ... killing ..Khallad (ra).

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The siege went on for some days. At the end of this period, the Jews felt they would not be able to hold out for long.

Then their chiefs sent word to the Prophet (sa) requesting him to send Abu Lubaba (ra), an Ansari chief of the Aus, a tribe friendly to the Jews.

They wanted to consult him about a possible settlement.

The Prophet (sa) sent Abu Lubaba (ra) to the Jews, who asked him if they should lay down their arms and accept the award (verdict) of the Prophet (sa).

Abu Lubaba (ra) said they should. But at the same time he passed a finger over his neck, making the sign of death.

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The Prophet (sa) had said nothing on this subject to anybody.

But Abu Lubaba (ra), fearing that the crime of the Jews merited nothing but death, unwittingly made this sign, which proved fateful for the Jews.

The latter declined Abu Lubaba's (ra) advice and refused to accept the Prophet's (sa) (verdict) .

Had they accepted it, the utmost punishment they would have had was expulsion from Medina.

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Instead of the Prophet's (sa), they said, they would accept the (verdict) of Sa'd bin Mu'adh (ra), chief of their allies, the Aus.

- The Prophet (sa) accepted their demand

.. and sent word to Sa'd^{ra}, who was lying wounded, to come and give his award on the Jewish breach of faith.

- As soon as the Prophet's (sa) decision was announced, the Ausites who had been allies of the Banu Quraiza for a long time ran to Sa'd^{ra} and began to press him to give his award in favour of the Banu Quraiza.

All that Sa'd^{ra} said in reply was that the person who had to make an award held a trust.

- He had to discharge the trust with integrity.

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A dispute also arose among the Some of them began to say that their people had really gone back on their agreement with the Muslims.

(A Jew) 'Amr bin Ma'di (ra)... said (to his people), "You have committed a breach of faith and gone back on your plighted word. The only course now open to you is either to join Islam or give *jizya*."

(Jews declined) Amr replied that in that case he stood absolved, and saying this left the fort.

He was sighted by Muhammad bin Maslama (ra)... On learning of his identity he told him to depart in peace...

The disposition to make peace and to accept the award of the Prophet (sa) had been expressed only by individual Jews.

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As a people, (Jews) remained adamant and ..asked, instead, for the (verdict) of Sa`d^{ra} bin Mu`adh.

Sa`d^{ra} went mounted to the Banu Quraiza. Men of his tribe ran with him on both sides, pressing him not to punish the Banu Quraiza.

"I will therefore give my (decision), taking everything into consideration, and without fear or favour," he said.

When Sa`d^{ra} got near them he asked, "Will you accept my (judgment)?" They said, "Yes."