



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

BY

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# **DID THE PROPHET (SA) SEEK TO CONTINUE WARFARE?**

In the battles which had so far been fought, Muslims had either remained in Medina or gone some distance... Muslims did not initiate these encounters, and showed no disposition to continue them after they had started.

When the enemy stopped fighting, Muslims stopped also.

After the Battle of the Ditch, therefore, the Prophet (sa) seemed determined to secure one of two things; peace or surrender.

A movement for peace can be initiated either by the stronger or by the weaker side.

# DID THE PROPHET (SA) SEEK TO CONTINUE WARFARE?

When the weaker side sues for peace it has to surrender... a part of its territory or part of its revenues...

Failure to destroy another does not mean defeat. It only means that aggression has not yet succeeded...

The Meccans, therefore, had not been beaten; only their aggression against Muslims had failed.

If they had sued for peace, it would have meant that their defence had broken, and...accept the terms of the disbelievers.

# DID THE PROPHET (SA) SEEK TO CONTINUE WARFARE?

In the battles which had so far been fought between Muslims and disbelievers the latter had suffered defeat after defeat.

Yet their power had not been broken. They had only failed in their attempts to destroy Muslims.

The Meccans, therefore, had not been beaten; only their aggression against Muslims had failed.

Muslims, therefore, had not yet established their independence. If they had sued for peace, it would have meant that their defence had broken, and that they were now ready to accept the terms of the disbelievers.

# DID THE PROPHET (SA) SEEK TO CONTINUE WARFARE?

An offer of peace by Muslims would have been disastrous for Islam.

Disbelievers would have thought that though Muslims had saved Medina they were still pessimistic...

It was the disbelievers, therefore, who could have sued the Muslims for peace, and there was no sign of this.

Thus warfare between Muslims and Arabs might have gone on for ever.

# DID THE PROPHET (SA) SEEK TO CONTINUE WARFARE?

There was only one way open to Muslims if they wanted to put an end to this strife...

They were not prepared to surrender their conscience to the Arabs, to renounce, that is to say, their right to profess, practise and preach what they liked; and there was no movement for peace from the side of disbelievers.

Muslims had been able to repel repeated aggression.

It was for them, therefore, to force the Arabs either to surrender or to accept peace. The Prophet (sa) decided to do so.

# DID THE PROPHET (SA) SEEK TO CONTINUE WARFARE?

Was it war which the Prophet (sa) sought?

No, it was not war but peace that he wanted to bring about...Arabia would have remained in the grip of civil warfare.

Long wars have always resulted from lack of decisive action by either side.

Decisive action, as we have said, can take only one of two forms—complete surrender or a negotiated peace.

# DID THE PROPHET (SA) SEEK TO CONTINUE WARFARE?

Could the Prophet (sa) have remained passive?

Could he have withdrawn himself and his small force of Muslims behind the walls of Medina...?

This was impossible.

A pause in warfare did not mean the end of war. It meant only a strategic move.