



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

BY

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MAHMUD AHMAD<sup>ra</sup>

# SPORADIC ATTACKS BY DISBELIEVERS

The Arab confederates returned from the Battle of the Ditch defeated and depressed, but far from realizing that their power to harass the Muslims was over.

They knew they were still a dominant majority. They could easily maltreat individual Muslims, beat and even kill them.

By assaults on individuals they hoped to wipe away their feeling of defeat.

Not long after the battle, therefore, they began to attack Muslims around Medina.

# SPORADIC ATTACKS BY DISBELIEVERS

Some men of the Fazara tribe mounted on camels attacked Muslims near Medina. They made away with the camels found in that part, took a woman as prisoner and escaped with the loot. The woman made good her escape, but the party of Fazara succeeded in taking away a number of animals

A month later, a party of the Ghatafan tribe attacked from the north in an attempt to dispossess Muslims of their herds of camels.

The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> sent Muhammad bin Maslama<sup>ra</sup> with ten mounted Companions for a reconnaissance, and for the protection of the Muslim herds. But the enemy waylaid the Muslim party and murderously attacking them, left them all for dead.

# SPORADIC ATTACKS BY DISBELIEVERS

Muhammad bin Maslama<sup>ra</sup>, however, was only lying unconscious. Recovering consciousness he pulled himself together, returned to Medina and made a report.

A few days later, an envoy of the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> on his way to the Roman capital was attacked and robbed by men of the Jurham tribe.

A month later, the Banu Fazara attacked a Muslim caravan and made away with much loot.

It is possible that this attack was not prompted by religious antagonism. The Banu Fazara were a tribe of marauders given to looting and killing.

# SPORADIC ATTACKS BY DISBELIEVERS

The Jews of Khaibar, the main factor in the Battle of the Ditch, were also determined to avenge the crushing defeat which they suffered in that battle.

They went about inciting tribal settlements and officers of State on the Roman frontier.

Arab leaders, therefore, unable to make a straightforward attack on Medina, were intriguing with the Jews to make life impossible for Muslims.

The Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, however, had yet to make up his mind for a decisive fight. Arab leaders might make an offer of peace, he thought, and civil strife might end.