



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

**BY**


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## **THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> LEAVES FOR MECCA WITH ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED COMPANIONS**

During this time the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> saw a vision which is mentioned thus in the Qur'an:



**You will certainly enter the Sacred Mosque, if God will, in security, some having their heads shaven, and others having their hair cut short; and you will not fear. But He knew what you knew not. He has in fact ordained for you, besides that, a victory near at hand (48: z8).**



That is to say, God had decided to let Muslims enter the precincts of the Ka'ba in peace, with heads shaven and hair cut (these being the external signs of pilgrims to the Ka'ba), and without fear.

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In this vision God foretold the ultimate victory of Muslims, their peaceful march into Mecca and the conquest of Mecca without the use of arms.

But the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> understood it to mean that Muslims had been commanded by God immediately to attempt a circuit of the Ka'ba.

The Prophet<sup>sa</sup>'s error in interpreting the vision was to become the occasion of the victory 'near at hand' promised in the vision.

He announced his vision and his interpretation of it to Muslims and asked them to prepare.

## THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> LEAVES FOR MECCA WITH ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED COMPANIONS

"You will go," he said,  
"only to perform a  
circuit of the Ka'ba.

There were, therefore,  
to be no  
demonstrations against  
the enemy."

Late in February 628,  
fifteen hundred  
pilgrims, headed by the  
Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, set out on  
their journey to Mecca.

A mounted guard of twenty  
went some distance ahead  
to warn the Muslims in case  
the enemy showed signs of  
attacking.

The Meccans soon had  
reports of this caravan.

## THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> LEAVES FOR MECCA WITH ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED COMPANIONS

Tradition had established the circuit of the Ka'ba as a universal right. It could not very well be denied to Muslims.

The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> had forbidden demonstrations of every kind. There were to be no disputes, no questionings or claims.

In spite of this, the Meccans started preparing as for an armed conflict.

They put up defences on all sides, called the surrounding tribes to their aid and seemed determined to fight.

They were clad in tiger skins...a sign of a savage determination to fight.

## THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> LEAVES FOR MECCA WITH ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED COMPANIONS

Meccans had sworn solemnly not to let the Muslims into Mecca.

- Soon after, a column of Meccans marching in the van of their army confronted the Muslims

Muslims could not now advance except by drawing the sword. The Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, however, was determined to do nothing of the kind.

- He employed a guide to show the Muslim caravan an alternative route through the desert.

Led by this guide, the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and his Companions reached Hudaibiya, a spot very near Mecca.

- The Prophet's<sup>sa</sup> dromedary stopped and refused to go any farther." The animal seems tired..." said a Companion. "No, no," said the Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. "the animal is not tired. It seems rather that God wants us to stop here and to go no further.

## THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> LEAVES FOR MECCA WITH ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED COMPANIONS

"I propose, therefore, to camp here and to ask the Meccans if they would let us perform the Pilgrimage. I, for one, will accept any conditions they may choose to impose"

The Meccan army at this time was not in Mecca. If the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> wanted, he could have led his fifteen hundred men into Mecca and taken the town without resistance.

But he was determined to attempt only the circuit of the Ka'ba, and that only if the Meccans permitted.

He would have resisted and fought the Meccans only if the Meccans had chosen to strike first.

## THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> LEAVES FOR MECCA WITH ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED COMPANIONS

- Soon the news reached the Meccan commander, who ordered his men to withdraw and post themselves near Mecca. Then the Meccans sent a chief, Budail by name, to parley with the Prophet<sup>sa</sup>.
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- Prophet<sup>sa</sup> explained to Budail that he and the Muslims wanted only to perform the circuit of the Ka'ba; but if the Meccans wished to fight, the Muslims were ready.
- More Meccans came to have talks and... they said... that year they would not let Muslims perform even the circuit of the Ka'ba. The Meccans would be humiliated if they permitted the circuit this year.
- Some tribes allied with the Meccans urged upon the Meccan leaders to let the Muslims perform the circuit. But the Meccans remained adamant. Thereupon the tribal leaders said, the Meccans did not want peace and threatened to disassociate themselves from them.



## **THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> LEAVES FOR MECCA WITH ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED COMPANIONS**

Out of fear, the Meccans were persuaded to try to reach a settlement with the Muslims.

As soon as the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> got to know of this, he sent 'Uthman<sup>ra</sup> (later the Third Khalifa of Islam) to the Meccans.

'Uthman<sup>ra</sup> had many relatives in Mecca. They came out and surrounded him, and offered to let him perform the circuit, but declared that they would not let the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> do so until the following year.

"But," said 'Uthman<sup>ra</sup>, "I will not perform the circuit unless it is in the company of my Master." 'Uthman's<sup>ra</sup> talks with the chiefs of Mecca became prolonged.

A rumour was mischievously spread that he had been murdered.

## THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> LEAVES FOR MECCA WITH ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED COMPANIONS

The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> assembled the Companions and said,

"The life of an envoy is held sacred among all nations. I have heard that the Meccans have murdered 'Uthman<sup>ra</sup>. If this is true, we have to enter Mecca, whatever the consequences."

"Those who promise solemnly that if they have to go further, they will not turn back save as victors, should come forward and take the oath on my hand."

The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> had hardly finished speaking, when all the fifteen hundred Companions stood up and jumped over one another to hold the Prophet's<sup>sa</sup> hand and take the oath.

This oath ...is called the "**Pledge of the Tree**". When the oath was taken, the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> was sitting under a tree. Everyone of those who took the oath remained proud of it to the end of his days.

## **THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> LEAVES FOR MECCA WITH ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED COMPANIONS**

Of the fifteen hundred present on the occasion, not one held back.

- They all promised that if the Muslim envoy had been murdered, they would not go back. Either they would take Mecca before dusk, or they would all die fighting.

The taking of the oath was not over when 'Uthman<sup>ra</sup> returned.

- He reported that the Meccans did not agree to let the Muslims perform the circuit until the following year. They had appointed their delegates to sign a settlement with the Muslims. Soon after, Suhail, a chief of Mecca, came to the Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. A settlement was reached and recorded.