

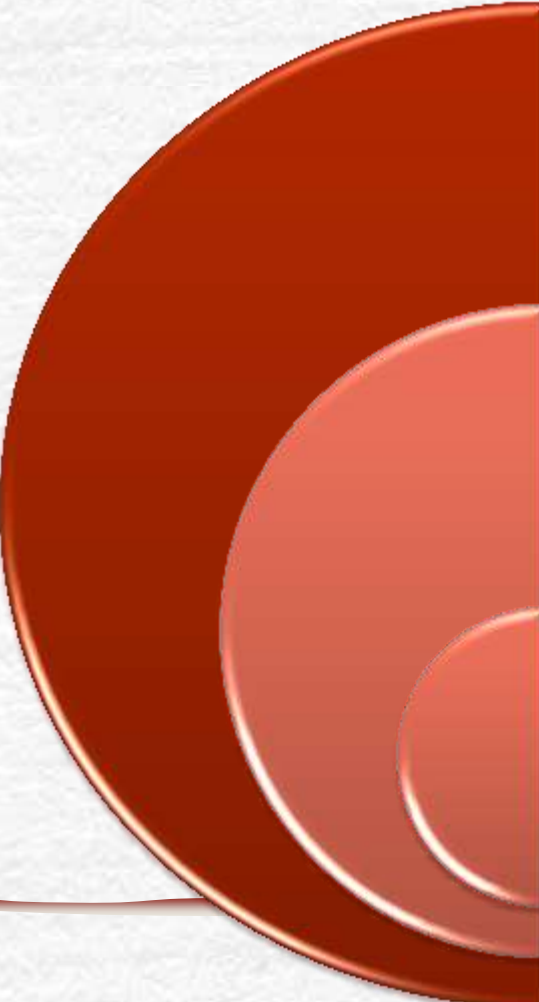


Life of Muhammad^{sa}

BY

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THE PROPHET(SA) DISTRIBUTES BOOTY




After the conquest of Mecca and the victory of Hunain, the Prophet (sa) was faced with the task of distributing the money and property paid as ransom or abandoned in the battlefield by the enemy.

If custom had been followed, this money and property should have been distributed among the Muslim soldiers who took part in these encounters.

But on this occasion, instead of distributing it among the Muslims, the Prophet (sa) distributed it among the Meccans and the people who lived round about Mecca.

THE PROPHET(SA) DISTRIBUTES BOOTY



These people had yet to show an inclination towards the Faith. Many were professed deniers.

Those who had declared their faith were yet new to it...

But, ...instead of reciprocating the good treatment they received from the Muslims,..

... they became more avaricious and greedier than ever. Their demands began to mount.

THE PROPHET(SA) DISTRIBUTES BOOTY

They mobbed the Prophet (sa), and pushed him to a spot under a tree with his mantle having been torn from his shoulders. At last the Prophet (sa) said to the crowd,

"I have nothing else to give. If I had, I would have made it over to you. I am no miser, nor am I mean".

"Out of this money and property I want nothing at all, not even as much as a hair. ... Only, I must have a fifth, and that for the State.

That is the share which Arab custom has ever admitted as just and right. That fifth will not be spent on me. It will be spent on you and your needs.

Remember that one who misappropriates or misuses public money will be humiliated in the sight of God on the Judgment Day."

THE PROPHET(SA) DISTRIBUTES BOOTY

All the booty, the money, and the valuable material that there was to distribute had been distributed among the deserving and the poor.



Still there were those who remained unsatisfied, who ..protested against the distribution charging the Prophet (sa) with injustice.



...One Dhu'l Khuwaisira came near the Prophet (sa) and said, "Muhammad (sa), I am a witness to what you are doing."

THE PROPHET(SA) DISTRIBUTES BOOTY

"And what am I doing? " asked the Prophet (sa).



"You are committing an injustice," said he.



"If I can be unjust, then there is no one on the face of the earth who can be just".

THE PROPHET(SA) DISTRIBUTES BOOTY

True believers were full of rage.

When this man left the assembly some of them said, "This man deserves death. Will you let us kill him?"

"No," said the Prophet (sa). "If he observes our laws and commits no visible offence, how can we kill him?"

"But," said the believers, "when a person says and does one thing but believes and desires quite another, would he not deserve to be treated accordingly?"

"I cannot deal with people according to what they have in their hearts. God has not charged me with this.

I can deal with them according to what they say and do."

THE PROPHET(SA) DISTRIBUTES BOOTY

The Prophet (sa) went on to tell the believers that one day this man and others of his kin would stage a rebellion in Islam.

The Prophet's (sa) words came true. In the time of 'Ali (ra), the Fourth Khalifa of Islam, this man and his friends led the rebellion against him and became the leaders of a universally condemned division of Islam, the Khawarij.

After dealing with the Hawazin, the Prophet (sa) returned to Medina.

It was another great day for its people...

One great day was when the Prophet (sa) arrived at Medina, a refugee from the ill-treatment of the Meccans.

On this great day, the Prophet (sa) reentered Medina, full of joy and aware of his determination and promise to make Medina his home.