



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

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**THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> GOES TO TA'IF**

# THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> GOES TO TA'IF



It seemed that in Mecca now nobody would listen to him and this made him sad.



So he decided to turn elsewhere for the preaching of his Message



..he chose Ta'if, a small town about sixty miles to the south-east of Mecca and famed for its fruit and its agriculture.

# THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> GOES TO TA'IF

The Prophet's<sup>sa</sup> decision was in keeping with the traditions of all Prophets<sup>as</sup>.

Moses<sup>as</sup> turned now to the Pharaoh, now to Israel, and now to Midian.

Jesus<sup>as</sup>, similarly, turned now to Galilee, now to places across the Jordan, and now to Jerusalem

So the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> of Islam, finding that Meccans would ill-treat but not listen, turned to Ta'if

# THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> GOES TO TA'IF

In polytheistic beliefs and practices Ta'if was not behind Mecca.

One important idol, al-Lat, was to be found in Ta'if; because of it Ta'if also was a centre of pilgrimage.

On arrival at Ta'if, the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> had visits from its chiefs but none seemed willing to accept the Message.

The rank and file obeyed their leaders and dismissed the teaching with contempt.

# THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> GOES TO TA'IF



..here he now was, without arms or following, a lone individual with only one companion, Zaid<sup>ra</sup>.



The towns folk thought him a nuisance which should be ended, if only to please their chiefs.



They set vagabonds of the town and street boys at him who pelted him with stones and drove him out of the town.



Zaid<sup>ra</sup> was wounded and the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> began to bleed profusely.



But the pursuit continued until this defenceless party of two was several miles out of Ta'if.

## THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> GOES TO TA'IF

The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> was sorely grieved and dejected when an angel descended upon him and asked if he would like his persecutors to be destroyed. "No," said the Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. **"I hope that of these very tormentors would be born those who would worship the One True God."**

# THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> GOES TO TA'IF



Exhausted and dejected, he stopped at a vineyard owned by two Meccans.



They sent to the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> a tray full of grapes with a Christian slave, 'Addas<sup>ra</sup> by name and belonging to Nineveh.



The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> asked him where he belonged and 'Addas<sup>ra</sup> said Nineveh,..



.. upon which the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> said, "Jonah<sup>as</sup>, son of Amittai, who belonged to Nineveh, was a holy man, a Prophet like me."



The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> also told 'Addas<sup>ra</sup> of his own Message. 'Addas<sup>ra</sup> felt charmed and believed at once.



# THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> GOES TO TA'IF

The meeting over, the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> turned again to Allah and said:

- Allah, I submit my plaint to Thee. I am weak, and without means. My people look down upon me. Thou art Lord of the weak and the poor and Thou art my Lord. To whom wilt Thou abandon me—to strangers who push me about or to the enemy who oppresses me in my own town? If Thou art not angered at me, I care not for my enemy. Thy mercy be with me. I seek refuge in the light of Thy face. It is Thou Who canst drive away darkness from the world and give peace to all, here and hereafter. Let not Thy anger and Thy wrath descend on me. Thou art never angry except when Thou art pleased soon after. And there is no power and no refuge except with Thee.

Having said this prayer, he set back for Mecca

# THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> GOES TO TA'IF



He stopped en route at Nakhla for a few days and set out again.



According to Meccan tradition he was no longer a citizen of Mecca .. And could not return to it except with the permission of the Meccans.



Accordingly, he sent word to Mut'im bin 'Adi—a Meccan chief, to ask if Meccans would permit him to come back.

# THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> GOES TO TA'IF



\*He collected his sons and relatives. Arming themselves, they went to the Ka`ba. Standing in the courtyard he announced he was permitting the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> to return.



The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> then returned, and made a circuit of the Ka`ba. Mut`im, his sons and relatives, with swords unsheathed, then escorted the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> to his house.

\*Mut`im bin `Adi

# THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> GOES TO TA'IF



Mecca returned to its old hostility. The Prophet's<sup>sa</sup> home town again became hell for him



But he continued to tell people of his Message.



People turned away but he addressed them again and again.



He made his proclamation, whether the people cared or not, and persistence seemed to pay.



But many, though persuaded at heart, did not have the courage to confess openly

# THE PROPHET<sup>sa</sup> GOES TO TA'IF



In the meantime revelations received by the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> began to hint at the near possibility of migration from Mecca.



Some idea of the place they were to migrate to was also given to him. It was a town of wells and date-groves.



He then waited in the assurance that whatever place they were destined to go to would certainly become the cradle of Islam.