

**LESSONS FOR
EVERY SENSIBLE PERSON**

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INTRODUCTION

The visitor of the city of Madina is a very valuable person. Allah (SWT), through His Grand Mercy, has chosen him/her for this visit. Each individual spends lot of time, money and effort to avail this opportunity. Finally, the dream comes true and the visitor finds himself breathing in the spiritual climate of Madina. Performing salat in congregation in the Prophet's Mosque and recitation of Quran are the main activities. Most of the people also try to visit some places of historical and religious importance. It is observed that these trips have some routine activities. For example, the visitors make dua for the martyrs of the Battle of Uhud and try to offer two rakat salat in masjid at the site of the Battle of Ahzab.

I feel some homework should be done before making a trip to these sites, since basic knowledge of such events will enhance the spirituality of the visit. For example, Allah (SWT) has devoted one full Surah in the Quran, Al-Ahzab, to teach us lessons from the Battle of Ahzab. Lessons to be learnt from the Battle of Uhud are scattered in Surah Al-Imran. The effort of this booklet is to summarize these lessons without going into much detail so that an average reader has the time and desire to benefit from these lessons. I feel that with this homework the visit to these sites will become much more valuable. The readers will appreciate the contribution and sacrifices of their forefathers. The visit will touch their hearts and they will carry these spiritual experiences with them to their homelands with a lasting effect on their lifestyles.

In this booklet you will also come across a few conspiracies, which are very strange and cruel. You will see that a few very cruel people live in all ages. You will also be introduced to some of the former Jewish neighbors of Madina and their strengths and weaknesses. It is very important to learn lessons from the lives of the rightly guided Caliphs since they are guiding light for us. Hence glimpses of their lives or given.

The past history of a nation is important to teach people it's strengths and weakness and causes of their successes and failures. The visitors of Makkah are always busy in fulfilling the obligations of Hajj and Umra with their soft hearts. It will be very beneficial if they can have a quick review of some of the historical events, which took place in this sacred land. Very few visitors of Makkah try to buy Islamic history books. Those who buy do not find time to read the big books. I have tried to give a bird's eye view of some historical events, which took place in and around Makkah. I feel it will enhance the spirituality of the visitors.

As an appendix, stories of two new or reverted Muslims who embraced Islam in Saudi Arabia are given. It will show the social, psychological and cultural difficulties involved in making Dawah and consequently will provide some skills to make a fruitful Dawah.

I am grateful to Mr. Jaafri, Mr. Zani and Mr. Azmi in preparing this book and humbly pray that Allah (SWT) accept our joint efforts.

IMTIAZ AHMAD

اے اہل نظر ذوقِ نظر خوب ہے لیکن جو شے کی حقیقت کو نہ دیکھے وہ نظر کیا

O sensible people, it is fantastic to have intellectual pursuits. However, if one cannot see the truth (or learn good moral lessons from it), it reduces to a useless intellectual exercise. (Iqbal)

VIRTUES OF MADINA

Prophet Mohammed (SAS) made a supplication at the time of his migration from Makkah. He said, "O Allah (SWT), You have brought me out of Your most beloved city. Please take me to Your most favorite city in this world. Allah (SWT) granted his dua and he (SAS) migrated to Madina Munawarah. Hence Madina is the best city in this world. Note that the Prophet (SAS) chose to return to Madina to live rest of his life even after the conquest of Makkah.

Whenever the Prophet (SAS) used to reach near Madina during a journey, he used to somewhat speed up and used to remove his cover from his face to let the soothing air of Madina embrace his face. He said that even the dust of Madina has healing effect. That is why another name of Madina is Shafiah or healer of diseases.

He (SAS) instructed his companions to wish for death in Madina since he (SAS) will be the intercessor and witness on the Day of Judgment for those buried in Madina. Caliph Omer (RU) used to make dua, "O Allah, make me a martyr and make me die in the city of Your Prophet (SAS)." Allah (SWT) fulfilled his both wishes.

Prophet Mohammed (SAS) made this dua, "O Allah, Ibrahim (AS) is Your worshiper and friend. He made supplication for the peace and prosperity of the residents of Makkah. I am Your worshiper and Prophet too. I request You to double Your blessings for the residents of Madina as compared to Makkah. Please make our weighing and measuring of various items full of blessings too."

Madina helps a person to get rid of his sins just like a furnace removes the impurities of silver. As mentioned in Sahihain, if a person eats seven Ajwa dates of Madina in his breakfast, no poison or magic will harm this person.

Masjid Nabawi and Masjid Quba of Madina are based on ultimate piety. The minber of Masjid Nabawi will be step to enter Paradise. The area between the minber and the Prophet's grave is one of the gardens of Paradise. The Uhud Mountain is a mountain of Paradise and Prophet (SAS) loved this mountain. The Prophet (SAS) will intercede and witness those buried in Baqee cemetery in Madina.

All cities were conquered by the Muslim by sword. Madina is the only city conquered by the teachings and blessings of Quran. Dajjal will not be able to enter the heart of the city of Madina.

The Prophet (SAS) said, "Iman will return back to Madina just like the snake returns back to his hole."

The Prophet (SAS) said, "Show respect to the residents of Madina. I not only migrated to Madina but also my grave will be in Madina and I shall rise on the Day of Judgment from the city of Madina. You should honor the rights of the residents of Madina since they are my neighbors. Try to overlook their mistakes and shortcomings. If a person will honor the rights of my neighbors, I shall intercede and witness for that person on the Day of Judgment. If a person ignores the rights of my neighbors, he will be made to drink washing of the wounds on the Day of Judgment.

The details of the Prophet's Mosque can be seen in my book 'Reminders for People of Understanding'. However a few general comments are given below:

- 1- There was no mehrab in Masjid Nabawi at the time of Prophet (SAS) and his four Caliphs. Omar bin Abdul Aziz constructed a mehrab in 91H.
- 2- There were no minarets in Masjid Nabawi at the time of Prophet (SAS) and his four Caliphs. Omar bin Abdul Aziz built four minarets at the four corners of this Masjid in 91 H.
- 3- Initially there was no minber or pulpit and the Prophet (SAS) delivered sermon by leaning against trunk of a tree in the mosque. During 8 H, a wooden pulpit was made consisting of three steps.
- 4- The various columns or pillars in the old Prophet's Mosque are at the same spot where they were at the time of the Prophet (SAS). Many columns have great significance.
- 5- The houses for the rightly guided Caliphs were as follows:
Abu Bakr's (RU) house was adjacent to the west wall of the Prophet's Mosque and it was in line with the present Bab Siddique.
Abu Bakr (RU) had another house on the eastern side of the mosque which was on the street leading from Bab Jibreel to Baqee. Abu Bakr (RU) was in this house during his last days and died here too.

Omar's (RU) house was between Bab Rhmah and Bab Siddique. During Salat-ul-Juma the rows of worshipers used to extend into Omar's (RU) house.

Osman (RU) had two houses. The large house was just outside present Bab Baqee. Osman (RU) became martyr in the northern part of this house. He had a smaller house near the northeastern corner of his large house.

Ali's (RU) house was just north of the Sacred Chamber or Aisha's (RU) hut. There was mehrab tahajjud in the southern wall of Ali's (RU) house.

GLIMPSES OF THE LIVES OF THE RIGHTLY GUIDED CALIPHS

The visitor of Madina should carry with them some reminders from lives of the rightly guided caliphs since they are the guiding light for us.

ABU BAKR SIDDIQUE (RU) (11H-13H)

Allah (SWT) says in An-Nisa # 69

وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَأُولَئِكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصَّادِقِينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ
وَالصَّالِحِينَ وَحَسُنَ أُولَئِكَ رَفِيقًا ﴿٦٩﴾

And whoso obey Allah and the Messenger, then they will be in the company of those on whom Allah has bestowed His Grace, of the Prophet, the siddiqun, the martyrs, and the righteous. And how excellent these companions are!

According to scholars a siddique is the one who accepts Islam right away without any hesitation or reservation. Such was the case of Abu Bakr (RU). That is why he is called siddique. Note that the level of siddique is even higher than a martyr as indicated by the above verse.

Disbelievers tortured new Muslims every day. For example, disbelievers used to lay Khabbab (RU) on burning flames and put stones on top of him so that he can not move. As mentioned in Ibn Hisham, Abu Bakr (RU) bought Bilal (RU), Amer bin Fohaira (RU) and Khabbab bin Arath (RU) and freed them from slavery.

Similarly Zinnera (RUH), Nahdia (RUH), Umm Abais (RUH) were lady slaves who embraced Islam. Idolators tortured them in many ways. Abu Bakr (RU) bought them all and freed them from slavery.

Abu Bakr (RU) had very clear understanding of Quran. When Prophet Mohammed (SAS) died, many Companions including Omar (RU) got confused. Abu Bakr (RU) recited Al Imran #144

وَمَا مُحَمَّدٌ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ أَفَإِنْ مَاتَ أَوْ قُتِلَ انْقَلَبْتُمْ عَلَى أَعْقَابِكُمْ وَمَنْ يَنْقَلِبْ عَلَى عَقْبَيْهِ فَلَنْ يَضُرَّ اللَّهَ شَيْئًا وَسَيَجْزِي اللَّهُ الشَّاكِرِينَ ﴿١٠٦﴾

Muhammad (SAS) is no more than a messenger, and indeed messengers have passed away before him. If he dies or is killed, will you then turn back on your heels? And he who turns back on his heels, not the least harm will he do to Allah; and Allah will give reward to those who are grateful.

It made the situation very clear in the minds of all the Companions.

When Abu Bakr (RU) wanted to fight against those who refused to pay Zakat, many Companions objected. They said, “Do you wish to kill those who pray, fast and perform Haj?” Abu Bakr (RU) replied, “Those who refuse to pay Zakat are out of the fold of Islam.” Abu Bakr (RU) crushed such unislamic trends. It is a reminder for us who are not careful in paying Zakat fully or partially.

It is mentioned in Ibn Aseer that Abu Bakr (RU) asked, “What new items I have accumulated since I have become a caliph?” He was told about the following three items.

- a- A camel which is used to fetch water.
- b- A slave who looks after the children and also sharpens the swords of the Muslims.
- c- One piece of cloth worth less than a present Saudi riyal.

He ordered to deliver these items to the next caliph after his death.

When Omar (RU) received these items, he could not help crying and he was continuously saying, “O Abu Bakr(RU), you have made the task of your successor very difficult by your extraordinary example. There is a reminder for those who hold public office and then accumulate illegal foreign bank balances.

Abu Bakr (RU) compiled the Quran in the form of a book, since many Huffaz became martyrs in various battles.

Doors of the houses of many Companions used to open into Masjid Nabawi. As mentioned in Bukhari, Prophet (SAS) ordered that all these doors be closed except the door of the house of Abu Bakr (RU). This was the prediction that Abu Bakr (RU) will be first caliph. The exact location of the house of Abu Bakr (RU) can still be seen in Masjid Nabawi. If you walk westward from the Minber, this house was near the fifth column from the Minber in line with the present Bab Siddique.

When the Prophet (SAS) could not lead salat due to his illness, he appointed Abu Bakr (RU) to lead the salat in Masjid Nabawi.

Abu Bakr (RU) was a very close friend of Prophet Mohammed (SAS) even before the dawn of Islam. A man is known by the friends he keeps. He embraced Islam the very first day. He had the honor to be with the

Prophet (SAS) during his migration from Makkah to Madina. Al-Taubah#40

إِلَّا تَنْصُرُوهُ فَقَدْ نَصَرَهُ اللَّهُ إِذْ أَخْرَجَهُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا ثَانِيَ اثْنَيْنِ إِذْ هُمَا فِي الْغَارِ إِذْ يَقُولُ
لِصَاحِبِهِ لَا تَحْزَنْ إِنِّي نَظَرْتُ إِلَيْكَ فَانزَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ الْغِيَاظَ فَأَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ سَكِينَتَهُ عَلَيْهِ وَأَيَّدَهُ بِجُنُودٍ لَمْ تَرَوْهَا وَجَعَلَ
كَلِمَةَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا السُّفْلَىٰ وَكَلِمَةَ اللَّهِ هِيَ الْعَلْيَا وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ ﴿٤٠﴾

If you help him (Muhammad (SAS)) not, for Allah did indeed help him when the disbelievers drove him out, the second of the two; when they were in the cave, he said to his companion: "Be not sad, surely Allah is with us." Then Allah sent down His peace upon him, and strengthened him with forces which you saw not, and made the word of those who disbelieved the lowermost, with the Word of Allah that became the uppermost; and Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

Abu Bakr (RU) appointed an advisory council for the selection of next caliph. He (RU) did not want to repeat the situation created when the Prophet (SAS) passed away.

An interesting dialogue took place between him and members of his advisory council for the selection of his successor.

Abu Bakr (RU) asked Abdur Rahman bin Auf (RU), "What do you think about Omar (RU) as my successor?"

Abdur Rahman bin Auf (RU) said, "No doubt he is the best person but he is extremely strict and stringent." Abu Bakr (RU) said, "He is like this since he finds me very soft. When he becomes a caliph, he will automatically become soft." Then Abu Bakr (RU) asked Osman (RU), "What do you think about Omar (RU) as next caliph?" Osman (RU) said, "All I know is that his inner self is better than even his outer personality. In fact nobody among us is like him." He also consulted many other Muhajireen and Ansar.

As mentioned in Ibn Aseer, Talha bin Abdullah (RU) learnt that Omar (RU) is being seriously considered as next caliph. He went to Abu Bakr (RU) and said, "You know that Omar (RU) is very strict and stringent person. In spite of this you intend to choose him your successor. How would you answer Allah (SWT) on the Day of Judgment about your this action?" Abu Bakr (RU) said, "I shall say to Allah (SWT), O Allah, I have appointed your most obedient servant as caliph for the believers."

At the death of Abu Bakr (RU), Ali (RU) gave a farewell address at the doorstep of Abu Bakr (RU). Ali said, "O Abu Bakr, Allah's mercy be showered upon you, Prophet (SAS) loved you. He trusted you with his secrets. You were his advisor. You were the first to accept Islam and you were the most sincere believer and most God fearing person....."

When Ali (RU) finished his address, the people started crying bitterly at this loss and said, “O son-in-law of the Prophet (SAS). You said the truth.”

OMAR FAROOQ (RU) (13H-23H)

It is mentioned in Ibn-e-Hisham that one lady servant of Omar’s tribe, Bani Adi embraced Islam. Omar (RU), as a disbeliever, used to beat her daily till he became dead tired. He would say to her, “I am quitting this beating not out of mercy on you. I am quitting it since I am dead tired now.” She was beaten like this daily till Abu Bakr bought her and freed her.

Al-Jauzi has written in his book, History of Omar bin Khatab, that one day Omar (RU) hid himself behind the cover of Kabah. The Prophet (SAS) was offering salat there and was reciting Surah Al-Haqqah. Omar (RU) was stunned with the eloquence of Quran and he said to himself, “Mohammed (SAS) must be a great poet.” The Prophet then recited. Al-Haqqah # 41

وَمَا هُوَ بِقَوْلِ شَاعِرٍ قَلِيلًا مَّا تُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿٤١﴾

It is not the word of a poet: little is that you believe!

Then Omar (RU) said to himself. It must be wording of a soothsayer (or a foreteller). The Prophet (SAS) recited Al-Haqqah # 42-52.

وَلَا بِقَوْلِ كَاهِنٍ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٤٢﴾ تَنْزِيلٌ مِّن رَّبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٤٣﴾ وَلَوْ تَقَوَّلَ عَلَيْنَا بَعْضُ الْأَقَاوِيلِ ﴿٤٤﴾ لَأَخَذْنَا مِنْهُ بِالْيَمِينِ ﴿٤٥﴾ ثُمَّ لَقَطَعْنَا مِنْهُ الْوَتِينَ ﴿٤٦﴾ فَمَا مِنْكُمْ مِنْ أَحَدٍ عَنْهُ حَاجِزِينَ ﴿٤٧﴾ وَإِنَّهُ لَتَذِكْرٌ لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٤٨﴾ وَإِنَّا لَنَعْلَمُ أَنَّ مِنْكُمْ مُّكَذِّبِينَ ﴿٤٩﴾ وَإِنَّهُ لَحَسْرَةٌ عَلَيَّ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٥٠﴾ وَإِنَّهُ لَحَقُّ الْيَقِينِ ﴿٥١﴾ فَسَبِّحْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الْعَظِيمِ ﴿٥٢﴾

Nor is it the word of a soothsayer (or a foreteller): little is that you remember! This is the Revelation sent down from the Lord of all universes. And if he (Muhammad (SAS)) had forged a false saying concerning Us (Allah (SWT)), We surely would have seized him by his right hand (or with power and might), And then We certainly would have cut off his life artery (aorta), And none of you could have withheld Us from (punishing) him. And verily, this (Qur’an) is a Reminder for the Pious. And verily, We know that there are some among you that believe and indeed it (this Qur’an) will be an anguish for the disbelievers. And verily, it (this Qur’an) is an absolute truth with certainty. So glorify the Name of your Lord, the Most Great.

Omar (RU) said, “This recitation of Quran affected my heart and made me believe that Islam is a true religion.” However, he could not leave the religion of his forefathers and hence continued opposing Islam

violently. One day he came out of his home with a naked sword to kill the Prophet (SAS). A friend said to him, “Do you know your sister and brother-in-law have embraced Islam?” This made Omar (RU) very furious. He rushed to the home of his sister. He beat his brother-in-law and then his sister. Her face started bleeding. She still recited loudly, “I stand witness that there is no god worth worship except Allah (SWT) and stand witness that Mohammed (SAS) is His messenger.” Omar (RU) got a bit humiliated to see blood flowing on her face. He asked her to show him what she was reciting, She asked him to take a bath to clean himself before touching the Holy Scriptures. Omar recited. Ta-Ha # 1-14.

طه ﴿ مَا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْقُرْآنَ لِتَشْقَى ﴿١﴾ إِلَّا تَذَكُّرَةً لِمَنْ يَخْشَى ﴿٢﴾ تَنْزِيلًا مِمَّنْ خَلَقَ الْأَرْضَ ﴿٣﴾
وَأَلْسَمُونَكَ الْعُلَى ﴿٤﴾ الرَّحْمَنُ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ اسْتَوَى ﴿٥﴾ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ ﴿٦﴾
وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا وَمَا تَحْتَ الثَّرَى ﴿٧﴾ وَإِنْ يُجْهَرُ بِالْقَوْلِ فَنَاهَهُ يَعْلَمُ السِّرَّ وَأَخْفَى ﴿٨﴾ اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى ﴿٩﴾ وَهَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ مُوسَى ﴿١٠﴾ إِذْ رَأَى نَارًا فَقَالَ لِأَهْلِهِ امْكُثُوا ﴿١١﴾
إِنِّي آنَسْتُ نَارًا لَعَلِّي آتِيكُمْ مِنْهَا بِقَبَسٍ أَوْ أَجْدُ عَلَى الثَّارِ هُدًى ﴿١٢﴾ فَلَمَّا أَتَاهَا نُودِيَ ﴿١٣﴾
يَمْسُوسَى ﴿١٤﴾ إِنِّي أَنَا رَبُّكَ فَاخْلَعْ نَعْلَيْكَ إِنَّكَ بِالْوَادِ الْمُقَدَّسِ طُوًى ﴿١٥﴾
وَأَنَا آخَرْتُكَ فَاسْتَمِعْ لِمَا يُوحَى ﴿١٦﴾ إِنِّي أَنَا اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدْنِي وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ ﴿١٧﴾
لِدِكْرِي ﴿١٨﴾

Ta-Ha. We have not sent down the Qur'an unto you (O Muhammad (SAS)) to cause you distress, But only as a Reminder to those who fear (Allah). A revelation from Him (Allah) Who has created the earth and high heavens. The Most Gracious (Allah) rose over the Throne. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth, and all that is between them, and all that is under the soil. And if you (O Muhammad (SAS)) speak aloud, then verily, He knows the secret and that which is yet more hidden. None has the right to be worshipped but He! To Him belong the Best Names and has there come to you the story of Musa? When he saw a fire, he said to his family: "Wait! Verily, I have seen a fire; perhaps I can bring you some burning brand therefrom, or find some guidance at the fire." And when he came to it, he was called by name: "O Musa! "Verily I am your Lord! So take off your shoes; you are in the sacred valley, Tuwa. "And I have chosen you. So listen to that which will be revealed (to you). "Verily! I am Allah! None has the right to be worshipped but I, so worship Me, and perform As-Salat for My Remembrance.

Omar (RU) said, “This is a fantastic and lovely book. Please, guide me to the house of Prophet Mohammed (SAS).” He went there and eagerly embraced Islam.

It is mentioned in Bukhari and narrated by Abdullah bin Omar (RU), that the idolater surrounded the house of Omar (RU) to kill him for rejecting the religion of their forefathers. A friend of Omar turned them away. Al-Jauzi mentioned in his book, one day Omar (RU) said to the Prophet (SAS), “Are we not on the truth even if we live or die?” The Prophet said, “Indeed”. Omar (RU) said, “In that case why should we pray and propagate Islam secretly? I swear that Allah (SWT) has sent you as a true messenger. We will pray and propagate Islam openly.”

Hamza (RU) had embraced Islam three days before Omar (RU) did. Hence Muslims came out in two rows, one led by Hamza (RU) and other by Omar (RU). Quraish were very angry to see Hamza (RU) and Omar (RU) leading the Muslims. The Muslims started praying openly and also propagated Islam openly. The Prophet (SAS) called Omar (RU) Al Farooq that day. It is mentioned in Bukhari and narrated by Ibn Masood (RU) that the Muslims became powerful and respectful after Omar (RU) embraced Islam.

Omar (RU) had extraordinary vision and far sightedness. Allah (SWT) loved his suggestions and made it mandatory for all the coming generations to follow his valuable suggestions. For example, as mentioned in Bukhari and narrated by Anas (RU), one day Omar (RU) said to the Prophet (SAS), “O dear Prophet (SAS), all kind of people visit you. Some are good and others are not good. I feel it would be very appropriate if you order your wives to observe hijab.” Consequently, Allah (SWT) revealed Al-Ahzab # 53

يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَدْخُلُوا بُيُوتَ النَّبِيِّ إِلَّا أَنْ يُؤْذَنَ لَكُمْ إِلَى طَعَامٍ غَيْرَ نَظِيرِ
 إِنَّهُ وَلَكِنْ إِذَا دُعِيتُمْ فَأَدْخُلُوا فَإِذَا طَعِمْتُمْ فَانْتَشِرُوا وَلَا مُسْتَقْسِمِينَ لِحَدِيثِ إِنْ ذَلِكُمْ كَانَ
 يُؤْذَى النَّبِيُّ فَيَسْتَحِيءَ مِنْكُمْ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَسْتَحِيءَ مِنْ الْحَقِّ وَإِذَا سَأَلْتُمُوهُنَّ مَتَاعًا فَسْأَلُوهُنَّ
 مِنْ وَرَاءِ حِجَابٍ ذَلِكُمْ أَطْهَرُ لِقُلُوبِكُمْ وَقُلُوبِهِنَّ وَمَا كَانَ لَكُمْ أَنْ تُؤْذُوا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَلَا أَنْ
 تَنْكِحُوا أَرْوَاجَهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ أَبَدًا إِنَّ ذَلِكُمْ كَانَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ عَظِيمًا ﴿٥٣﴾

And when you ask (his wives) for anything you want, ask them from behind a screen: that is purer for your hearts and for their hearts.

Another instruction for observing hijab came for the rest of believers in Al-Ahzab # 59

يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلًّا لِأَزْوَاجِكَ وَبَنَاتِكَ وَنِسَاءِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ يُدْنِينَ عَلَيْهِنَّ مِنْ جَلْبَابِهِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ أَدْنَىٰ
 أَنْ يُعْرَفْنَ فَلَا يُؤْذَيْنَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا ﴿٥١﴾

O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to draw their cloaks (veils) allover their bodies. That will be better, that they should be known so as not to be annoyed. And Allah is Ever Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

It is mentioned in Bukhari and Muslim and narrated by Omar Farooq (RU). “Allah (SWT) agreed with me in three important matters. Firstly, I suggested to the Prophet (SAS) that we should offer salat near Maqam-e-Ibrahim Allah (SWT) revealed Al-Baqarah # 125

وَإِذْ جَعَلْنَا الْبَيْتَ مَثَابَةً لِّلنَّاسِ وَأَمْنًا وَاتَّخِذُوا مِن مَّقَامِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ مُصَلًّوًّا وَعَهِدْنَا إِلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ
 وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ أَن طَهِّرَا بَيْتِيَ لِلطَّائِفِينَ وَالْعَاكِفِينَ وَالرُّكَّعِ السُّجُودِ ﴿١٢٥﴾

And take you (people) the Maqam (place) of Ibrahim as a place of prayer,

Secondly, as mentioned above the verses about the hijab were revealed to the Prophet (SAS).

Thirdly, when some wives of the Prophet (SAS) became envious and somewhat jealous of each other, Omar (RU) could not tolerate that since he loved the Prophet (SAS) deeply. He warned them including his own daughter Hafasa (RUH) to mend their ways otherwise Allah (SWT) may replace them with better ones. A verse was revealed to the Prophet (SAS) to this effect Al-Tahrim # 5

عَسَىٰ رَبُّهُ إِنْ طَلَّقَكُنَّ أَنْ يُبَدِّلَهُ أَزْوَاجًا خَيْرًا مِنْكُنَّ مُسْلِمَاتٍ مُّؤْمِنَاتٍ قَنَاتٍ تَزَوَّجْنَ فِيهَا
 سَيِّحَاتٍ نَّبِيَّاتٍ وَأَبْكَارًا ﴿٥﴾

It may be if he divorced you (all) that his Lord will give him instead of you, wives better than you - Muslims, believers, obedient (to Allah), turning to Allah in repentance, worshipping Allah sincerely, given to fasting previously married and virgins.

The thinking and judgment of Omar (RU) was very sound. For example, at the end of the Battle of the Badr seventy of the leaders of idolaters were taken prisoners by Muslim. There were no instruction from Allah (SWT) about the prisoners and the booty of war so far. As mentioned in Tirmidhi and narrated by Ali (RU), the Prophet (SAS) was asked to give two options to the believers. Firstly, all prisoners should be put to sword to wipe out the strength of mighty enemy. Alternately, the prisoners may be released if they pay ransom.

The Prophet (SAS) asked his Companions to express their choices.

Omar (RU) and Saad bin Maaz (RU) wished to follow the first option while others wished to follow the second option. The Prophet (SAS) leaned towards second option since he is full of mercy for the mankind. Hence the second option was followed.

A warning came from Allah (SWT) for the Companions who requested the Prophet (SAS) to follow the second option. Al-Anfal # 67-68.

مَا كَانَ لِنَبِيِّ أَنْ يَكُونَ لَهُ أَسْرَى حَتَّى يُشْجِنَ فِي الْأَرْضِ تُرِيدُونَ عَرَضَ الدُّنْيَا وَاللَّهُ يُرِيدُ الْآخِرَةَ وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ ﴿٦٧﴾ لَوْلَا كَتَبَ مِنَ اللَّهِ سَبَقَ لِمَسَّكُمْ فِيمَا أَخَذْتُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ

﴿٦٨﴾

It is not for a Prophet that he should have prisoners of war until he had made a great slaughter in the land. You desire the good of this world, but Allah desires the Hereafter. And Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise. Were it not a previous ordainment from Allah, a severe torment would have touched you for what you took.

These two matters pertaining to prisoners and booty were clarified further. Allah (SWT) as a special favor to Ummah of Mohammed (SAS), made booty and ransom halal (permissible) for them and consoled the Companions for their previous mistake. Al-anfal # 69

فَكُلُوا مِمَّا غَنِمْتُمْ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿٦٩﴾

So enjoy what you have gotten of booty in war, lawful and good, and be afraid of Allah. Certainly, Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

The caliphate of Omar (RU) was the golden age of Islam. Omar (RU) conquered mighty empires of Persians and Rome. Syria, Palestine, Egypt and part of Turkey were also conquered. Omar (RU) was a genius. His administration, reforms and service to the people was marvelous. He introduced Islamic calendar.

Fall of Jerusalem is very interesting. Abu Obaidah (RU) and Khaled bin Walid laid siege to the great city of Jerusalem. The people of city agreed to make a peace treaty with Muslims provided that the Caliph came in person to sign the treaty.

Omar (RU) appointed Ali (RU) his deputy in Madina and started his journey to Jerusalem on a camel in the company of his servant Salem. There was no other security arrangements for the caliph. Omar (RU) and Salem took turns to ride the camel while other partner walked on foot.

It happened to be the turn of Salem to ride the camel when they entered city of Jerusalem. Salem offered his turn to Omar (RU) but Omar (RU) said, "The honor of Islam is sufficient for us all." Hence they entered the city when Caliph was walking on foot holding the rope of the

camel. Peace treaty was signed by Omar (RU). People were given complete security of their lives and property. They were permitted to follow their belief without any fear.

Last but not the least, Omar (RU) married daughter of Ali (RU), Umm Kalsoom (RUH), and in this way was proud to be blood relative of Prophet Mohammed (SAS).

Omar (RU) extended Masjid Nabawi during 17H. The extension to the southern direction (or towards Qibla) was about five meters. Hence he used to lead salat half way between Mehrab Nabawi and Mehrab Osmani. On 26 Dhul-Hajja 23H, a slave, attacked Omar (RU) when he was leading Salat-ul-Fajr. This slave was disbeliever (fire worshipper). Omar (RU) died with these injuries after a few days.

Omar (RU) appointed an advisory panel consisting of Osman bin Affan (RU) Ali bin Abu Talib (RU), Zubair bin Awwam (RU), Talha bin Obaid-ullah (RU), Abdur Rahman bin Auf, and Saad bin Abi Waqas (RU) to choose the next Caliph.

Omar (RU) asked his son Abdullah bin Omar (RU), to seek permission from Aisha (RUH) to bury him with the Prophet (SAS) and Abu Bakr (RU). Aisha granted the permission.

When Omar (RU) was buried there, Aisha remained in full veil (or Hijab) in her hut all the time till a wall was built between their graves and her remaining tiny hut. It was because Omar (RU) was not a Mahram for her.

There is an important lesson for Muslim men and women who are careless in observing guidance pertaining to Hijab.

NEAR DEATH

Hafsa (RUH), the daughter of Omar (RU) came to her injured father crying bitterly and making loud sorrowful remarks. Omar (RU) said to Hafsa (RUH),” I do not have control over your eyes. Watch that if loud remarks are made for a dying person, the angels hate such dead bodies.” Similarly when Suhaib (RU) saw the terrible condition of the wounds of Omar (RU), he started saying,” O dear Omar, O dear Omar.” Omar (RU) said to him,” O dear brother be patient. Don’t you know that if loud remarks are made about a dying person, a punishment is inflicted on that dying person.”

Abdullah (RU) was listening to the will of his father while Omar’s (RU) head was resting in Abdullah’s (RU) lap. Omar (RU) said,” Put down my head on the ground.” Abdullah (RU) said,” Dad, what is the difference between my lap and the ground.” Omar (RU) said again,” Put my head on the ground. In this way Allah (SWT) may be more kind to me and shower His mercy on me.”

May Allah (SWT) make us humble and God-fearing like Omar (RU).

OSMAN BIN AFFAN (RU) (24H-35H)

Osman (RU) embraced Islam in the very early days of Islam through the counseling of Abu Bakr (RU). Osman (RU) married Roqayyah (RUH), the daughter of the Prophet (SAS). When the torture of Quraish became unbearable Osman (RU) and Ruqayyah (RUH) migrated to Abyssinia. This was the first Muslim family, which migrated in the path of Allah (SWT). Later they came back to Makkah on hearing that the situation in Makkah was not very bad then. The disbelievers increased torture. Hence both migrated to Madina. Roqayyah (RUH) became very ill and died when the Prophet (SAS) was away for the Battle of Badr. Osman (RU) married Umm Kulthum (RUH), the second daughter of the Prophet (SAS). Consequently Osman (RU) was given unique title of Dhun-Nurain or the man with two lights.

Some Muslim tribes of Madina had great difficulty in finding water for the daily use. Osman (RU) bought a well, called Bir Rumah, from a Jew for free use of Muslims. This was the first non-profit Islamic Trust in Islam. The Prophet (SAS) gave Osman (RU) the glad tidings of Paradise for this noble act. The Prophet (SAS) wished to extend the Prophet's mosque during 7H. Osman (RU) purchased the land for this extension. He also donated very generously at various expeditions. For example, he donated one thousand camels, fifty thousand horses and one thousand Dinars for the battle of Tabuk.

Osman (RU) was chosen as caliph unanimously from the advisory council appointed by Omar (RU).

Osman (RU) made more conquests and Islamic State extended from Afghanistan to Morocco in Africa. It became somewhat difficult to control the far-flung territories. Due to enormous expansion of Islamic state various groups were reciting Quran in different ways. It caused some problems between the people of different lands. Osman (RU) ordered to distribute copies of Quran compiled at the time of Abu Bakr (RU) and destroyed all others.

Osman (RU) was appointed by the Prophet (SAS) to write and record the revelations of the Quran. He knew the Quran by heart and had excellent understanding of it.

Osman (RU) further extended the Prophet's Mosque during 29H. The mosque was finished with very decorative stones and Osman (RU) personally supervised the construction activities. It is interesting to note that the southern wall of the mosque is still in the same place where it

was at the time of Osman (RU). The present Imam leads the salat from the same spot where Osman (RU) used to be as Imam.

Osman (RU) made outstanding contribution to Islam in many ways.

Unfortunately he became victim of the conspiracies of Ibn Saba, a Jewish hypocrite. Some disgruntled Muslims cooperated with them. They killed Osman (RU) when he was reciting Quran in his house. This house of Osman (RU) was just outside present Bab Bagee. Osman (RU) was 82 years old at the time of his martyrdom. He did not fight his opponent since it would cause bloodshed among Muslims. He chose to rather sacrifice his own life for God's sake. The martyrdom of Osman (RU) was predicted by the Prophet (SAS). One time the Prophet (SAS) went to mountain Uhud with his Companions Abu Bakr (RU), Omar (RU) and Osman (RU). The mountain started trembling. The Prophet (SAS) tapped the mountain with his foot and said, "Stop trembling, since there is a Prophet, a siddique and two martyrs standing on you." Uhud stopped trembling immediately.

May Allah (SWT) save us from the mischief of hypocrites and give us ability to see the difference between the right and wrong.

It is very important to note that Ali (RU) was one of the closest advisors of Osman (RU) during this crisis. They had mutually full trust and confidence in each other. Ali (RU) gave very valuable suggestions to Osman (RU) when opponents had laid siege to Osman's (RU) house. Ali (RU) appointed his sons Hassan (RU) and Hussain (RU) security guards on the entrance of Osman's (RU) house. They performed this duty for one month. Culprits, however, jumped over the back wall of the house to commit the heinous crime. It should not be forgotten that during the meeting of the advisory council appointed by Omar (RU), Osman (RU) suggested that Ali (RU) should be the next caliph. Similarly Ali (RU) suggested that Osman (RU) should be the next caliph. This clearly shows how much regard they had for each other.

Last but not the least, we note that Omar (RU) married, Umm Kulsoom, the daughter of Ali (RU). Omar (RU) proudly said that in that way he became directly blood relative of Prophet Mohammed (SAS).

These facts show that there were never any differences between Abu Bakr (RU), Omar (RU), Osman (RU) and Ali (RU). Unfortunately, some people have fabricated and magnified some statements under the influence of hypocrites. May Allah (SWT) guide us to the right path.

ALI (RU) (35H-40H)

Ali (RU) was brought up by Prophet Mohammed (SAS). Hence Ali (RU) learnt, cherished and practiced all the qualities in the extraordinary

character of the Prophet (SAS). The first instruction to the Prophet (SAS) for propagation of Islam was Ash Shuora # 214

وَأَنْذِرْ عَشِيرَتَكَ الْأَقْرَبِينَ ﴿٢١٤﴾

And warn your tribe of near kindred.

Hence the Prophet (SAS) invited his relatives to a dinner and introduced them with Islam. No body paid any attention to him except Ali (RU). Ali boldly announced, “Although my eyes are sore, my legs are thin and I am the youngest of all those present here, I will stand beside you, O Messenger of God.” The leaders of Quraish laughed loudly at his remark.

Hence Ali (RU) accepted Islam when he was a child. He never prostrated himself to any idol in his life. That is why we say with his name *كرمه الله وجهه* Allah (SWT) honoured his face.

Ali married Fatima (RU), the most beloved daughter of the Prophet (SAS). They had three sons Hassan, Hussain and Mohsin (who died in infancy) They also had two daughters Zainab and Umm Kulthum.

Although Quraish of Makkah were after the life of the Prophet (SAS) but they knew that he was the most trustworthy and honest person. Hence even his worst enemies used to put their precious items in the custody of the Prophet (SAS). Ali (RU) was more mature and wise than his age. The Prophet (SAS) valued his qualities. When the Prophet (SAS) migrated to Madina, he asked Ali (RU) to lie down on his bed and distribute the various items of trust to their owners.

Ali (RU) took part in all the battles and showed exceptional bravery. Here are a few examples of Ali’s (RU) bravery. In the beginning of the Battle of Badr Walid bin Utba challenged the Muslims. Ali (RU) killed him in no time and raised the morale of the Muslims.

Similarly in the battle Ahzab (trench) a disbeliever Abd Al-Wudd crossed the trench with his horse and challenged the Muslims. Among all the Muslims Ali (RU) came forward to face him. Al-Wudd said to Ali (RU), “I hate to kill a young man like you. Send somebody most outstanding amongst you since Al-Wudd was a famous Arabian warrior.” Ali (RU) insisted to face him. In this case, Ali (RU) again cut his opponent into pieces. The Prophet (SAS) was very pleased. Due to exceptional bravery, Ali (RU) was popularly known as Asadullah or the Lion of Allah (SWT).

Muslims could not conquer one Jewish fortress in spite of their repeated efforts during the Battle of Khaiber. The Prophet (SAS) said to his Companions, “I shall give tomorrow the Islamic flag to such a person who loves Allah and His Prophet (SAS) and whom Allah and His Prophet (SAS) love.” Everybody was anxious to receive this honor. To

their surprise, the Prophet (SAS) chose Ali (RU) who happened to be sick at that time and his eyes were very sore. The Prophet (SAS) put his saliva on his hands and touched Ali's (RU) eyes with his hands. Ali (RU) was fully cured. Ali (RU) had the honor to conquer this fortress of Qumus in Khaiber.

Abu Bakr (RU) was appointed leader of the pilgrims in 9H. A new revelation came to the Prophet (SAS) after Abu Bakr (RU) left for Makkah. The Prophet (SAS) sent Ali (RU) to publicly announce the new instructions pertaining to the relationship between the believers and disbelievers. He also announced that no naked person would be allowed to perform Hajj in future. The Prophet (SAS) chose Ali (RU) for such important announcements.

Ali (RU) became Caliph on the 21 Dhulhija in the year 35H. Most of the Muslims and even Ibn Saba group gave him the pledge. A few prominent Muslims declined due to political reasons. Ali (RU) got encircled by many problems from all directions. For example, he asked the followers of Ibn Saba to leave Madina on the third day of his office. They refused and they wanted to create mischief and confusion as and when possible during their stay in Madina.

He felt that it was necessary to have a stable government and attain strength for solving the problems. His opponents believed that the assassins of Osman (RU) should be tried and punished before any other action on part of the Caliph. The gap between two thinkings widened as time went on while the assassins had gone underground or had escaped. Instant hunting for these culprits was not easy. Another dangerous group surfaced. They were called Khawariji. They tried to fight Ali (RU) but suffered defeat. They went underground and planned to kill Ali (RU), Muawayah (RU) Amr bin As (RU) as they came out for Salat-ul-Fajr.

The three khawarijis struck their respective targets on 17th Ramadan in the year 40H. Muawayah (RU) received injuries and he escaped. Amr bin As (RU) did not come for Salat-ul-Fajr. Ali (RU) was fatally wounded by Ibn Muljam. Ali (RU) passed away on the 20th Ramadan in the year 40 H. Ali (RU) was sixty three years old and was caliph for four years and nine months.

Ali (RU) had to face some unforeseen circumstances and hurdles. The difficulties were enormous and very complicated in nature. Ali (RU) showed exemplary character and courage and did his very best to unite the Muslims. The civil war, the Kharijite movement and followers of Ibn Saba shattered the unity of the Muslims.

In these circumstances Ali's (RU) sincerity, courage and determination was tremendous. The capacity of Ali (RU) to cope with odd circumstances was enormous indeed.

Poet Iqbal said:

ان that of
بڑھ کے خیبر سے ہے یہ معرکہ دین و وطن اس زمانے میں کوئی حیدر کر رہا ہے
an that of
Khaiber. Is there any very brave person like Ali (RU) these days.
**May Allah (SWT) save the Muslims from the anti-Islamic elements
and keep the Muslims on His BATTLE OF UHUD**

SUMMARY OF WAR

This war was waged by the disbelievers to take revenge of the Battle of Badr, where seventy of their prominent leaders were killed and another seventy were arrested, while only fourteen Muslims became martyrs.

The disbelievers consisted of three thousand soldiers, three thousand camels and two hundred horses. There were also fifteen ladies in this army acting as cheerleaders for these men.

Muslim army initially consisted of one thousand soldiers. When Muslim troops reached near Uhud Mountain, Abdullah bin Obey, and the head of hypocrites, suddenly left the Muslim army and went back to Madina with his three hundred followers. Father of Jaber (AS) reminded them of their duty to Allah (SWT) but they did not listen. Allah (SWT) exposed these hypocrites in Al-Imran #167

وَلْيَعْلَمَ الَّذِينَ نَافَقُوا وَقِيلَ لَهُمْ تَعَالَوْا فَنَلِّمُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَوْ ادْفَعُوا قَالُوا لَوْ نَعْلَمُ قِتَالًا
لَاتَّبَعْنَاكُمْ هُمْ لِلْكَفَرِ يَوْمَئِذٍ أَقْرَبُ مِنْهُمْ لِلْإِيمَانِ يَقُولُونَ بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ مَا لَيْسَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ
وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَكْتُمُونَ ﴿١٦٧﴾

And that He might test the hypocrites, it was said to them: "Come, fight in the Way of Allah or (at least) defend yourselves." They said: "Had we known that fighting will take place, we would certainly have followed you." They were that day, nearer to disbelief than to Faith, saying with their mouths what was not in their hearts. And Allah has full knowledge of what they conceal.

Finally two armies faced each other near Uhud Mountain. The Prophet (SAS) used excellent war strategy in placing his troops. Some arrow men were stationed at a hillock to stop the advancement of enemy. Initially the enemy suffered defeat. Consequently most of the Muslim arrow men left their station to collect booty. The enemy took advantage of this and attacked the Muslim army from this direction. Many Muslim fatalities took place and even the Prophet (SAS) was badly injured. The disbelievers mutilated the martyrs and left for Makkah with a feeling of success.

DETAILS OF WAR

Let us touch upon a few of the events of this battle when about several hundred Muslims fought the mighty three thousand disbelievers.

Initially Zubair bin Awwam (RU), Saad bin Abi Waqas (RU) Asim bin Thabit (RU), Ali (RU) and Hamza (RU) killed ten persons of same household and nobody was left from this family to carry the flag of the disbelievers.

The arrow men initially did a fantastic job by defeating the enemy troops thrice. The enemy started running away. As mentioned in Bukhari and narrated by Bra bin Azib (RU), even their cheerleaders were madly running away and lower part of their legs were bare to help them fleeing fast.

Wahshi, the slave of Jubair bin Muttan hid himself behind a rock and treacherously attacked Hamza (RU) and Hamza (RU) became a martyr. In spite of this Muslims had clearly upper hand.

The arrow men were instructed by the Prophet (SAS) not to leave their station under any circumstances. Most of the arrow men felt that Allah (SWT) has granted victory to the Muslim army. They could not resist collecting booty of the rich enemy. Abdullah bin Jubair (RU), leader of the arrow men reminded them about the instructions of the Prophet (SAS). Unfortunately Abdullah bin Jubair (RU) was left there with only nine arrow men. The enemy took advantage of this opportunity and once again attacked these arrow men. All nine became martyrs. The enemy horsemen advanced further and encircled the Muslim army. Muslims got confused and disorganized and some were forced to run away for their lives. The victory rapidly changed into an extreme emergency.

Even in this situation many companions fought very gallantly. For example, as mentioned in Bukhari, Anas bin Nadar (RU) became martyr and there were seventy cuts on his body. His sister could identify his body only by the tips of his fingers.

The Prophet (SAS) was left with only nine Companions around him. A bloody battle took place around the Prophet (SAS). The seven Companions became martyrs one by one while defending the Prophet (SAS). As mentioned in Bukhari, only Talha bin Ubaidullah (RU) and Saad bin Abi Waqas (RU) were left to defend the Prophet (SAS).

PROPHET'S (SAS) INJURIES

Enemy's stone hit the Prophet (SAS). He fell down, and one of his lower teeth broke off and his lower lip was also injured. Another enemy injured his forehead. A third enemy hit the Prophet (SAS) very hard with

his sword. As a result of this two rings of the helmet of the Prophet (SAS) penetrated into his cheek. The blood started flowing down on his face.

DEFENCE OF THE PROPHET (SAS)

Saad bin Abi Waqas (RU) was shooting arrows on the enemy. Prophet (SAS) was extremely pleased with him and made the following unique dua for him, "May my father and mother be sacrificed for you."

Talha (RU) was fighting the enemy very bravely till his hand was injured and his fingers were cut off. While fighting the enemy, he also shielded the Prophet (SAS) with his chest in this critical moment. As stated in Tirmidhi, the Prophet (SAS) said, "If someone desires to see a martyr walking on this land, let them look at Talha bin Obaidullah."

As mentioned in Bukhari, Saad bin Abi Waqas (RU) said, "On the day of the Battle of Uhud I saw two persons dressed in white around the Prophet (SAS). They were fighting fiercely on behalf of the Prophet (SAS). I never saw them before and after this occasion." By another narration, they were Jibreel (AS) and Michael (AS) angels. In the meanwhile about thirty Companions rushed to this location. Each one of them showed an extraordinary heroism as seen in the books of history.

Enemy had also dug some ditches as traps. Unfortunately, the Prophet (SAS) fell into one of these ditches. The Prophet's (SAS) knee was injured badly. Ali (RU) and Talha bin Obaidullah (RU) pulled him out of this ditch.

Abu Obaida bin Jarrah (RU) tried to pull the rings of helmet from the cheek of the Prophet (SAS) by his teeth. In first attempt Abu Obaida (RU) lost his one lower tooth. He lost another lower tooth while pulling second ring.

EXAMPLES OF HEROISM

(a) Musab bin Omair (RU) was raising the flag of Muslim army and was fighting very fiercely. During the fighting his right hand was cut off. He held the flag with his left hand. Later on his left hand was also cut off by the enemy. He sat down on his knees and held the flag supported by his chest and neck. He became martyr in this condition. Since Musab (RU) resembled the Prophet (SAS) very much, the disbelievers announced that the Prophet (SAS) was killed. This disheartened many believers.

(b) Abu Dajana (RU) stood in front of the Prophet (SAS) with his back towards the enemy to shield the Prophet (SAS). Many arrows of the enemy hit his back but he did not budge an inch.

(c) Umm Amara (RU) her husband and two sons also gathered

around the Prophet (SAS) when there were only a handful Companions around him. Umm Amara with her naked sword defended the Prophet (SAS) from all directions. The whole family demonstrated extraordinary bravery. The Prophet (SAS) said, “O Allah, have mercy on this family.” The Prophet (SAS) also made this dua for this family, “O Allah please make all of them my Companions in Paradise.”

WOMEN IN THE BATTLEFIELD

As mentioned in Bukhari and narrated by Anas (RU), some Muslim women came to the battlefield at the end of the fight. They were carrying water bags to provide water to the wounded soldiers. Among them were Aisha (RUH) Umm Saleem (RUH), Umm Saleeth (RUH) and Umm Aiman (RUH).

MUTILATION OF MARTYR

When Musab bin Omair (RU) became martyr, the enemy announced that the Prophet (SAS) was killed since he resembled the Prophet (SAS) very much. The disbelievers felt that their mission was accomplished. Hence the disbelievers started mutilation of the martyrs. They cut their ears, noses, and private parts and made garlands out of them. Hind bint Utba, the wife of Abu Sufyan, cut the belly of Hamza (RU) and grabbed his liver and chewed it to satisfy her anger. The idolaters decided to go back to Makkah since, in their view, their main mission was accomplished.

THE STATUS OF COMPANIONS

There were three factors, which changed this victory into a defeat like situation for the Muslims.

- (a) Disobedience of the Prophet’s (SAS) instructions by the arrow men.
- (b) News of the Prophet’s (SAS) death. It disheartened many believers.
- (c) Disagreement in battlefield about the instructions of the Prophet (SAS)

This is described in Al-Imran #152

﴿ وَمَا كَانَ لِنَبِيِّ أَنْ يُعْلَىٰ وَمَنْ يُعْلَىٰ يَأْتِ بِمَا عَلَّ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ ثُمَّ تُوَفَّىٰ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا كَسَبَتْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ ﴾

And Allah did indeed fulfil His Promise to you when you were killing them with His Permission; until you lost your courage and fell to disputing about the order, and disobeyed after He showed you which you

love. Among you are some that desire this world and some that desire the Hereafter. Then He made you flee from them, that He might test you. But surely, He forgave you, and Allah is Most Gracious to the believers.

Allah (SWT) says that this extreme hardship was to sort out the hypocrites from the sincere believers. Allah (SWT) consoles the believers by declaring that Allah (SWT) has forgiven them. Hence they will not have to account for it on the Day of Judgment. Allah (SWT) is very Gracious with the Muslims.

There is detailed description of this awkward situation in Al-Imran #153-155

أَفَمَنْ اتَّبَعَ رِضْوَانَ اللَّهِ كَمَنْ بَاءَ بِسَخَطٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَمَأْوَهُ جَهَنَّمَ وَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ ﴿١٥٤﴾ هُمْ دَرَجَاتٌ
عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ بَصِيرٌ بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٥٥﴾

(And remember) when you ran away without even casting a side glance at anyone, and the Messenger was in your rear calling you back. There did Allah give you one distress after another by way of requital to teach you not to grieve for that which had escaped you, nor for that which had befallen you. And Allah is Well-Aware of all that you do.

Then after the distress, He sent down security for you. Slumber overtook a party of you.

Those of you who turned back on the day the two hosts met, it was Shaitan who caused them to backslide because of some they had earned. But Allah, indeed, has forgiven them. Surely, Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Forbearing.

Here it is pointed out that it was to test the believers. Some of believers were influenced by Satan due to some of their deeds. There is again very clear verdict of Allah (SWT) in the last verse stating that Allah (SWT) has already forgiven the Companions since Allah (SWT) is often Forgiving, Most Forbearing.

It is a shame that in spite of above two verdicts of Allah (SWT), some people talk unkindly about the companions. As mentioned in the above verse, Allah (SWT) showered his additional blessings on some Companions by covering them with slumber in the battlefield. This revived them and made them more secure. Note that slumber in a battlefield is a blessing while it is a curse during the performance of salat. Similar blessing of Allah (SWT) was showered on the extremely worried Muslims during the battle of Badr. Al-Anfal #11

إِذْ يُعَشِّيكُمُ النُّعَاسَ أَمْنَةً مِّنْهُ وَيُنزِلُ عَلَيْكُمْ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً لِّيُطَهِّرَكُمْ بِهِ وَيُذْهِبَ عَنْكُمْ
رِجْسَ الشَّيْطَانِ وَلِيَرْبِطَ عَلَى قُلُوبِكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتَ بِهِ الْأَقْدَامَ ﴿١١﴾

(Remember) when He covered you with a slumber as a security from Him,

Consider another mistake of the Companions and how Allah (SWT) responded to that. When the head of the hypocrites went away from the battlefield with his three hundred followers, it affected the morale of some other Muslim tribes. In fact, Bani Hartha and Bani Salma got very disheartened. They felt like following the example of hypocrites and were about to abandon Muslim army. Allah (SWT), due to His Mercy on the Companions, did not let this idea develop too much in their hearts. Allah (SWT) rather became their supporter and protector from this mistake. Al-Imran #122

إِذْ هَمَّتْ طَّائِفَتَانِ مِنْكُمْ أَنْ تَفْشَلَا وَاللَّهُ وَلِيَهُمَا وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١٢٢﴾

When two parties from among you were about to lose heart, but Allah was their supporter and protector. And in Allah should the believers put their trust.

These tribes used to speak proudly that, “Allah (SWT) is our supporter and protector.”

Note that Allah (SWT) is so very kind to the Companions even when they were committing some mistakes. I wonder how much pleased Allah (SWT) was with the Companions when they were engaged in good deeds one after another.

Not only Allah (SWT) forgave the Companions but also instructed the Prophet (SAS) to be kind to them. Al-Imran #159

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانْفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ ﴿١٥٩﴾

So pass over their faults and ask (Allah's) Forgiveness for them; and consult them in the affairs.

Examine these four instructions to the Prophet (SAS).

- 1-Totally forgive your Companions in spite of their mistakes.
- 2- Pray for them.
- 3- Request Allah (SWT) for their forgiveness.
- 4- Honor them and take them into confidence by consulting them in important affairs.

No other religion has such high codes of ethics and broadmindedness.

After reviewing this guidance of Allah (SWT), how can a person dare to speak against the Companions of Prophet Mohammed (SAS).

ANOTHER GIFT OF ALLAH (SWT)

Towards the end of the Battle of Uhud, the idolaters were victorious. They could have attacked Madina village to cause sever damage there. Allah (SWT) infused fear in their hearts and hence they went back home to Makkah instead of attacking Madina. Al-Imran #151

We shall cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve, because they joined others in worship with Allah, for which He had sent no authority; their abode will be the Fire and how evil is the abode of the polytheists.

I hope that the visitors of the site of the Battle of Uhud will benefit from the lessons provided in this article.

The Prophet (SAS) and his Companions took a brief rest at the site of masjid Al-Mustrah on their way back to Madina. This masjid lies on the road now known as Sayyid-Shuhada road. During our visit to this mosque we should pray for the Muslim soldiers and compare our comfortable lives with the injured Prophet (SAS) and his Companions.

May Allah induce in us the perseverance and steadfastness of the Companions of the Prophet (SAS).

Straight Path.

BATTLE OF AHZAB

The site of this battle is only a walking distance three kilometers from Madina village of that time. The enemies had come extremely close to this tiny village in order to completely wipe out the Muslims from the surface of the earth. Disbelievers of Makkah, Jews and many other tribes joined hand to achieve this goal. That is why it is called the Battle of Ahzab. (Ahzab means many groups). They were about twelve to fifteen thousands fully equipped while Muslims were only three thousands with very few arms. This took place during the fifth year of Hijra. Quran describes the severity of this conflict in Al-Ahzab #10-11

إِذْ جَاءُوكُم مِّن فَوْقِكُمْ وَمِنْ أَسْفَلَ مِنكُمْ وَإِذْ زَاغَتِ الْأَبْصَارُ وَبَلَغَتِ الْقُلُوبُ الْحَنَاجِرَ
وَتَظُنُّونَ بِاللَّهِ الظُّنُونًا ﴿١٠﴾ هُنَالِكَ ابْتُلِيَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَزُلْزِلُوا زِلْزَالًا شَدِيدًا ﴿١١﴾

When they came upon you from above you and from below you, and when the eyes grew wild and the hearts reached to the throats, and you were harbouring doubts about Allah. There, the believers were tried and shaken with a mighty shaking.

EXAMPLES OF BARGAINING AMONG THE ENEMIES

Jewish tribe, Banu Nadir, was expelled from Madina due to their treachery and mischiefs. Some of them had settled in Khaiber. They could not tolerate success of Muslims. The leader of Banu Nadir, Hai bin Akhtab, visited Makkah with a delegation of twenty persons. He invited the idolaters of Makkah to attack Madina.

Twenty Jews of Madina and fifty leaders of Quraish of Makkah put their chests against the walls of Kabah in Makkah and vowed that they will continue fighting against Mohammed (SAS) even one of us is alive.

Jews also bribed a powerful Arab tribe Ghatfan to recruit them in this battle. It was agreed that all dates produced in Khaibar during this year will be donated to this tribe. By some narrations half of these dates were to be paid to this warrior tribe. Ghatfan eagerly joined the battle by accepting this tempting deal. Hai bin Akhtab also approached Banu Quraiza, another Jewish tribe. After some reluctance they agreed to fight against the Muslims as well.

WAR STRATEGY OF THE PROPHET MOHAMMED (SAS)

Consultation at all occasions is an important practice of Islam. The Prophet (SAS) made an advisory council consisting of Salman Farsi (RU), Ali (RU), Omar (RU), Saad bin Muaz (RU) and Abu Bakar (RU). Some of mosques seen at the site of the Battle of Ahzab are known by the members of this advisory council. Masjid Fatah is the site where the Prophet (SAS) made many supplications for the success of the Muslims.

Salman Farsi (RU) suggested that a trench should be dug between the enemy and us. The Prophet (SAS) liked this suggestion. Every group of ten believers was to dig forty yards long and five feet deep trench. The Prophet (SAS) also did his part like other believers. Rarely a commander-in-chief participates in this manner.

The Prophet (SAS) chose this site to face the enemy so that enemy could not attack from behind due to mountain. The trench was in front of the Muslim troops and also prevented enemy to advance towards them.

As mentioned in Tirmidhi, Abu Talha (RU) complained to the Prophet (SAS) about his sufferings from extreme starvation during the digging of the trench. Abu Talha (RU) even showed a stone tied upon his stomach. The Prophet (SAS) exposed his stomach and it had two stones tied on it.

MIRACLES

A few extraordinary miracles took place during this battle.

As mentioned in Bukhari, Jaber bin Abdullah (RU) noticed that the Prophet (SAS) was suffering from extreme starvation with several stones tied upon his stomach. He rushed to his home and sacrificed a small lamb while his wife baked bread from about two and half kilo flour. He quietly invited the Prophet (SAS) to his home for dinner. He also requested the Prophet (SAS) to bring a few of his Companions with him to this dinner as well. The Prophet went to Jaber's (RU) home with about one thousand of his Companions. Jaber (RU) and his wife got worried. The Prophet (SAS) served the meals to all the Companions with his own hands. Surprisingly all the Companions ate to their fill and still some food was left over which was distributed to the neighbors. It is believed that this house of Jaber (RU) was in front of present gas (fuel) filling station known as Sabah Masajid filling station.

As mentioned in Ibn Hisham, Nouman bin Bashir's (RU) sister brought some dates for his brother to the battle site. The Prophet (SAS) borrowed these dates from her and sprinkled them over a piece of cloth spread on the ground. All Muslim participants of this war came there and ate dates to their fill. The more they consumed the dates, the more they grew in number, so much so that the piece of cloth could not hold all the dates and they were scattered around the edges of this cloth.

An unbreakable stone appeared where Salman Farsi (RU) was digging. It was reported to the Prophet (SAS). The Prophet (SAS) hit this stubborn stone with his tool and recited from Quran Al-Anam # 115.

وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَتُ رَبِّكَ صِدْقًا وَعَدْلًا لَا مُبَدِّلَ لِكَلِمَاتِهِ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ ﴿١١٥﴾

And the Word of your Lord has been fulfilled in truth and in justice,

It caused a spark and one third of the rocks was chopped off. The Prophet (SAS) hit the stone with his tool second time while reciting

And the Word of your Lord has been fulfilled in truth and in justice, None can change His Words.

It caused a spark again and one third of rock was chopped off. The Prophet (SAS) hit the stone third time reciting.

And the Word of your Lord has been fulfilled in truth and in justice, None can change His Words. And He is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower.

It also caused a spark and the remaining rock was broken into pieces.

Salman Farsi (RU) said to the Prophet (SAS), "Dear Prophet, I saw a spark each time you hit the rock." The Prophet (SAS) responded, "In first spark I saw the red castle of Syria. Jibreel (AS) informed me that

your followers will conquer Syria. During the second spark I saw white castles of Persia. Jibreel (AS) further informed me that your followers will conquer it as well. During the third spark I was given keys of Yemen, and I was informed that your followers will also conquer this dynasty.” The Muslims were cheered up at this good news. The hypocrites, however, tauntingly jeered at the Muslims. However, no doubt was created in the minds of the sincere Muslims even in this difficult time of war and starvation.

Note that in verse # 115, the two characteristics of Quran are described. The guidance in Quran is total truth and is based on absolute justice. Furthermore nobody will ever be able to change this sublime guidance. Last but not the least, Allah (SWT) is hearing and knows what these people are talking.

It is obvious that in the case of any extreme hardship we should recite the above verse Al-Anam # 115

وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَتُ رَبِّكَ صِدْقًا وَعَدْلًا لَا مُبَدِّلَ لِكَلِمَاتِهِ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ ﴿١١٥﴾

And the Word of your Lord has been fulfilled in truth and in justice, None can change His Words. And He is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower.

MENTALITY OF THE HYPOCRITES

Hypocrites are those who outwardly follow the teachings of Islam but the true Islamic spirit has not entered their hearts. Hence they pray, fast, pay Zakat and even go to war with Muslims. Their presence is more dangerous and treacherous than the worst enemies of Islam. Allah has exposed them due to their shameless character. Some of their activities during this battle are listed below.

1-When the hypocrites saw huge army of disbelievers they said, “Fact is that Allah and His Prophet have not promised any thing. It is a sheer deceiving call.” Al-Ahzab #12

وَإِذْ يَقُولُ الْمُنَافِقُونَ وَالَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَّرَضٌ مَّا وَعَدَنَا اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ إِلَّا غُرُورًا ﴿١٢﴾

And when the hypocrites and those in whose hearts is a disease said: “Allah and His Messenger promised us nothing but delusion!”

2-They said to the Muslim army, “Go back home. No way you can face this powerful enemy.” Al-Ahzab #13

وَإِذْ قَالَتْ طَائِفَةٌ مِّنْهُمْ يَا أَهْلَ يَثْرِبَ لَا مُقَامَ لَكُمْ فَارْجِعُوا وَيَسْتَأْذِنُ فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُمُ النَّبِيَّ يَقُولُونَ إِنَّ بُيُوتَنَا عَوْرَةٌ وَمَا هِيَ بِعَوْرَةٍ إِن يُرِيدُونَ إِلَّا فِرَارًا ﴿١٣﴾

And when a party of them said: “O people of Yathrib (Al-Madinah)! There is no stand for you Therefore go back!”

3-Some of them asked for the permission of the Prophet (SAS) to let them go back home since their homes are open to the harm from the enemy. In fact, they wanted to flee from the battlefield by their smart talk with the Prophet (SAS) Al-Ahzab # 13.

وَإِذْ قَالَتْ طَائِفَةٌ مِّنْهُمْ يَا أَهْلَ يَثْرِبَ لَا مُقَامَ لَكُمْ فَارْجِعُوا وَيَسْتَأْذِنُ فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُمُ النَّبِيَّ يَقُولُونَ إِنَّ بُيُوتَنَا عَوْرَةٌ وَمَا هِيَ بِعَوْرَةٍ إِن يُرِيدُونَ إِلَّا فِرَارًا ﴿١٣﴾

And a band of them ask for permission of the Prophet saying: "Truly, our homes lie open (to the enemy)." And they lay not open. They but wished to flee.

4- Some of the hypocrites not only stayed away from the battle, they even invited others to join them. Al-Ahzab #18

قَدْ يَعْلَمُ اللَّهُ الْمَعْرُوفِينَ مِنَ كُفْرِهِمْ وَالْقَائِلِينَ لِإِخْوَانِهِمْ هَلُمَّ إِلَيْنَا وَلَا يَأْتُونَ الْبَأْسَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا ﴿١٨﴾

Allah already knows those among you who keep back (men) from fighting in Allah's Cause, and those who say to their brethren "Come here towards us," while they (themselves) come not to the battle except a little,

5-Allah (SWT) said to the Prophet, "When a fearful situation arises you will see the hypocrites looking towards you with awe stricken eyes as observed at the approach of death. As soon as the fear disappears the hypocrites will address you with their very sharp tongues and insulting tones while acting very miserly." Al-Ahzab # 19

أَشِحَّةً عَلَيْكُمْ فَإِذَا جَاءَ الْخَوْفُ رَأَيْتَهُمْ يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَيْكَ تَدُورُ أَعْيُنُهُمْ كَالَّذِي يُغَسِّقِي عَلَيْهِ مِنَ الْمَوْتِ فَإِذَا ذَهَبَ الْخَوْفُ سَلَقُوكُمْ بِأَلْسِنَةٍ حِدَادٍ أَشِحَّةً عَلَى الْخَيْرِ أُولَئِكَ لَمْ يُؤْمِنُوا فَأَحْبَطَ اللَّهُ أَعْمَلَهُمْ وَكَانَ ذَلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرًا ﴿١٩﴾

Then when fear comes, you will see them looking to you, their eyes revolving like one over whom hovers death; but when the fear departs, they will smite you with sharp tongues, miserly towards good. Such have not believed. Therefore Allah makes their deeds fruitless and that is ever easy for Allah.

Many other similar mean, nasty and tricky activities of hypocrites are described in Surah Al-Ahzab.

STATE OF MIND OF THE SINCERE BELIEVERS

Look at the contrasting response of the believers when they saw this huge army of disbelievers against them. Al-Ahzab # 22

وَلَمَّا رَأَى الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الْأَحْزَابَ قَالُوا هَذَا مَا وَعَدَنَا اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَصَدَقَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَمَا زَادَهُمْ إِلَّا

And when the believers saw Al-Ahzab, they said: "This is what Allah and His Messenger had promised us; and Allah and His Messenger had spoken the truth. And it only added to their Faith and to their submissiveness (to Allah).

This is because they firmly believed in the guidance of Allah (SWT) in Quran. For example Al-Baqara # 214.

أَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ أَنْ تُدْخَلُوا الْجَنَّةَ وَلَمَّا يَأْتِكُم مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ مَسَّتْهُمُ الْبَأْسَاءُ وَالضَّرَاءُ وَزُلْزَلُوا حَتَّى يَقُولَ الرَّسُولُ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مَعَهُ مَتَى نَصُرُ اللَّهُ أَلا إِنَّا نَصُرُ اللَّهَ قَرِيبٌ



Or think you that you will enter Paradise without such (trials) as came to those who passed away before you? They were afflicted with severe poverty and ailments and were so shaken that even the Messenger and those who believed along with him said, "When (will come) the Help of Allah?" Yes! Certainly, the Help of Allah is near!

Believers were true to their covenants with Allah (SWT). Some of them have already fulfilled these and others are eagerly waiting without changing their intentions even slightly. Al-Ahzab # 23

مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ رِجَالٌ صَدَقُوا مَا عَاهَدُوا اللَّهَ عَلَيْهِ فَمِنْهُمْ مَن قَضَىٰ نَحْبَهُ وَمِنْهُمْ مَن يَنْتَظِرُ وَمَا

بَدَّلُوا تَبْدِيلًا ﴿٢٣﴾

Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allah of them some have fulfilled their obligations and some of them are still waiting, but they have never changed.

ALLAH'S (SWT) HELP

The armies faced each other for about a month in bitter cold. Finally Allah (SWT) sent a very cold and strong wind, which affected both armies. Allah (SWT) says in Al-Ahzab#9

يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ جَاءَتْكُمْ جُنُودٌ فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحًا وَجُنُودًا لَّمْ

تَرَوْهَا وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرًا ﴿٩﴾

O you who believe! Remember Allah's Favour to you, when there came against you hosts, and We sent against them a wind and forces that you saw not and Allah is Ever All-Seer of what you do.

A miraculous split took place between the Jews and the disbelievers due to some misunderstandings between them. The strong wind uprooted the tents of enemy and did other damage too. The disbelievers left the

place fully disgusted and full of anger without achieving any thing. In fact it broke their back and they never dared to attack the Muslims in future.

As mention in Bukhari and narrated by Salman bin Saad (RU), The Prophet (SAS) said, “Now they will never dare to attack us. In fact we will attack them and our forces will advance towards them.”

As mentioned earlier, the Prophet (SAS) gave the glad tidings of future conquests of super powers of Syria, Persia and Yemen by his followers. This raised the spirit and morale of Muslims. The hypocrites, however, laughed at it. They said, “How can these poverty stricken, handful believers with very minimal military means can conquer these super powers?” Allah (SWT) sent a very powerful verse to answer this joking of the hypocrites. Al-Imran # 26

قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ مَلِكُ الْمَلِكِ تُؤْتِي الْمَلِكَ مَن تَشَاءُ وَتَنْزِعُ الْمَلِكَ مِمَّن تَشَاءُ وَتُعِزُّ مَن تَشَاءُ وَتُدَلُّ
مَن تَشَاءُ بِيَدِكَ الْخَبِيرُ إِنَّكَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿٢٦﴾

Say “O Allah! Possessor of the kingdom, You give the kingdom to whom You will, and You take the kingdom from whom You will, and You endue with honour whom You will, and You humiliate whom You will. In Your Hand is the good. Verily, You are Able to do all things.

History shows that the believers did conquer these super powers during the period of rightly guided four caliphs.

The following question is posed again and again. How can Muslims conquer the present misguided superpowers? The answer is very obvious. If Muslims follow the Sunnah of the Prophet (SAS) and the footprints of his Companions sincerely and patiently, Allah’s help will embrace them.

FORMER JEWISH TRIBES AROUND MADINA

Many Jewish scholars clearly knew the physical features and other signs pertaining to coming of Prophet Mohammed (SAS) since it was described in the old testament (Torah) very precisely. Some of these Jewish tribes had migrated from Syria to Madina to wait for Prophet Mohammed (SAS) and be proud to be his followers. When Prophet Mohammed (SAS) migrated to Madina, the Jews recognized him but refused to accept him as a Prophet, since he happened to be a descendent of Ishmael (AS) and not Isaac (AS).

When Prophet Mohammed (SAS) migrated to Madina, he established a tiny Islamic State there. He made a treaty or an agreement with the neighboring powerful Jewish tribes. Some of the clauses of this treaty were as follows:

1. Jews will not fight against Muslims.
2. Jews will not help any group who invades the Muslims.
3. If any group attack the Jews, the Muslims will help the Jews.

These Jewish tribes had established themselves about two and half kilometer from Madina close to Quba community. They were rich and powerful and owned many gardens. They had built many fortresses for their protection. The ruins of their castles and fortresses can be seen even now.

DIRECTIONS TO VISIT THEIR RUINS

From Masjid Nabawi go South on Qurban Street (also known as Amir Abdul Mohsin Road). Past the first traffic light near Juma mosque. Also pass the second traffic light, which is on Hijra road leading to Quba Mosque. Continue traveling outward on Qurban till you reach the third traffic light. This is the intersection of Middle Ring Road and Qurban Street. If you turn right at this intersection, you will see the ruins of Banu Nadir.

By the way, if you continue traveling more outward on Qurban Street till you reach the Second Ring Road of Madina you will come across a black mountain situated outside this Second Ring Road. It is called Banu Quraiza mountain. A rich Jewish tribe called Banu Quraiza occupied the area between present Madina Hospital and Banu Quraiza Mountain. A brief history of this tribe will also be described in this article.

BANU NADIR

The leader of Banu Nadir was Kaab Bin Ashraf. He and his tribe was always busy inciting and helping the enemies of Islam. He was openly acting against the treaty between the Jews and the Muslims. For example, Kaab bin Ashraf went to Makkah with a delegation of forty persons after the Battle of Ohud. He excited, the leaders of Quraish against Muslims. The idolaters ask him, “Is religion of the Muslims better than ours?” Although Kaab bin Ashraf was from the People of the Book. He said to the idolaters, “Your religion is better than Muslims”.

Al-Nisa # 51

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا نَصِيبًا مِّنَ الْكِتَابِ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْجِبْتِ وَالطَّاغُوتِ وَيَقُولُونَ لِلَّذِينَ
كَفَرُوا هَتُّؤُلَاءِ أَهْدَىٰ مِنَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا سَبِيلًا ﴿٥١﴾

Have you not seen those who were given a portion of the Scripture? They believe in false deities and Taught and say to the disbelievers that they are better guided as regards the way than the believers (Muslims).

That is why Allah (SWT) says in Quran that Jews sell even their religion for petty worldly gains.

Idolaters and Kaab bin Ashraf's delegation put their chests against Kabah and swore that they will keep fighting against the Muslims even if one of them is left.

This conspiracy was revealed to the Prophet (SAS) by Jibreel (AS). Hence the Prophet (SAS) ordered one of his Companions to kill Kaab bin Ashraf. Mohammed bin Muslima (AS) accomplished this task. Second example is even more terrifying. One time the Prophet (SAS) visited Banu Nadir. They considered it a golden chance to kill him. They asked the Prophet (SAS) to sit under the shade of a wall. It was planned to throw a big stone from the top of the wall to kill Prophet Mohammed (SAS). Allah (SWT) informed the Prophet (SAS) about their plan. The Prophet (SAS) left them suddenly and saved his life.

The Prophet (SAS) informed Banu Nadir that they had broken the treaty between them. The Prophet (SAS) said to them, "I give you ten days to leave this place. Go any where you like." The head of the hypocrites, Abdullah bin Obey, said to them, "Don't leave this area. I shall help you with my two thousand followers." As a result of this Banu Nadir locked themselves in a fortress and defied the Prophet (SAS).

The Prophet (SAS) and his Companions laid a siege of the fortress of Banu Nadir. The hypocrites did not come to help Banu Nadir. Allah (SWT) has given their example in Al-Hashr # 16

كَمَثَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِذْ قَالَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ اكْفُرْ فَلَمَّا كَفَرَ قَالَ إِنِّي بَرِيءٌ مِّنكَ إِنِّي أَخَافُ اللَّهَ رَبَّ
الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٦﴾

Like Satan, when he says to man: "Disbelieve in Allah." But when (man) disbelieves in Allah, Satan says: "I am free of you, I fear Allah, the Lord of all universes!"

The Companions cut down some trees and burnt others to annoy Banu Nadir. Finally Banu Nadir got frustrated and agreed to leave this area. The Prophet (SAS) permitted them to take as much belongings with them as they could. Some of them went to Syria and others settled in Khaibar. They took with them even the doors and window planks of their houses to satisfy their worldly greed. There are lessons in it for every sensible person. Al-Hashr # 2

هُوَ الَّذِي أَخْرَجَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ مِنْ دِيَارِهِمْ لِأَوَّلِ الْحَشْرِ مَا ظَنَنْتُمْ أَنْ يَخْرُجُوا
وَوَلَّوْا أَنَّهُمْ مَانِعَتُهُمْ حُصُونُهُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ فَأَتَاهُمُ اللَّهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَمْ يَحْتَسِبُوا وَقَذَفَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ
الرُّعْبَ يُخْرِبُونَ بُيُوتَهُمْ بِأَيْدِيهِمْ وَأَيْدِي الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فَاعْتَبِرُوا يَا أُولِيَ الْأَبْصَارِ ﴿٢﴾

He it is Who drove out the disbelievers among the people of the Scripture from their homes at the first gathering. You did not think that they would get out. And they thought that their fortresses would defend them from Allah! But Allah's (torments) reached them from a place whereof they expected it not, and He cast terror into their hearts so that they destroyed their own dwellings with their own hands and the hands of the believers. Then take admonition, O you with eyes (to see).

We should bear the following points in our minds.

When Banu Nadir broke the treaty repeatedly the Prophet (SAS) did not order to kill them. He asked them only to leave this city to get rid of their mischief.

The Prophet (SAS) gave them ten days to make preparations for this transition.

The Prophet (SAS) permitted them to take with them as much as they could.

A few trees were cut and burnt to annoy them and to force them out of the fortress. However, the fortress was not put to fire as modern nations do.

This shows how Muslims honored the human rights of even their worst enemies. It is totally contrary to the human rights observed by modern nations.

BANU QURAIZA

Banu Quraiza was another rich and powerful Jewish tribe settled near Madina and was anxiously waiting for Prophet Mohammed (SAS). They knew the time, place and features of the Prophet from Torah. They used to brag to others that they will be the first to follow this Prophet and with his support they will be able to crush down all their enemies. When Prophet Mohammed (SAS) came with guidance, they flatly refused it and opposed the Prophet (SAS) tooth and nail. Al-Baqarah # 89

وَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ كِتَابٌ مِّنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ مُصَدِّقٌ لِّمَا مَعَهُمْ وَكَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ يَسْتَفْتِحُونَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ

كَفَرُوا فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ مَّا عَرَفُوا كَفَرُوا بِهِ فَلَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٨٩﴾

And when there came to them, a Book from Allah confirming what is with them, although aforetime they had invoked, Allah in order to gain victory over those who disbelieved, then when there came to them that which they had recognised, they disbelieved in it. So let the Curse of Allah be on the disbelievers.

Prophet Mohammed (SAS) had made a treaty with Banu Quraiza as mentioned earlier. Leader of Banu Nadir, Hai bin Akhtab, went to the leader of Banu Quraiza, Kaab bin Asad and tried to seek his support in

the Battle of Ahzab. After some reluctance Banu Quraiza also joined Ahzab. This breaking of their agreement grieved and worried the Prophet (SAS) a lot since Banu Quraiza could have attacked the Muslim women and children in Madina while men were in the battlefield of Ahzab. Quran mentioned this by stating that the enemies came from above you and from below you. Above means Banu Quraiza and below means the other groups gathered in the battlefield. Al-Ahzab #10

إِذْ جَاءَكُمْ مِنْ فَوْقِكُمْ وَمِنْ أَسْفَلَ مِنْكُمْ وَإِذْ زَاغَتِ الْأَبْصَارُ وَبَلَغَتِ الْقُلُوبُ الْحَنَاجِرَ
وَتَظُنُّونَ بِاللَّهِ الظُّنُونًا ﴿١٠﴾

When they came upon you from above you and from below you,

With the help of Allah (SWT) the Muslims won the Battle of Ahzab and they returned to Madina. This conquest took place during Zul Qada of fifth Hijra.

As mentioned in Bukhari and narrated by Aisha (RUH), the Prophet (SAS) had just arrived home and took a bath. Jibreel (AS) came to the Prophet (SAS) and said, “You have put off your arms while we (the angels) are still in battle uniforms. So you should come with us to attack and punish Banu Quraiza.”

By the way this site of meeting of the Prophet (SAS) and Jibreel (AS) is marked by the window on the eastern wall of the mosque with following verse written on it. Al-Ahzab # 56

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا ﴿٥٦﴾

Allah sends His Salat on the Prophet, and also His angles. O you who believe! Send your Salat on him, and greet him with the Islamic way of greeting.

It should be noted that with various expansions of the Prophet’s mosque, the eastern wall of the mosque and hence this window has been moved a little bit eastward.

The Prophet (SAS) announced to his followers to reach the territory of Banu Quraiza before Salat-ul -Asr. The tired and worn-out followers eagerly obeyed the Prophet (SAS). Banu Quraiza locked themselves up in their lofty fortress. According to Ibn Hasham, this siege lasted for twenty-five days. During the siege, the leader of Banu Quraiza, Kaab bin Asad, made the following three proposals to his tribe:

All of you should accept Islam and follow Mohammed (SAS). I swear that you know deep in your hearts that he is on the true path. It is nothing new. It is clearly written in your Bible. If you follow this suggestion you will not only safeguard your persons and properties but you will also be successful on the Day of Judgment. Alternatively, you kill your wives and children with your own hands and then fight the

Muslims with full determination to your last. Thirdly, attack the Muslims on Saturday. Muslims know that it is forbidden for us to fight on Saturdays. Hence you catch them unprepared and uninformed. The Jews said to their leader, “We will not accept the first proposal under any circumstances since we are not willing to follow any book other than Torah. Secondly why should we kill our innocent wives and children? Third proposal is against Torah and our religion. Hence none of them is acceptable to us.”

In the meanwhile Allah (SWT) induced fear in their hearts too. All Jews came out of the fortress under the influence of this fear and left their fate in the hands of the Prophet (SAS). Al-Ahزاب # 26-27

وَأَنْزَلَ الَّذِينَ ظَاهَرُوهُمْ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ مِنْ صَيَاصِيهِمْ وَقَذَفَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الرُّعْبَ فَرِيقًا تَقْتُلُونَ وَتَأْسِرُونَ فَرِيقًا ﴿٢٦﴾ وَأَوْرَثَكُمْ أَرْضَهُمْ وَدِيَارَهُمْ وَأَمْوَالَهُمْ وَأَرْضًا لَمْ تَطَّوْهَا وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرًا ﴿٢٧﴾

And those of the people of the Scripture who backed them, Allah brought them down from their forts and cast terror into their hearts, a group you killed, and a group you made captives. And He caused you to inherit their lands, and their houses, and their riches, and a land which you had not trodden. And Allah is Able to do all things.

Notice that in the above verses Allah (SWT) not only reminded Muslims about His help, bounties and blessings, but also gave glad tidings of future conquest.

The Prophet (SAS) authorized Saad bin Maaz (RU) to decide the fate of Banu Quraiza. Jews were always very clever. They requested the Prophet (SAS) to replace Saad bin Maaz (RU) by Abu Lubabah (RU). They expected more sympathy from Abu Lubabah (RU) since he owned some property in that area. The Prophet (SAS) agreed.

The Jews started crying when they met Abu Lubabah (RU). They asked him, “What will be our fate if we come out of the fort?” Abu Lubabah (RU) put his finger on his throat indicating that they will be killed.” Abu Lubabah (RU) suddenly realized that it was a secret of the Prophet (SAS), which he disclosed. He went back to the Prophet’s Mosque and tied himself up with a tree due to the shame for letting the secret out. The Prophet (SAS) learnt about it and said, “If he had come to me directly, I would have prayed for him. Now he should wait till Allah (SWT) accepts his repentance.”

Abu Lubabah (RU) tied himself up there for seven days till Allah (SWT) accepted his repentance. By the way there is column in the Prophet’s Mosque at this site and is generally known as Abu Lubaba

column or repentance column. Quran mentioned this situation in Al-Anfal # 27-28.

يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا لَا تَخُوْنُوْا اللّٰهَ وَالرَّسُوْلَ وَخُوْنُوْا اٰمَنَاتِكُمْ وَاَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُوْنَ ﴿٢٧﴾ وَاَعْلَمُوْا اَنَّ مَا
 اَمْوَالِكُمْ وَاَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ وَاَنَّ اللّٰهَ عِنْدَهُ اَجْرٌ عَظِيْمٌ ﴿٢٨﴾

O you who believe! Betray not Allah and His Messenger, nor betray knowingly things entrusted to you. And know that your possessions and your children are but a trial and that surely with Allah is a mighty reward.

Finally Saad bin Maaz (RU) gave his verdict about Banu Quraiza. He said, “Men should be killed and women and children should be taken prisoners.”

Banu Quraiza deserved this since they broke the promises and they tried their best to harm the Muslims by helping the enemy secretly and openly. They also provided a great deal of arms and ammunition to enemies of Islam. Now Muslims received lot of booty of this rich Jewish tribe as mentioned in Al-Ahzab # 26-27 above. The Prophet (SAS) distributed it among the participants of this battle.

MASJID QUBA AND MASJID DIRAR

Prophet Mohammed (SAS) and his Companion Abu Bakar (RU) migrated from Makkah to Madina. They first arrived in Quba, which lies a few kilometers south of Madina. The Prophet (SAS) stayed there a few days and constructed a masjid known as Masjid Quba. Allah loved this action on the part of the Prophet (SAS) since it was totally based on piety to Allah (SWT) and to please Allah (SWT) At-Taubah #108.

لَا تَقُمْ فِيْهِ اَبَدًا لَّمَسْجِدٍ اُسِّسَ عَلٰى التَّقْوٰى مِنْ اَوَّلِ يَوْمٍ اِحْتٰى اَنْ تَقُوْمَ فِيْهِ رِجَالٌ يُحِبُّوْنَ
 اَنْ يَتَطَهَّرُوْا وَاللّٰهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُطَهَّرِيْنَ ﴿١٠٨﴾

Verily, the mosque whose foundation was laid from the first day on piety is more worthy that you stand therein. In it are men who love to clean and to purify themselves. And Allah loves those who make themselves clean and pure.

When the Prophet (SAS) arrived in Madina, he also constructed Masjid Nabawi based on piety to Allah. Hence the above verse applies to Masjid Nabawi as well.

The residents of Quba area were Banu Amr bin Auf tribe. The

Prophet (SAS) asked the people of Banu Amr tribe, “What special activity you do which Allah (SWT) loves and consequently calls you very clean and pure people?” They said, “O dear Prophet, there is nothing special about us except that after the call for nature we not only use the stones for cleaning us but also wash ourselves fully with water.” The Prophet (SAS) said, “Indeed, you received this honor from Allah (SWT) for your this activity. Make it a permanent habit.”

According to a Hadith in Tirmidhi, offering salat in Masjid Quba is like performing an Umra i.e the reward is equivalent to it.

As mentioned in Bukhari, the Prophet (SAS) used to visit Masjid Quba by foot or otherwise once a week. Abdullah bin Omar used to follow this sunnah.

The hypocrites were always busy counter acting the activities of the believers. Qurtabi has given a detailed account of a Christian scholar known as Abu Amer. He met the Prophet (SAS) in Madina and was not satisfied with the principles of Islam. Consequently, he challenged the Prophet (SAS) and said, “Whoever is a liar among us will die far away from his kith and kin.” He also swore to help every enemy of Islam. He joined the enemies of Islam in all the battles up to the Battle of Hunain. Finally he got frustrated and ran away to Syria, which was the center for the Christian activities at that time. He died in Syria far away from his kith and kin.

Abu Amer made a conspiracy against Muslims during his stay in Syria. He requested the king of Roman Empire to invade Madina. He also wrote a letter to the hypocrites of Madina to construct masjid to hatch plots against Muslims. He said, “Use this mosque to get united. You should give a helping hand to the Roman emperor during his attack on Madina.” Hence nine of the hypocrites constructed a masjid very near Quba masjid. They claimed that it was to facilitate praying for the old and sick people and also to reduce the crowding in Quba masjid. They also requested the Prophet (SAS) to offer a salat in this masjid to achieve credibility. The Prophet (SAS) said, “I am very busy now in making preparations for the Battle of Tabuk. On my return I shall fulfill your wish.” At-Taubah # 107

وَالَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مَسْجِدًا ضِرَارًا وَكُفْرًا وَتَفْرِيقًا بَيْنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَإِرْصَادًا لِمَنْ حَارَبَ
 اللَّهُ وَرَسُولَهُ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَلَيَحْلِفُنَّ إِنْ أَرَدْنَا إِلَّا الْحُسْنَىٰ وَاللَّهُ يَشْهَدُ إِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ ﴿١٠٧﴾

And as for those who put up a mosque by way of harm and disbelief and to disunite the believers and as an outpost for those who warred against Allah and His Messenger aforesaid, they will indeed swear that their intention is nothing but good. Allah bears witness that they are certainly liars.

When the Prophet (SAS) returned from the Battle of Tabuk, Allah informed the Prophet (SAS) of the dirty plans of the hypocrites. Hence the Prophet (SAS) sent several Companions to destroy and burn this masjid called masjid Dirar. This event is described in At-Taubah # 108-110

لَا تَقُمْ فِيهِ أَبَدًا لَمَسْجِدٍ أُسِّسَ عَلَى التَّقْوَىٰ مِنْ أَوَّلِ يَوْمٍ أَحَقُّ أَنْ تَقُومَ فِيهِ فِيهِ رِجَالٌ يُحِبُّونَ أَنْ يَتَطَهَّرُوا وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُطَهَّرِينَ ﴿١٠٨﴾ أَفَمَنْ أُسِّسَ بُنْيَانَهُ عَلَى تَقْوَىٰ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَرِضْوَانٍ خَيْرٌ أَمْ مَنْ أُسِّسَ بُنْيَانَهُ عَلَىٰ شَفَا جُرُفٍ هَاكِرٍ فَانْتَهَارَ بِهِ فِي نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿١٠٩﴾ لَا يَزَالُ بُنْيَانُهُمُ الَّذِي بَنَوْا رِيبَةً فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ إِلَّا أَنْ تَقَطَّعَ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ ﴿١١٠﴾

Never stand you therein.

Is it then he who laid the foundation of his building on piety to Allah and His Good Pleasure better, or he who laid the foundation of his building on the brink of an undetermined precipice ready to crumble down, so that it crumbled to pieces with him into the Fire of Hell. And Allah guides not the people who are the wrong-doers. The building which they built will never cease to be a cause of hypocrisy and doubt in their hearts unless their hearts are cut to pieces. And Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise

Example of Masjid Darar is like a building constructed on a bank of a river. The piece of this land looks firm although the water flow has made its footing hollow. Such building will collapse soon. The result is destruction and total loss.

Furthermore, note that jealousy is like a fire without flame. The jealousy, doubt and hypocrisy of such sick people will always be increasing due to their frustration in achieving their evil goals. This is an instant punishment from Allah (SWT). Their jealousy will not cease till they die. This shows how unfortunate they are.

We draw the following inferences from this article.

1. Masjid Dirar was built to cause split among the Muslim community, to provide refuge and help to the enemies of Islam and to serve as a meeting place to hatch plots against the Muslims.
2. Hence if any body builds a mosque with any of above goals, will be a sinful person.
3. We should always act with piety and sincerity.
4. We should pay special attention to our cleanliness and the cleanliness of the mosque and its surroundings.
5. Cleanliness also means to keep us free from sins and poor

manners.

MASJID QIBLATAIN

Masjid Qiblatain means the Masjid with two qiblas i.e one towards Al-Quds in Jerushalam and other towards Baitullah in Makkah. Several questions come to mind. Why two Qiblas? Why, how and when the change took place? Who ordered the change? What was the effect of this change?

Initially the Qiblah (or the prayer direction) for all the Prophets was Baitullah in Makkah which was constructed at the time of Adam (AS). Al-Imran # 96

إِنَّ أَوَّلَ بَيْتٍ وُضِعَ لِلنَّاسِ لَلَّذِي بِبَكَّةَ مُبَارَكًا وَهُدًى لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٩٦﴾

Verily, the first House appointed for mankind was that at Bakkah (Makkah), full of blessing, and a guidance for all universes.

Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and Ismael (AS) followed this Qiblah. Later Al-Quds was fixed as Qiblah for some of the Prophets from Israelites. These Prophets while praying in Al-Quds, used to face it in such a way that both Al-Quds and House of Allah in Makkah were right in front of them.

Prophet Mohammed (SAS) used to stand between Hajr-e-Aswad and Rukne-Yamani so that both the house of Allah (SWT) and Al-Quds were in front of him too.

As mentioned in Bukhari, Prophet Mohammed (SAS) offered salat in Madina facing towards Al-Quds for sixteen or seventeen months. He was totally submitted to the commands of Allah (SWT) However he wished that the Qiblah would be the one as it was for Adam (AS) and Ibrahim (AS). Prophet Mohammed (SAS) was very hopeful that his wish would be fulfilled. He used to wait for revelations and looked for it towards the sky again and again as mentioned in Al-Baqarah # 144

قَدْ نَرَى تَقَلُّبَ وَجْهِكَ فِي السَّمَاءِ فَلَنُوَلِّيَنَّكَ قِبْلَةً تَرْضَاهَا فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَحَيْثُ مَا كُنْتُمْ فَوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ شَطْرَهُ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ لَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ وَمَا اللَّهُ بِغَفِيلٍ عَمَّا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٤٤﴾

Verily! We have seen the turning of your (Muhammad's (SAS)) face towards the heaven. Surely, We shall turn you to a Qiblah (prayer direction) that shall please you, so turn your face in the direction of Al-

Masjid-Al-Haram (at Makkah). And wheresoever you people are, turn your faces (in prayer) in that direction.

In this way Allah (SWT) fulfilled the wish of Prophet Mohammed (SAS). Note that only Allah (SWT) can order the change of Qiblah and it is not left to the discretion of any Prophet.

The effect of the change of Qiblah was two fold. As soon as the Jews found that Qiblah for the Muslims was Baitullah instead of Al-Quds, they joked and made fun of Muslims. They said, “What kind of religion is this which keeps changing Qiblah?” At the same time the Jews were alarmed by the change. So far the Muslims were somewhat acceptable to Jews. The change of Qiblah meant that Muslims were a separate and distinct group or nation. Hence the Jews accelerated their opposition against the Muslims and regarded them their enemies.

Furthermore, Allah (SWT) has his own plan and wisdom. Change of Qiblah was to sort out the hypocrites from the sincere Muslims. Al Baqarah #143

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ أُمَّةً وَسَطًا لِتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ عَلَيْكُمْ شَهِيدًا
وَمَا جَعَلْنَا الْقِبْلَةَ الَّتِي كُنْتَ عَلَيْهَا إِلَّا لِنَعْلَمَ مَنْ يَتَّبِعُ الرَّسُولَ مِمَّنْ يَنْقَلِبُ عَلَى عَقْبَيْهِ وَإِنْ كَانَتْ
لَكَبِيرَةً إِلَّا عَلَى الَّذِينَ هَدَى اللَّهُ وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُضَيِّعَ إِيمَانَكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِالنَّاسِ لَرءُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ



And We made the Qiblah which you used to face, only to test those who followed the Messenger from those who would turn on their heels. Indeed it was great (heavy) except for those whom Allah guided. And Allah would never make your faith (prayers) to be lost. Truly, Allah is full of Kindness, the Most Merciful towards mankind.

According to a hadith in Bukhari and Muslim, the change of Qiblah took place while Prophet Mohammed (SAS) was leading Salat-ul-Asr, though some narration say Dhur, in Masjid Qiblatain. The Prophet (SAS) and his followers changed the direction during this salat.

Some Companions finished their salat and went to their communities. They noticed that their brothers were praying in their neighborhood mosque facing towards Al-Quds. One Companion loudly informed them that they had just prayed with the Prophet (SAS) facing towards Baitullah. On hearing this, their brothers turned their direction during salat, without any fussing or questioning whatsoever. This brings out the point that the credibility of one person as a witness is sufficient in some cases in Islam.

The news of the change of the Qiblah reached Quba next day. As mentioned in Bukhari and Muslim, the people of Quba also changed

their direction during the salat on hearing the announcement even from one individual. It also shows how much mutual respect, confidence and trust the Companion of Prophet (SAS) enjoyed and practiced.

I was very pleased to see written on top of a mehrab of a masjid in Madina. Al-Baqarah #144.

قَدْ نَرَى تَقَلُّبَ وَجْهِكَ فِي السَّمَاءِ فَلَنُوَلِّيَنَّكَ قِبْلَةً تَرْضَاهَا فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ الْمَسْجِدِ
الْحَرَامِ وَحَيْثُ مَا كُنْتُمْ فَوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ شَطْرَهُ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ لَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ
رَبِّهِمْ وَمَا اللَّهُ بِغَفِيلٍ عَمَّا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٤٤﴾

We shall turn you to a Qiblah (prayer direction) that shall please you.

This gift was given by Allah (SWT) to Prophet Mohammed and his Ummah in Masjid Qiblatain.

Before change of Qiblah the Prophet (SAS) used to lead salat in Masjid Nabawi from a spot across from old Bab Jibreel facing towards north. After instruction for the change of Qiblah, he led salat from Aisha column for a few days and then permanently led salat from where Mehrab Nabawi is. With the change of Qiblah, he faced towards south (Baitullah).

With change of Qiblah, the area across from the old Bab Jibreel was now the back of Masjid Nabawi. This area was reserved for Ashab-us-Suffah for their residence and education. It also clarifies that the platform for custodial staff seen in the Prophet's Mosque was not the site for Ashab-us-Suffah as misunderstood by many visitors.

CONSPIRACIES

The disbelievers hatched several plots to remove the bodies of Prophet Mohammed (SAS) and his two Companions buried in Madina. Sheikh Abdul Haq (died 1052H) has described three major plots as reported by the earlier scholars. These plots failed and rather demonstrated additional miracles of Prophet Mohammed (SAS).

FIRST PLOT

It was reported by Ibn Najjar in his book, 'History of Baghdad'. Between 386-411H, the Egyptian ruler was Fatimi and Madina was under his rule. Egyptian ruler tried to transfer the bodies of Prophet Mohammed (SAS) and his two Companions from Madina to Egypt to shift the attention of the people from Madina to Egypt. He built a very expensive structure in Egypt to house these bodies. He sent Abu Al-Fatuh to Madina to carry out this dirty plan. When Abu Al-Fatuh arrived

in Madina, the residents of Madina came to know about this plot. Qari Zalbani recited the following verses of Quran there. Al-Taubah # 12-13.

وَإِنْ تَكْفُرُوا أَيمَانَهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ عَهْدِهِمْ وَطَعْنُوا فِي دِينِكُمْ فَقَاتِلُوا أُمَّةَ الْكُفْرِ إِنَّهُمْ لَا أَيْمَانَ لَهُمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَنْتَهُونَ ﴿١٢﴾ أَلَا تُقَاتِلُونَ قَوْمًا نَكَثُوا أَيْمَانَهُمْ وَهَمُّوا بِإِخْرَاجِ الرَّسُولِ وَهُمْ بَدَءُوكُمْ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ أَتَخْشَوْنَ اللَّهَ فَأَلَّهُ أَحَقُّ أَنْ تَخْشَوْهُ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿١٣﴾

But if they violate their oaths after their covenant, and attack your religion with disapproval and criticism, then fight (you) the leaders of disbelief - for surely their oaths are nothing to them - so that they may stop. Will you not fight a people who have violated their oaths, and intended to expel the Messenger while they did attack you first? Do you fear them? Allah has more right that you should fear Him if you are believers.

The residents of Madina got very angry and were about to kill Abu Al-Fatuh and his soldiers. Abu Al-Fatuh got scared. He said, "I shall never carry out this plan even if the ruler of Egypt kills me." In the meanwhile, a big storm swept through Madina that evening. Many houses were damaged. Some animals and a few people died by this storm.

Abu Al-Fatuh found a good excuse to run away from Madina. Allah (SWT) saved the Prophet (SAS) and his Companions from these criminals.

The ruler made a second attempt and failed again. These two attempts were made between 386H - 411H .

SECOND PLOT

Christian made this plot in 557H as reported by Samhoudi. Sultan Nuruddin Zanki was ruler of Syria at that time. His advisor was Jamal-ud-Din Asfahani. One night Sultan saw Prophet Mohammed (SAS) in his dream thrice. The Prophet (SAS) pointed towards two men standing there and asked the Sultan to save him from the mischief of those two men.

Sultan understood that something unusual has taken place in Madina. He immediately started his journey towards Madina in the company of his advisor. He also gathered expensive gifts for the residents of Madina. He reached Madina in sixteen days. It was announced that every resident should personally come to receive his gift from Sultan. He did not see these two persons during the distribution of the gifts. Sultan enquired, "Is anybody left?" He was told, "Two persons did not show up since they are very pious, rich and generous to others. They decline to

receive anything from others.” Sultan insisted to bring them there. As soon as they arrived in front of the Sultan, he recognized them as they were the same persons seen in his dream.

He asked them, “Where do you come from?” They said, “We are Moroccans, we came for Hajj and wished to stay here as neighbors of the Prophet (SAS)”. Sultan asked, “Where do you live?” It was a house close to the window in the southern wall of the Prophet’s Mosque. Sultan went there and removed a carpet spread on a floor. He saw a tunnel leading to the Sacred Chamber where the Prophet (SAS) is buried.

Sultan asked those two persons to speak the truth. They said, “We are Christian and have been sent here to remove the body of the Prophet (SAS). We dig this tunnel every night and carry the bags filled with earth to Baqee during the night. When we reached near the grave of the Prophet a storm and lightning struck here. A big earthquake was also felt. Now you have arrived and you have caught us red handed.”

The Sultan cried for a while and thanked Allah (SWT) for choosing him for this service. Sultan ordered to cut the heads of those two criminals.

Sultan also ordered to dig a deep trench around the Sacred Chamber. He filled this trench with molten lead. In this way nobody will ever be able to reach the graves through underground tunnels.

Sultan also made a platform outside the Sacred Chamber for round the clock stay of the custodial staff there. Many visitors of Madina take it as site for Ashab-us-Suffah.

This platform for custodial staff was outside the Prophet’s Mosque, while site for the Ashab-us-Suffah was inside the Mosque.

The correct site of Ashab-us-Suffah is as follows:

It you walk northward (away from Qibla) from Aisha Column, the fifth pillar is the site of Ashab-us-Suffah.

THIRD PLOT

Tabri the famous historian, has mentioned it in his book Riyad Nadrah as follows:

A few persons came to Madina from Halb city in Syria. They brought a great deal of wealth and expensive gifts for the Governor of Madina of that time. They wished to enter the Sacred Chamber to remove the bodies of Abu Baker (RU) and Omar (RU).

The governor of Madina consented to their wishes due to financial attractions and his religious thinking. He instructed the chief custodian of the Prophet’s Mosque, “Open the door of the Mosque for the persons as and when they come during the night. Furthermore, let them do what they want to do.” The custodian said, “Someone knocked Bab Salam

after Salat-ul-Isha. I opened the door and found about forty persons with digging and cutting tools in their hands. I let them in as the Governor ordered me so. I was scared and sat in a corner of the Mosque. These people rushed towards the Sacred Chamber. They had not yet reached near the mimber of the Mosque, something unusual happened. The ground below their feet split and swallowed all of them with their tools.” The custodian added, “The Governor was anxiously waiting for them. After long waiting he called me and asked me about these people. I told him what I saw. He did not believe me and called me a mad man. I invited him to see this site with his own eyes. The Governor saw this split in earth and said to me, ‘Leave the matter as it is. Don’t mention it to anybody. I shall cut your head off if you talked about it’”.

Note that the enemies of Allah (SWT) make plans and Allah (SWT) also makes plans. However Allah is the Best Planner. Al-Anfal # 30

وَإِذْ يَمْكُرُ بِكَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِيُثْبِتُوكَ أَوْ يَقْتُلُوكَ أَوْ يُخْرِجُوكَ وَيَمْكُرُونَ وَيَمْكُرُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرٌ
الْمَكْرِينَ ﴿٣٠﴾

They were plotting and Allah too was plotting; and Allah is the Best of those who plot.

Indeed Allah (SWT) fulfilled his promise to Prophet Mohammed (SAS) as mentioned in Surah Al-Maida # 67.

يَتَأْتِيهَا الرُّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ وَإِنْ لَمْ تَفْعَلْ فَمَا بَلَّغْتَ رِسَالَتَهُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْصِمُكَ مِنَ
النَّاسِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٦٧﴾

Allah will protect you from mankind.

As mentioned earlier, all plans of people were foiled and additional miracles of the Prophet (SAS) were demonstrated during the above conspiracies.

A FEW OTHER NOTABLE SITES

MASJID AL-EJABAH

This is situated near Ansar Hospital. As mentioned in Muslim, the Prophet (SAS) and his Companions offered two rakat salat in this Masjid. The Prophet (SAS) made a very long supplication or dua after salat. The Prophet (SAS) said to his Companions, “I requested three things from Allah (SWT) during this dua. First two are granted and the third one is rejected.

First of all, I requested Allah (SWT) not to destroy my Ummah with famine or draught. Secondly, please do not destroy my Ummah by drowning.

Thirdly, my Ummah be saved from fighting among themselves.

MASJID ABI ZAR

Imam Bahiqi mentioned in Shaab-ul-Iman narrated by Abdur Rahman bin Auf (RU) as follows:

Abdur Rahman (RU) said, "I and Prophet Mohammed (SAS) offered two-rakat salat in this masjid. The Prophet made an additional sajda after the salat. The Prophet (SAS) stayed in sajda for extremely long time. I got worried and wondered if he had passed away. With this feeling I started crying quietly. When the Prophet (SAS) raised his head from the long sajda he found me crying. He said, "What is wrong with you?" I expressed my concern. The Prophet (SAS) said to me, "Jibreel (AS) informed me that whoever sends salat and salam (peace and blessings) upon me, Allah (SWT) will send salam and salat upon that person. I made this long sajda to thank Allah (SWT)."

MASJID AL-GHAMAMA

It is just west of Prophet's Mosque and the Prophet (SAS) used to lead Salat-ul Eid at this place.

MASJID AL-JUMAH

It is about One kilometer North of Masjid Quba. Banu Salim used to live there. The Prophet (SAS) led first Salat-ul Juma at this site during his journey from Quba to Madina.

JANNA-TUL-BAQEE

The Prophet (SAS) used to make dua for those buried in the cemetery. One of his dua was as narrated by Abu Hurairah (RU).

O believers, peace be upon you. God willing we are going to join you soon.

Members of the family of the Prophet (SAS) buried there are as following:

The Prophets (SAS) daughters, Fatima (RUH), Ruqaiyyah (RUH), Umm Kulsum (RUH) and Zainab (RUH). His son Ibrahim (RU) too.

All wives of the Prophet (SAS) with the exception of Khadija (RUH) and Mymuna (RUH).

The Prophet's (SAS) uncle Abbas (RU) and his paternal aunts Safia (RUH) and Atika (RUH).

Hassan (RU), Fatima bint Asad (Mother of Ali (RU)).

Aqeel bin Abu Talib (RU) and Abdullah bin Jafar bin Abu Talib (RUH).

Among the Companion are as follows:

Osman bin Mazuen (RU), Osman bin Affan (RU) (third caliph), Khunais bin Hazafa (RU), Saad bin Abi Waqqas (RU), Abu Saeed Khudri (RU), Abdur Rahman bin Auf (RU), Abdullah bin Masood (RU), Asad bin Zurara (RU), Saad bin Muaz (RU) and many thousand others too.

Imam Malik, Imam Nafee, Zain-ul-Abedeen, Jaffar Sadiq and Haleema Saadia are also buried there.

May Allah (SWT) be pleased with all of them.

You can see more details of Janna-tul-Baqee, Saqifa Banu Saedah, and Suffah in my English translation of the Houses of the Companions around Masjid Nabavi Shareef.