

## LIFE IN MAKKAH [TOPIC 2] [SESSION 2]

### LIFE IN MAKKAH

#### Call to People (Preaching):

#### Secret Preaching:

Holy Prophet after the first revelation started to invite his closest friends and family members to Islam. Makkah was an important city for the Arabs, and it was where the people who took care of the Ka'bah and worshipped idols lived. The challenge of bringing about positive change in a city deeply rooted in idol worship was significant. To avoid angering the people of Makkah, the call to Islam was initially kept secret and done quietly. It required a strong will and determination to work in such an environment. The first convert was Hazrat Khadija and her acceptance of Islam came after the revelation of Surah-e-Mudassir. It so happened, that the Holy Prophet got the message to warn the people in Surah-e-Mudassir so he got up while Hazrat Khadija told him to rest. He told Hazrat Khadija that the time for rest is now over and that he needs to warn people. Upon hearing this, Hazrat Khadija stated that if this is the case then she will be the first one to convert.

The other converts were **Hazrat AbuBakar** (a close friend of the Holy Prophet about whom he stated *"Except Abu Bakr, everyone I have invited to Islam has experienced some period of hesitation. But Abu Bakr accepted my invitation without any hesitation" (Bukhari, 870)*), **Hazrat Ali** (The cousin of the Holy Prophet who accepted Islam at age 10), **Hazrat Zayd ibn Harith** (The freed slave and adopted son of Holy Prophet), These four people professed Islam on the very first call. The others included, **Hazrat Usman** (A friend of Hazrat AbuBakar), **Hazrat Abd-al Rehman bin awf**, **Hazrat Talha**, **Hazrat Zubayr**, **Hazrat Saad bin Abi Waqas**, **Hazrat Hamza**, **Hazrat Ammar bin Yasir**, **Hazrat Jaffar and Hazrat Khalid bin Said** (His dream of being saved from fire by the Holy Prophet was decoded by Hazrat AbuBakar and then he accepted Islam), **Hazrat Abu Ubayadah ibn al Jarah**, **Hazrat Bilal bin Rabah**, **Fatimah bint-e-Khatib** and **several others**.

The Secret preaching went on for a period of **3 years**. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) guided all the people at that time to pray 2 times (**before sunrise and after sunset**) in a day and that too in the mountains as the Makkans had a habit of meddling in the affairs of others. **Ibn Hisham reported that when it was time for prayers, the Holy Prophet and his Companions went into a mountain valley to pray secretly. Abu**



## LIFE IN MAKKAH [TOPIC 2] [SESSION 2]

Talib once saw the Holy Prophet and Hazrat Ali praying, he asked them what they were up to. When he got to know that it was obligatory prayer, he told them to stay constant in their practice.

Moreover, they also used to meet at Dar ul Arqam (the house of Hazrat Zaid bin Arqam) where they would meet and discuss about the new religion. Once the total number of people reached 40, the call could not be kept a secret.

### Preaching to Banu Hashim:

After the number of converts reached 40, the Holy Prophet got the revelation of Surah-Ash Shuara where he was guided by Allah to guide his closest family in the following words: ***“And warn thy family who are thy nearest of kin”*** Holy Prophet then called up Hazrat Ali and asked him to arrange a dinner for the family of his grandfather (Banu Hashim). Hazrat Ali arranged a dinner for a total of 40 people and after the meal before Holy Prophet could speak, his uncle, Abu Lahab stated ***“Your host has cast a spell upon you”*** and said, ***“These are your uncles and cousins, speak on to the point, but first of all you have got to know that your kinspeople are not in a position to withstand all the Arabs. Another point you have got to bear in mind is that your relatives are sufficient unto you. If you follow their tradition, it will be easier for them than to face the other clans of Quraish supported by the other Arabs. Verily, I have never heard of anyone who has incurred more harm on his kinspeople than you.”*** The Holy Prophet kept silent and said nothing in that meeting” after which people dispersed.

Not giving up on his call, Holy Prophet again, with the help of Hazrat Ali called his family. This time he changed the strategy and before anyone could speak, he stated ***“O Sons of ‘Abdu ‘l-Muttalib! By Allah, I do not know of any person among the Arabs who has come to his people with better than what I have brought to you. I have brought to you the good of this world and the next, and I have been commanded by the Lord to call you unto Him. Therefore, who amongst you will support me in this matter so that he may be my brother (akhhi), my successor (wasiyyi) and my caliph (khalifati) among you?”*** Hazrat Ali immediately responded and stated ***“I will be your helper, O Prophet of Allah.”*** The response of Hazrat Ali led to others coming in support, this included Holy Prophet’s aunt, Hazrat Safiyah and the sisters of Hazrat Khadija. Alongside her, the wife of Hazrat Abbas (uncle of Holy Prophet) and her sisters accepted Islam.

At this meeting, Abu Talib said *"I swear by Allah to protect him (the Holy Prophet) as long as I am alive."*

### Open Preaching:

After giving the message to his family, Holy Prophet received instructions from Allah in Surah Hijr where he was guided to declare the message of Islam openly in the following words *"Preach openly and turn away from the pagans"*.

Holy Prophet then climbed on the mount of Safa and invited the people to gather around him. Once they had gathered around him the Prophet said to them, *"If I told you that horsemen were advancing to attack you from the valley on the other side of this mountain, will you believe me?"*. "Yes", they replied, *"We have always found you truthful."* The Prophet said, *"I am a plain warner to you of a coming severe punishment."*

After this vivid analogy the Prophet asked them to save themselves by declaring that Allah was one and that he, Muhammad, was his messenger. He tried to make them understand that if they clung to polytheism and rejected the message he had brought to them; they would face Allah's punishment. Abu Lahab (his uncle) said, *"May you perish! You gathered us only for this reason?"*. Then Abu Lahab went away. Upon this 'Surah al-Lahab' (May the hands of Abu Lahab perish) was revealed.

Soon after, Holy Prophet began to criticize and expose the superstitious practices of idol worship, proving that it was false and powerless. The people of Makkah were furious and disapproved of his words. They saw his teachings as a threat to their traditions and heritage, so they tried to stop the spread of his message and protect their own authority. They believed following the Divine Message meant giving up their control over their lives and wealth. They would have to treat others fairly and avoid committing sins. They resisted accepting this new way, not because of dignity or honor, but because it challenged their power and way of life. Hence, they started using ways to silence the call to Islam by force.

### Persecutions on the Prophet:

Holy Prophet was adamant that he will be spreading the religion without backing out. Makkah was the center where people used to come for their annual pilgrimage and this was also the source of trade for



0307-4523656



@abdullahteaches



ishaqabdullah012@gmail.com

## LIFE IN MAKKAH [TOPIC 2] [SESSION 2]

them. Makkans were now insecure that people accepting Islam would back out from the pilgrimage in turn affecting the annual trade. Holy Prophet, during the time of Hajj went to people and gave them the message which some of them readily accepted. Quraysh, therefore planned on persecuting the Prophet and made sure that he suffered in every way. They first approached his uncle Abu Talib and told him **"O Abu Talib! Your nephew curses our gods; finds faults with our way of life, mocks at our religion and degrades our forefathers; either you must stop him, or you must let us get at him. For you are in the same opposition as we are in opposition to him; and we will rid you of him."** Abu Talib went to Holy Prophet and warned him about the threat posed upon which the Prophet paid no heed and continued preaching his religion. Meanwhile, Abu Talib assured him that he will always help him.

The Quraysh sought a three-way persecution method where they planned to persecute the Prophet physically, emotionally and mentally. The following were the methods used by him:

- 1- Abu Lahab, an uncle of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), led a series of persecutions against him. He started by throwing stones at him. He would follow the Prophet during pilgrimage and other gatherings to spread lies about him and turn people against him. Abu Lahab's wife, Umm Jameel, was equally hateful and showed that she was no less than her husband. She would lay traps of thorns in the Prophet's path, hoping to harm him physically. She was known for her abusive language and ability to create discord, therefore, she is termed as "the **carrier of firewood**" in the Holy Quran. On hearing this term, she immediately came to the Mosque with a handful of pebbles, intending to throw them at the Prophet, but Allah caused her to lose her sight, and she could only see Abu Bakr, who was sitting next to the Prophet. She threatened Abu Bakr and said **"We have disobeyed the dispraised one, rejected his Call, and alienated ourselves from his religion."**, but did not see the Prophet due to her loss of sight, which was a divine intervention.
- 2- Once Holy Prophet was praying in a mosque and while he was in Sujood, Abu Jahl asked to bring the dirty foetus of a she-camel and place it on the back of the Holy Prophet. The man who did this heinous act was Uqbah bin Mu'ait. After the act was done laughter spread amongst the infidels. The foetus was later removed by Hazrat Fatima. She started crying on how the non-Muslims treated her father but Holy Prophet consoled her that they should remain steadfast as Allah is there for their help. Holy Prophet invoked the wrath of Allah upon them, especially upon



## LIFE IN MAKKAH [TOPIC 2] [SESSION 2]

Abu Jahl, 'Utbah bin Rabi'a, Shaibah bin Rabi'a, Al-Waleed bin 'Utbah, Umaiyah bin Khalaf and 'Uqbah bin Mu'ait. It is recorded that all of them were killed in the battle of Badr.

- 3- Abu Lahab sons were married to the daughters of Holy Prophet. Upon knowing that he was preaching the message of Islam, Abu Lahab made his sons (Utbah married to Hazrat Ruqqaya and Utaibah married to Hazrat Umm-e-Kulsum) divorce the Prophet daughters causing him emotional pain.
- 4- 'Urwa bin Az-Zubair narrated: I asked Abdullah bin 'Amr bin Al-'As to tell me of the worst thing that the pagans did to the Prophet [pbuh] . He said: "While the Prophet [pbuh] was praying in Al-Hijr of Al-Ka'bah, 'Uqbah bin Al-Mu'ait came and put his garment around the Prophet's neck and throttled him violently. Abu Bakr came and caught him by his shoulder and pushed him away from the Prophet [pbuh] and said: "Do you want to kill a man just because he says, My Lord is Allah"
- 5- Uqbah bin Al-Mu'ait once attended an audience of the Prophet [pbuh] and listened to him preaching Islam. A close friend of his, Ubai bin Khalaf, heard of this. He could not tolerate any act of this sort, so he reproached 'Uqbah and ordered him to spit in the Prophet's holy face, and he shamelessly did it. Ubai did not spare any thinkable way to malign the Prophet [pbuh] ; he even ground old decomposed bones and blew the powder on him
- 6- Abu Jahl wanted to debar the Prophet [pbuh] from the Noble Sanctuary. It happened once that the Prophet [pbuh] was praying within the precinct of the Sacred House, when Abu Jahl proceeded threateningly and uttering abusive language. Prophet [pbuh] rebuked him severely to which Abu Jahl answered back defiantly claiming that he was the mightiest in Makkah; Allah then revealed: "***Then, let him call upon his council (of helpers).***"
- 7- Holy Prophet sons when born died as infants and this caused him great amount of grief. On top of it the Quraysh started calling him an "Abtar" but Allah reassured him in Surah Kauthar with the following words "***He who hates you will be cut off***".
- 8- The enemies of the Holy Prophet Muhammad spread false rumors, distorted his teachings, and accused him of slander. They said the following about the Quran "***Tales of the ancients, which he (Muhammad [pbuh]) has written down, and they are dictated to him morning and afternoon.***" [Al-Qur'an 25:5]



**LIFE IN MAKKAH [TOPIC 2]  
[SESSION 2]**

- 9- They also raised another baseless allegation against the Holy Prophet which distorted the minds of people by saying **"Why does this Messenger (Muhammad [pbuh]) eat food and walk about in the markets (like ourselves)?"** [Al-Qur'an 25:7]. The Quran strongly rejected the false accusations made against the Holy Prophet Muhammad. It affirms that his words are revelations from God and challenges those who claim that his expressions come from a mere human origin, such as the imaginings of a visionary reformer, the ramblings of a mad poet, or the incoherent babbling of a deranged person. They used to denounce the Prophet [pbuh] as a man possessed by a jinn, or an insane person, the Quran states: **"And they say: O you (Muhammad [pbuh]) to whom the Dhikr (the Qur') has been sent down! Verily, you are a mad man."** [Al-Qur'an 15:6]
- 10- **An-Nadr bin Harith**, a man from the Quraish tribe, tried to divert people's attention from the Quran by making false accusations against the Prophet Muhammad. He acknowledged that the Prophet had been trustworthy and honest in the past, but when the Prophet began preaching a new faith, An-Nadr called him a sorcerer, soothsayer, poet, or insane. However, he later returned from Heerah and continued to follow the Prophet, narrating stories about Persian kings to compete with the Prophet's teachings. He even used songstresses to attract people away from Islam.
- 11- Holy Prophet was also offered to marry the most beautiful woman in Makkah if he gave up his religion and preaching. An offer which he rejected.
- 12- His followers were persecuted which caused him extreme grief. He also had to send followers to migrate to a new area and then had to undergo a boycott as well (Details given below)