

## LIFE IN MAKKAH [TOPIC 3] [SESSION 3]

### Persecutions on the followers of the Prophet:

As soon as the Prophet gave his preaching on the mount of Safa, Quraysh got really offended and started persecuting the newly converted Muslims. The infidels took to various tortures, they would inwardly laugh at the Faith of Muslims, because they felt themselves so superior. In public places, when the righteous passed, they used to insult and wink at them. In their own houses, they would run them down. Whenever and wherever they saw them, they reproached and called them fools who had lost their way.

The first people to get attacked were the closest companions of the Holy Prophet which included the following:

**Hazrat AbuBakar:** He was a hairy man and was involved in converting others to Islam, therefore, the Quraysh got really offended by him. They used to drag him by his hair and beard on the roads of Makkah, hurting his body in the process but he never gave up.

**Hazrat Usman:** His uncle was really angry on his conversion and used to tie him with a date palm tree. In order to torture him he used to burn hay near him so that the burning of the fumes would make him renounce his religion.

**Hazrat Ammar bin Yasir:** He was a newly converted Muslim who was persecuted by the Quraysh. His parents **Summaya** and **Yasir** were also persecuted. Sumaya was killed by Abu Jahl and Yasir succumbed to his wounds and passed away.

**Hazrat Bilal bin Rabah:** He was an Abyssinian slave of Ummayah bin Khalaf and he accepted Islam in his early days. Hazrat Bilal was tortured by his master every day and on one occasion he was made to lie on hot sand with a big stone placed on his chest. He was then asked to renounce faith, but Hazrat Bilal claimed that Allah is One. His master's efforts went into vain and then Hazrat Bilal was bought and freed by Hazrat AbuBakar.

**Hazrat Musab bin Umair:** When Umm Mus'ab bin 'Umair heard of her son's conversion, she put him to starvation and then expelled him from her house. He used to enjoy full luxurious easy life, but in the aftermath of the tortures he sustained, his skin got wrinkled, and he assumed a horrible physical appearance.



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**Hazrat Khabab bin-al Arat:** He was a blacksmith who was severely persecuted to the extent that he was thrown into burning coal. He was later rescued by the Holy Prophet.

**Hazrat Saad bin Abi Waqas:** He was tortured by Makkan pagans and they did not allow him to pray inside Makkah for which he had to go outside. It was there that he drew his first blood for Islam as well.

**Suhaib bin Sinan:** He had been captured and was sold as a slave by the Greeks. When he became a Muslim, the Quraysh beat him up savagely but could not shake his faith.

**Nahdiyya and Umm Unays** were two other female slaves who became Muslims. Their masters tortured them for accepting Islam. Abu Bakr bought them and gave them their freedom.

**Abu Fukaiha** was the slave of Safwan bin Umayya. He accepted Islam at the same time as Bilal. Like Bilal, he was also dragged by his master on hot sand with a rope tied to his feet. Abu Bakr bought him and emancipated him.

**Zunairah Al-Rumiyah** was a slave of the Banu Makhzum tribe and she lost her eyesight because of the persistent torture. After Hazrat AbuBakar freed her she regained her eyesight, a miracle of Allah SWT. Muslims migrated to **Abyssinia** and also faced a **boycott** imposed on them (Details given below)

### Migration to Abyssinia:

Seeing the persecutions happening on Muslims, the Holy Prophet was extremely worried and was looking for help from Allah SWT. After the revelation of Surah az-Zumar which stated **"Good is (the reward) for those who do good in this world, and Allah's earth is spacious (so if you cannot worship Allah at a place, then go to another)! Only those who are patient shall receive their rewards in full without reckoning."** [Al-Qur'an 39:10]., Holy Prophet got the instruction to allow his followers to migrate and he instructed some of the Muslims to migrate to Abyssinia, a decision he arrived at after careful consideration. Abyssinia was headed by King Ashamah Negus who after Abraha had took charge of the place and was a just man.

The first group of Muslims who migrated included **twelve men and five women** which also included Hazrat Usman and his wife Hazrat Ruqayya. With respect to these two emigrants, the Prophet [pbuh] said: **"They are the first people to migrate in the cause of Allah after Abraham and Lut [AWS]."** Holy Prophet did not migrate himself as instructions for him to migrate had not yet come. The Muslims



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sneaked out of Makkah under the heavy curtain of a dark night and headed for the sea where two boats happened to be sailing for Abyssinia (Ethiopia), their destination. News of their intended departure reached the ears of Quraysh, so some men were dispatched in their pursuit, but the believers had already left **Shuaibah Port** towards their secure haven and after an 8-day travel they reached there where they were received warmly and accorded due hospitality.

During Ramadan, the Prophet Muhammad entered the Holy Sanctuary where many polytheists from the Quraish tribe were present, including important and famous individuals. Suddenly, the Prophet started reciting Chapter 41 of the Quran, called "The Star." The powerful words of Allah came down upon them unexpectedly, leaving them astonished and speechless. It was the first time they experienced the truth of divine revelation. When the Holy Prophet read out **"So fall you down in prostration to Allah and worship Him (Alone)."** [Al-Qur'an 53:62], they all fell down in prostration as they were so mesmerized by the words of the divine revelation.

The news was falsely conveyed to the immigrants in Abyssinia and it was told to them that all the people in Makkah had accepted Islam. Upon hearing the news these people migrated back to Makkah in the hopes of living safely in their homeland. When they were at a distance of an hour from Makkah they got to know that the news delivered to them was false and upon reaching back, the persecutions on them doubled.

Seeing the condition of Muslims, Holy Prophet allowed the Muslims a second migration. This time the migration participants increased, there were a total of **eighty-three men and nineteen women** who were led by the cousin of Holy Prophet, Hazrat Jaffar. They all made their journey secretly to Abyssinia.

Migration this time was not as easy as it was the previous time, for Quraysh was on the alert to the least suspicious moves of the Muslims. Quraysh got to know about the move of the Muslims migrating and sent two of their men (Abdullah ibn Abi Rabia and Amr ibn al Aas) alongside loads of expensive gifts to Abyssinia. These two men were sent to tell Negus that these men are here to spread a new religion and plague Makka. Upon reaching Abyssinia both these men entered the kingdom of Negus and told him that some people have come over to his city to spread a new religion and that they have destroyed religion back in Makka. They stated it in the following words **"A group of our young men have rejected the faith of their forefathers and have invented a religion which is opposed to our religion as well as yours. They are now residing in your country. The elders and chiefs of Quraysh earnestly request the**



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*king of Abyssinia to expel them as soon as possible.*" When Negus heard of it he was not pleased as he stated

Hazrat Jaffar led all these Muslims to the court where he was asked by Negus to present his narrative.

Hazrat Jaffar told how these people were living under darkness and used to worship multiple gods while being involved in ill practices. He also told that Holy Prophet guided them towards the right path and told them about one Allah rather than worshipping stones. He said this in the following words ***"We were people steeped in ignorance, worshipping idols, eating unsacrificed meat, committing atrocities..... Thus were we until Allah sent us a Messenger of our own, whose lineage, trustworthiness, honesty and chastity we knew..."***

Negus asked him for an example of the religion Hazrat Jaffar presented upon which Hazrat Jaffar recited verse 17 to 26 of Surah Maryam. As Negus was a Christian, he was moved to tears and told the Muslims that his and their religion have very minute differences. He drew a line on the floor and stated that the thinness of the line represents the differences we have in our religion. He also exclaimed: ***"It seems as if these words and those which were revealed to Jesus are the rays of the light which have radiated from the same source."*** He offered them to stay in Abyssinia for as long as they wished and sent back the two men of Quraysh along with their gifts. Next day again the Muslims were summoned and asked what they thought of Jesus. Hazrat Jaffar again stood up and replied: ***"We speak about Jesus as we have been taught by our Prophet [pbuh], that is, he is the servant of Allah, His Messenger, His spirit and His Word breathed into Virgin Mary."*** The king at once remarked, ***"Even so do we believe. Blessed be you, and blessed be your master."***

This was also the time that back in Makka, the two strongest men, Hazrat Umar and Hazrat Hamza had accepted Islam.

### Antics of the Quraysh:

The pagans of Makkah angry at what had happened in Abyssinia, decided to approach Abu Talib for the second time and insisted that he put a stop to his nephew's activities, which if allowed unchecked, they said, would involve him into severe hostility. Abu Talib was deeply distressed at this open threat and the breach with his people and their enmity, but he could not afford to desert the Messenger too. He sent for his nephew and told him what the people had said, ***"Spare me and yourself and put not burden on me that I can't bear."*** Upon this the Prophet [pbuh] thought that his uncle would let him down and



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would no longer support him, so he replied: ***"O my uncle! by Allah if they put the sun in my right hand and the moon in my left on condition that I abandon this course, until Allah has made me victorious, or I perish therein, I would not abandon it."*** The Prophet [pbuh] got up, and as he turned away, his uncle called him and said, ***"Come back, my nephew,"*** and when he came back, he said, ***"Go and preach what you please, for by Allah I will never forsake you."***

They also offered the Holy Prophet that he worships their gods for a year and they would worship Allah for a year. On this account, Allah revealed Surah-Al-Kafirun, clearly stating ***"..I worship not that which you worship, nor will you worship that which I worship..."***



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