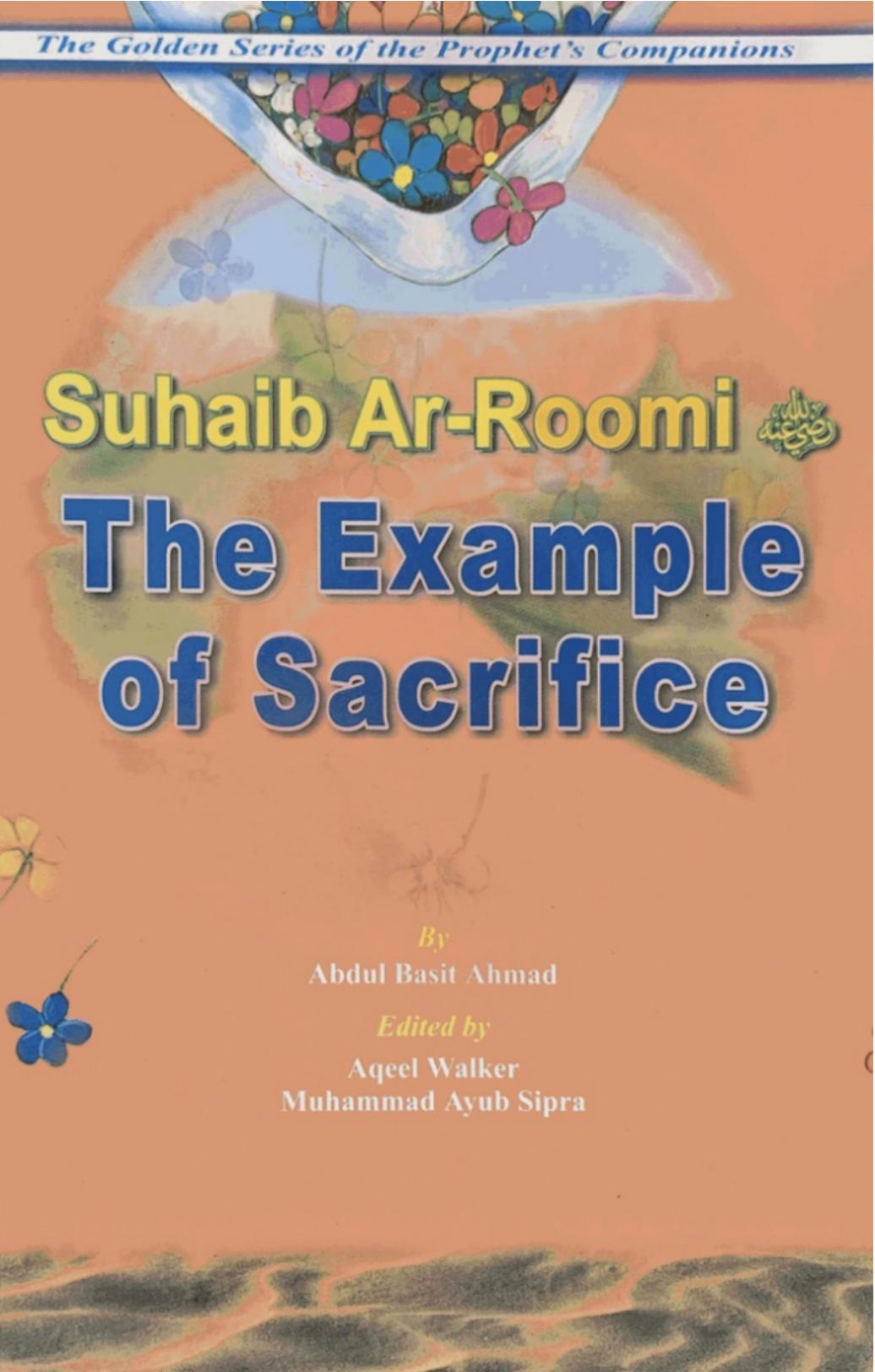


The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions



Suhaib Ar-Roomi ﷺ

**The Example
of Sacrifice**

By

Abdul Basit Ahmad

Edited by

Aqeel Walker
Muhammad Ayub Sipra

The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions

صهيب الرومي رضي الله عنه - مثال التضحية

Suhaib Ar-Roomi
The Example of Sacrifice



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

“Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allâh [i.e., they have gone out for *Jihâd* (holy fighting), and showed not their backs to the disbelievers]; of them some have fulfilled their obligations (i.e., have been martyred); and some of them are still waiting, but they have never changed (i.e., they never proved treacherous to their covenant which they concluded with Allâh) in the least.” (33:23)

Publishers Note

All praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists. May Allâh's peace and blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, his family and his Companions.

Darussalam is pleased to present this valuable series, '*The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions*', to the Muslim youth. The purpose of these books is to enlighten our youth about the lives of the greatest heroes of Islam, the Prophet's Companions. Also, we wish to increase the enthusiasm of the Muslim youth for following and adhering to their religion. In this way, these books achieve two very important tasks: educating our youth and encouraging them to be good Muslims.

In this book, '*Suhaib Ar-Roomi* ﷺ – *The Example of Sacrifice*', is the life story of one of the greatest heroes of Islam, He was enslaved while still a child, but was fortunate to be freed by his master. He became a proficient merchant and earned a good wealth. However, when he was given the option to keep his faith

or his wealth, he preferred his faith to wealth. The Prophet ﷺ praised his sacrifice and said to him twice:

“O Suhaib! It was a profitable deal.”

We hope that these books are beneficial to our Muslim youth, as they are the future of Islam. We, at Darussalam realize the importance of good Islamic literature for Muslim youth, especially in the West where non-Islamic influences are so strong. For this reason, we feel that the availability of this series will be a valuable aid in instilling a genuine love for Islam in our youth. We would like to thank the author, Mr. Abdul Basit Ahmad, the editors, Mr. Aqeel Walker and Mr. Muhammad Ayub Sapra for their diligent work in preparing this series. As Allâh says:

“Is there any reward for good other than good?” (55:60)

And our final invocation is that all praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager

Foreword

It is well known that hardships distinguish real men from false ones. Many people try to evade such hardships by following zigzagging ways. However, others face them and exert sincere efforts to overcome and get use of them for future experience.

Many Companions of the Prophet ﷺ, who played a major role in changing the face of earth, encountered challenges that made them stronger and more steadfast. The majority of early Muslims either consisted of the poor or slaves, whom life did not show any sign of sympathy. They were also of different races and countries, but all of them were blessed with the mercy of Allâh to come to Makkah or Al-Madinah to adopt their eternal faith.

Our hero “Suhaib bin Sinan”, alias “Suhaib Ar-Roomi”, is one of those people who tasted ups and downs of life but relentlessly overcame all difficulties and as a reward they were blessed with full

knowledge and guidance.

A move to a new land unlike that one he grew up in did not drive Suhaib to despair. Rather, he honestly accepted the challenge and started a new and richer life. Anyone else without the guidance of Allâh would have been lost in the crowd and remained all of his life searching for a false relief.

It is always important to take advantage of the opportunity that may never come again. It seems that our hero was that type of man who never let opportunities go by unused.

Even when he had been stripped of everything he owned, he did not hesitate to go forward, for he really knew what it meant to lose something unimportant for something eternal.

Let us have a profound look at the life of this great man, whom Islam changed forever making him into a torch guiding others on the way to eternal freedom and happiness.

Abdul Basit Ahmad

Introduction

The Arabs

The Arabs consisted of tribes and clans. Some of them lived in towns while most of them followed their flocks everywhere in the desert in search of food and water. They had been following the religion of Ibrahim عليه السلام but they changed many of the principles of this religion and forgot all about this heavenly Faith.

They lived in a state of gloom that loomed over the Arabian Peninsula. In addition, they were illiterate and knew nothing of the principles of other religions like Judaism and Christianity. They were also involved in endless wars against each other and against other nations like the Persians and the Romans. Many vices prevailed in the society. Human rights, for example, were not given any value. Slavery, burying girls alive and injustices were dominating the societies of the city and desert alike. Youth and old were

spending their time in grazing animals or practicing trade during the daytime and seeking trivial pleasures during the night.

The guidance brought by previous religions was absent from the life of the people. There was no central government; rather, every tribe had its own chief and customs in spite of the fact that some common laws were prevailing in the society.

The people of Arabia worshipped stone idols which they claimed would bring them closer to Allâh. So, they set partners with Allâh. They were aware that the Creator of the universe was Allâh and in spite of this fact they worshipped other gods. The Jews who were in close contact with them did not try even to guide them to the right way because they themselves had changed their religion and followed false copies of the Torah. Their practice of Judaism had greatly diminished.

The Arabs kept reminiscences of the religion of Ibrahim like Pilgrimage to the

Ka'bah. However, they changed the rites of this great pillar of the religion of Ibrahim. Islam restored the original rites.

Advent of Islam

In the year of the Elephant (i.e. the year when Abrahah, the emperor of Abyssinian, attacked Makkah and wanted to destroy the Ka'bah) Muhammad ﷺ was born. When he became a young man, he kept himself away from the evils and vices of the day. Like other youth, he used to graze his uncle's flocks. He was well behaved and was loved and respected by all those who came in contact with him. He was well known as a sincere and trustworthy man to the extent that he was called *Al-Ameen* (the Trustworthy) by people. He did not like the ways that his peers were following to satisfy their desires. He even could not bear the idea to stand before any idol pleading for help. He sometimes engaged in trade on behalf of wealthy people. It is well known that he visited Damascus twice before he was commissioned with the

message of Islam. On the way there, many signs of his Prophethood were seen by his companions and even monks living in isolation. When he was twenty-five years old, he married a wealthy woman who preferred him to the chiefs of the Quraish.

At the age of forty, he was blessed by Allâh with the gift of Prophethood. He started preaching the new religion to his close relatives as ordered by Allâh. After three years of calling to Islam, he was ordered by Allâh to preach Islam in public. He met hard opposition and cruel oppression, especially by his tribesmen.

Thirteen years of struggle in Makkah led only to the conversion of a few people to Islam. The Prophet ﷺ visited some nearby towns like Tâ'if to preach Islam and to seek protection against oppression. His attempts did not meet success. Instead, the people of Tâ'if abused him and asked him to leave their city.

On the way back to Makkah, the Prophet ﷺ was in a miserable condition because of the

treatment he had in Tâ'if. He began praying to Allâh to help him against the disbelievers. Gabriel عليه السلام came down condoling him. He told the Prophet ﷺ that he would throw two high mountains on the people of Tâ'if if he liked so. However, the Prophet ﷺ answered that he preferred to be patient with them. He was so merciful as Allâh described him in the Qur'ân.

The Prophet ﷺ changed his way of preaching Islam. He began calling visitors of Makkah to provide him with protection to be able to proclaim the Word of Allâh. A group of visitors from a town called Yathrib believed in the message of Islam and pledged to provide the needed protection.

The Prophet ﷺ and his followers migrated to Yathrib (Al-Madinah). From there, they could establish their Islamic State and propagate the message to the entire world.

Nine years later, the Muslims who left Makkah as a result of oppression, returned to

it victorious. They removed all the idols that were placed by the pagans around the Ka'bah. All people of the city converted to Islam and joined hands in building the everlasting Muslim State under the guidance of Allâh.

The Prophet ﷺ passed away without selecting a successor. Soon after the Prophet ﷺ passed away, the Muslims selected Abu Bakr As-Siddique ؓ as the Caliph for many reason. First and foremost that he was the first person who believed in the message of Islam and that he dedicated all his time, wealth and self to the support of spreading it in Makkah and elsewhere.



The Slave Child

Background

On a piece of land near the Euphrates River, where orchards of fruit trees and scented roses grow, a small child used to play with his friends and enjoy the beautiful nature around him.

He was innocent like birds singing over trees and indifferent to life's concerns like butterflies over blossoms. He looked at the rays of the setting sun reflected on the face of the river. He opened his mouth with surprise but covered his eyes with his small hands. He suddenly saw something strange that made clouds of sadness pass over his face.

Suhaib bin Sinan was born to a man employed by the Persian Chosroes as the governor of a district called "Ayla" in Iraq. The rich man was very happy to have this baby boy whom he had been awaiting for a long time. He provided the boy with every means of care to see him growing into a

young man and fulfilling all his dreams.

Since childhood, his father made sure to teach him horsemanship and rules of combat. He wanted him to be a man who would protect and lead his tribe after him. However, all his dreams were a mirage that left him lonely and crying for his lost child.

Suhaib Enslaved

On a dusty day, the Roman army invaded Suhaib's country and killed many of his tribe members. The young boy was taken as a prisoner of war. He cried and shouted for his father to save him, but all was in vain. The Romans took him away to a land different from the one in which he grew up and a community that he had never known.

The young boy spent some years in the Roman land under agonies of slavery. He only had his memories of the happy days he left behind on the banks of the Euphrates River.

Suhaib's New Master

Arabs living in the Arabian Peninsula

used to trade with the Romans in Damascus during the summer and with Yemen during the winter. Caravans carrying dates and other items headed to Damascus every year to exchange their goods for items unavailable in the Arabian Peninsula. One Arab chief visiting Damascus noticed Suhaib in the slave market. He liked the youth and decided to buy him. He took Suhaib with him back to Makkah.

For Suhaib, it was another trip to another strange land as normal for any slave exchanged through hands. On the way to Makkah, the young man was astonished to see that he was going into a desert that infinitely extended behind dunes of sand and bare mountains. He suffered days of agonies and hardships until the caravan reached Makkah.

Upon arrival to Makkah, Suhaib saw a town with bare black and gray mountains all around it. The weather was so hot that the scorching sun changed his complexion and

forced him to walk with half-open eyes.

His master took him home and kept him there for some days to rest after the long journey. He thought to keep him for himself but soon he decided to sell him, for he felt that this gentle young man was not the kind of slave to depend on. He took Suhaib to the market place to sell him to anyone who might pay more.



The Free Young Man and the New Message

Suhaib Freed

A noble man with good morals and much generosity named Abdullah bin Jud'an bought Suhaib. He felt that this young man must be of a dignified origin. He took Suhaib home, gave him new clothes and allowed him more rest. A few days later, he called Suhaib and told him that he was free. Suhaib felt a great happiness going through his body and warmly embraced his savior.

The generous man gave Suhaib some money and taught him how to be a good trader. No sooner did Suhaib receive that small amount of money than he made his way to the market to earn his living.

Year after year, Suhaib became a rich man. He built a good house and married a nice woman. Through experience and hard work he collected good wealth.

Signs of the Change

Suhaib used to go hunting in the desert with other young men. One day, he came back to find the people of Makkah talking of a great event that was not normal in this part of the world. He changed his clothes and went out to the Ka'bah. There he found the chiefs of the Quraish speaking of a man who claimed to have been sent by Allâh to take people out of the life of ignorance to the life of knowledge and guidance. Many of them did not care but some were interested to hear more. Some chiefs were threatening to inflict severe punishment on those who dare follow the man and change their belief in idols.

Sublime Principles

In the evening, Suhaib came back home with many thoughts in his mind. He kept the whole night awake thinking of the Prophet ﷺ and the new religion. They told him that Muhammad ﷺ called for Monotheism (Oneness of Allâh) and rejection of idolatry. He preached to people that it was not right to set

partners with Allâh. They also said that Muhammad ﷺ called them to stop burying their daughters alive, to be kind to slaves and to stop invading each other. He urged them to worship the only Creator who made earth and heavens and who provided them with sustenance.

Out of interest, Suhaib continued going to where the Quraish chiefs were meeting to discuss how to face the new danger. They were fully aware that the new religion would strip them of their privileges over others and make them equal with slaves. A man suggested to kill the Prophet ﷺ, another one urged the congregation to imprison him and a third said that it was best to punish those who followed the new religion. They all agreed to the last proposal.

Direct Contact with the Prophet ﷺ

After hearing all that, Suhaib felt very eager to hear directly from the Prophet ﷺ. He knew from a man who embraced Islam that the Prophet ﷺ was at *Dar-An-Nadwa*. He went to that house where Muhammad ﷺ was

secretly meeting his Companions every day to teach them the principles of the new religion and to recite new Verses of the Qur'ân revealed to him by Allâh.

At the door he met another young man named 'Ammar bin Yaser. For a while he hesitated to go in but finally asked 'Ammar about his intentions.

'Ammar told him that he wanted to hear from the Prophet ﷺ. Suhaib also acknowledged that he would like to go in to listen to the Prophet ﷺ.

Both young men went inside and sat listening to the Prophet ﷺ. There were many people inside. Some were slaves and some were high-class people. Yet, all were listening with great interest to the words preached by the Prophet ﷺ.

Suhaib Accepts Islam

No sooner did the Prophet ﷺ finish his lecture than Suhaib and 'Ammar declared that they wished to be Muslims. The other

Muslims were very happy for Suhaib and ‘Ammar to join the Muslim community.

However, Suhaib was aware that embracing Islam would make him subject to severe punishment by the chiefs of the Quraish, especially since he had nobody powerful in Makkah to protect him against their tyranny and cruelty. He stayed inside *Dar-An-Nadwa* until it was evening. Under the cover of darkness, he left to his house as a new man with a new understanding.

Oppression

In spite of all attempts to keep his belief secret, the Quraish chiefs knew that the young man had abandoned their deities and embraced Islam. They began treating him very badly. They even asked people not to deal with him hoping to render him bankrupt.

However, the young man never retreated nor surrendered to the pagans. He challenged their decision of imposing a boycott on him and started calling to the new religion

relentlessly with the other Muslims.

The Migrant

Early Muslims received all kinds of torture and suffering, especially since most of them were slaves and strangers. It was a tradition among tribes that anyone who wanted to save himself from humiliation, should be a person belonging to a strong tribe or a person attached to a powerful man in order to gain protection.

In spite of the fact that the Prophet ﷺ himself was a member of the powerful Quraish tribe, he himself received his share of insults by the Quraish chiefs. Muslims like Suhaib, Bilal, Khabbab ؓ and others were too weak to defend themselves. Therefore, the Quraish chiefs inflicted all kinds of torture on them.

Boycott

The Quraish added to the agonies of the Muslims by announcing a boycott against the Bani Hashim clan (from which the Prophet ﷺ

came) and the Muslims. They made an agreement that prohibited anyone from other clans of Quraish, or other tribes living in and around Makkah, to deal either commercially or socially with the Muslims and the Bani Hashim clan members. The boycott continued for three hard years. The Muslims were isolated in a deserted place called “*Sh‘ab Abi Tâlib*” (Abu Talib Valley).

The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions thought that they had no choice other than to migrate from Makkah, or expose themselves to more torture.

The Prophet ﷺ seeking Protection outside of Makkah

As Arabs from other parts of the Arabian Peninsula used to visit Makkah on certain occasions, the Prophet ﷺ exerted every effort possible to call such visitors to Islam. He presented to each tribe the clear and truthful message of Islam and asked them to provide him shelter and protection in their land to be able to convey Allâh’s Message to humanity.

In spite of his efforts, most tribes were afraid to listen to his call. They were aware of the Quraish's opposition to such attempts. However, a delegation from Yathrib (Al-Madinah) met the Prophet ﷺ and secretly accepted Islam. They also accepted to provide protection to the Prophet ﷺ in Yathrib. They asked the Prophet ﷺ to send his representative with them to teach them the principles of Islam.

As the Prophet ﷺ was sure that the people of Yathrib would protect him and his Companions, he instructed his followers to migrate to Yathrib.

The Quraish knew of the agreement between the Prophet ﷺ and the people of Yathrib. Therefore, they did their best to prevent the Muslims from migrating to that town. The Muslims, on the other hand, were secretly migrating one by one to escape being detained by the Quraish.

The Prophet ﷺ and some of his Companions stayed behind until they were

sure most of the Muslims had migrated. The Prophet ﷺ himself, accompanied by Abu Bakr ؓ, planned to migrate. He kept the plan of migration secret so that the Quraish would not prevent him from joining his Companions in Yathrib.

The chiefs of the Quraish held a meeting to discuss ways to destroy Islam and stop the Prophet ﷺ from leaving Makkah. They finally decided to kill the Prophet ﷺ. Abu Jahl, one of the most arrogant chiefs of the Quraish and a bitter enemy of Islam, proposed to have about forty young men selected from all tribes to surround the Prophet's house and to all share in killing him. Thus, the Bani Hashim clan would be in a hard position to revenge themselves on all the tribes of Makkah.

On the very night when the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion planned to migrate, about forty young men gathered around the Prophet's house and kept waiting for the Prophet ﷺ to leave so as to kill him.

The Prophet ﷺ knew of this plot. He stayed

inside his house with his cousin ‘Ali bin Abi Tâlib ؓ. The Prophet ﷺ asked ‘Ali ؓ to sleep in his bed and cover his body with his cloak.

The Prophet ﷺ left the house at midnight. On his way out, the Prophet ﷺ took some sand and threw it toward the men surrounding his house. He made his way through them but no one saw him. Every time they looked through the cracks of the door, they saw someone sleeping in the Prophet’s bed. Therefore, they thought that the Prophet ﷺ was still inside.

Suhaib ؓ could not leave with the other Muslims to Yathrib. He was a merchant and had many relations with other merchants and inhabitants of Makkah. Therefore, he stayed behind to finalize all pending affairs.

The Highly Rewarding Deal

When he finished his commercial matters, Suhaib ؓ prepared for migration. Before leaving the outskirts of Makkah, the Quraish chiefs knew of his plan to leave. Therefore, they called after him, approached him and

asked him to surrender all his money and property to them or they would detain him. Suhaib ؓ agreed to surrender all his property to them on the condition that they would allow him to join his fellow Muslims. They accepted the deal and permitted him to leave. They were interested in money more than beliefs.

The Prophet ﷺ and some of his Companions were sitting at a place called Quba'. Suhaib ؓ inquired about the location of the house of the Prophet ﷺ. The people told him that the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions were at Quba'. He immediately went to where the Prophet ﷺ was. The Prophet ﷺ received Suhaib ؓ with warm welcome. All the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ asked him how he could escape the hands of the Quraish. Suhaib ؓ told them about the deal he made with the chiefs of the Quraish. The Prophet ﷺ said to him twice:

“O Suhaib! It was a profitable deal.”



In the New Islamic State

No sooner than Suhaib ؓ settled in Al-Madinah, he started participating in building the new Islamic State. He also started a new business to make up for his lost property. Within a short time, Suhaib recovered most of the money he paid in exchange for his migration to Al-Madinah.

Brotherhood and Unity

The Muslim community in Al-Madinah was made of the *Muhajireen* (emigrants) who came from Makkah and other parts of the Arabian Peninsula and the *Ansar*, (supporters) the inhabitants of Al-Madinah. As a way of uniting the people, the Prophet ﷺ strengthened the ties of brotherhood among the members of the Muslim community. Suhaib ؓ was made a brother in faith with Mu'adh bin Jabal ؓ, a great Companion of the Prophet ﷺ and a highly learned man.

The supporters received the emigrants

with great happiness. They helped them a lot and provided them with means to continue their life in Al-Madinah. They even shared their property with the emigrants.

The Challenge

Immediately after settling in Al-Madinah, the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions began establishing firm foundations for their new Islamic State. At the same time, they were permitted by Allâh to fight the pagans and spread the light of Islam around Al-Madinah. The Muslims began patrolling outside Al-Madinah for security purposes. They received the news that a trade caravan nearby Al-Madinah belonging to the Quraish was bound to Makkah back from Damasucs. They went towards it to check it. Abu Sufyan the leader of the caravan, got the news of Muslims' plan and in fear of their attack, he changed his direction and managed to escape the Muslims. At the same time he dispatched his man to Makkah to keep the Quraish on alert. When the Quraish knew of the threat, they prepared

a well-armed army of one thousand soldiers and headed for Al-Madinah to destroy the new Islamic State. When they arrived near Al-Madinah, they were informed that the caravan had escaped the Muslims' hands. Some of them proposed to leave back to Makkah, but others, especially Abu Jahl, insisted on destroying Islam once and forever. On the other hand, the Prophet ﷺ asked his Companions to give him advice on what to do to face this great danger. All emigrants showed zeal to fight the aggressors. The Prophet ﷺ asked his Companions to give him advice again and again. The supporters knew that his words were directed to them. Sa'd bin Mu'adh ؓ, a great Companion of the Prophet ﷺ and one of the supporters, advanced to the Prophet ﷺ and said:

“It seems you mean us.”

The Prophet ﷺ replied: “Yes!”

Sa'd ؓ said:

“O Messenger of Allāh! We believed in

you. You have brought us out of darkness to light. By Allâh! If you order us to cross the sea, no one of us would disobey you.”

The Prophet ﷺ was very happy to hear these words. He started gathering fighters to defend the town and the message of Islam. The Muslims had an army of three hundred and thirteen soldiers. The Muslim army headed to Badr to meet the marching Quraish army. Both armies met and prepared themselves to fight.

Suhaib ؓ prepared himself well for this moment with the other Muslims.

The fight began fiercely. Suhaib ؓ and his brothers in Islam shouted:

“*Allâhu Akbar*, (Allâh is the Greatest).” and attacked the pagan army. The Prophet ﷺ was encouraging them to advance and defend their religion.

In no time the Muslims defeated the

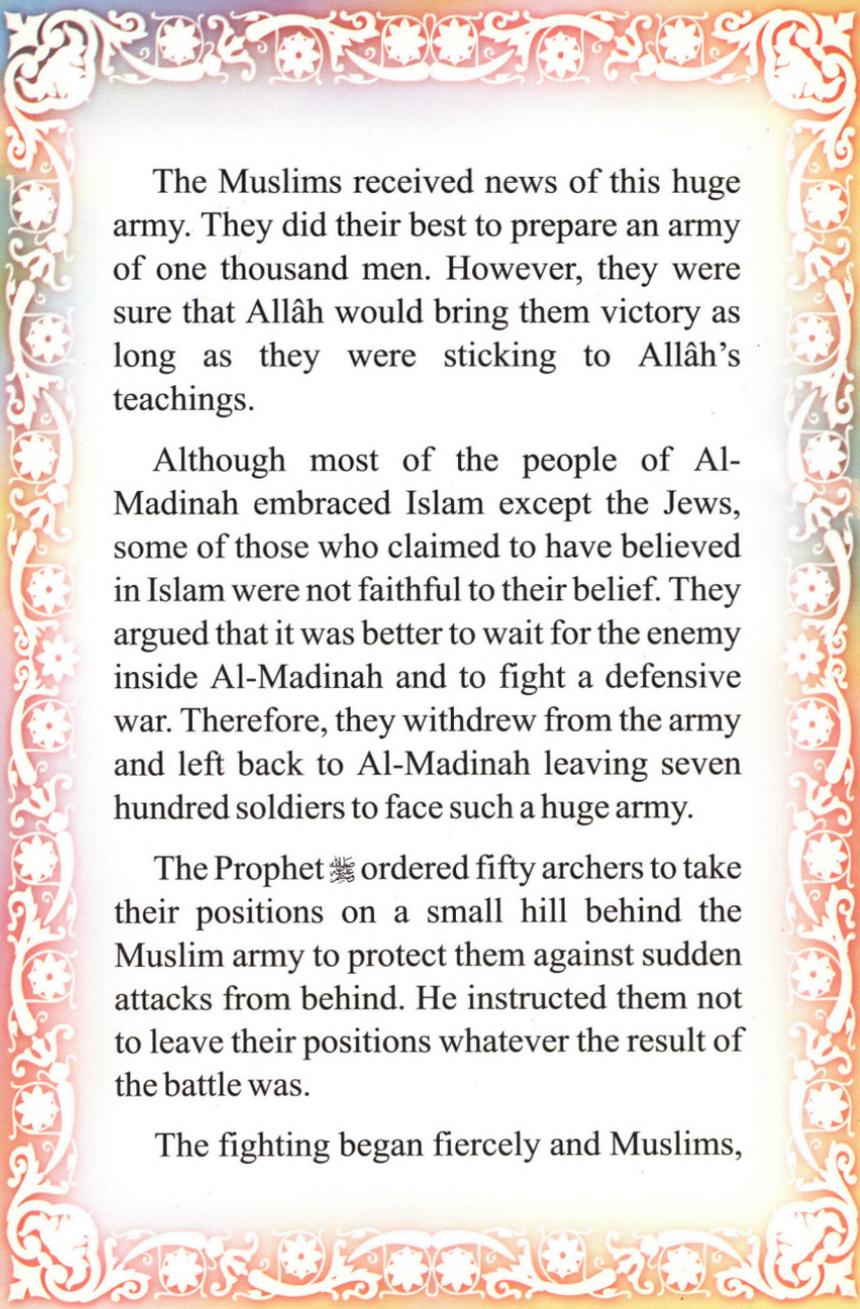
pagans. Several pagans were killed and several others were taken as prisoners of war. Suhaib ؓ felt happy for defeating the nation of falsehood and for the victory achieved by the Muslims.

Suhaib ؓ with his brothers in Islam went back to Al-Madinah triumphant. He felt that Islam had become stronger and more established.

The Quraish could not accept the defeat. They went back to Makkah to prepare for another battle. This time they intended to undermine the roots of Islam and destroy the newly established state.

More and More Challenges

The next year they prepared an army of three thousand soldiers, heavily equipped with all kinds of weapons of those days. They marched toward Al-Madinah to fight what they thought to be their last battle against Muhammad ﷺ and his followers.



The Muslims received news of this huge army. They did their best to prepare an army of one thousand men. However, they were sure that Allâh would bring them victory as long as they were sticking to Allâh's teachings.

Although most of the people of Al-Madinah embraced Islam except the Jews, some of those who claimed to have believed in Islam were not faithful to their belief. They argued that it was better to wait for the enemy inside Al-Madinah and to fight a defensive war. Therefore, they withdrew from the army and left back to Al-Madinah leaving seven hundred soldiers to face such a huge army.

The Prophet ﷺ ordered fifty archers to take their positions on a small hill behind the Muslim army to protect them against sudden attacks from behind. He instructed them not to leave their positions whatever the result of the battle was.

The fighting began fiercely and Muslims,

though they were weak compared to their enemy, were defeating the Quraish army. The archers on the hill saw their brothers in Islam chasing the fleeing defeated army. Most of them decided to go down and share in collecting the booty, for they thought that the battle had come to an end. Only eight archers kept their positions on the mount.

Heavy Loss

The Quraish horsemen saw the archers come down off the hill and took the chance to go around the hill and attack the Muslim army from behind.

The victory was converted into near defeat. The Muslims were scattered all over the battlefield and the Quraish army regained their positions and won the battle at last.

Suhaib ؓ was one of those who kept their positions at that hard hour. He fought a fierce battle and was shouting to the Muslims to hold their positions. He even protected the Prophet ﷺ with his body against arrows.

Suhaib ؓ felt very sad for this heavy loss especially that many Muslim warriors were killed in this battle, like Mus'ab and Hamzah رضي الله عنهما.

After some years, the Quraish again gathered a huge army against the Muslims. Ten thousand soldiers were marching to conquer Al-Madinah and put an end to Islam. The Muslims discussed a way to defend their town. Finally, Salman Al-Farisi, drawing on his previous experience when he was in Persia, proposed to dig a deep and wide trench as an obstacle before the invading army.

One for All and All for One

The Prophet ﷺ agreed to the idea and shared with the Muslims digging the trench. Suhaib ؓ was with his brothers in Islam helping them in their hard work of digging the trench. He saw the Prophet ﷺ carrying soil and stones on his shoulders.

A huge rock stopped the progress of

digging. The Companions complained to the Prophet ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ took an axe and went down into the trench. He gave the rock a strike and shouted:

“Allâhu Akbar (Allâh is the Greatest).”

All Muslims around the trench repeated his words. The Prophet ﷺ added:

“I saw the palaces of Yemen fall under our hands.”

He gave the rock another strike and shouted:

“Allâhu Akbar (Allah is the Greatest).”

All Muslims repeated his words. He told them that they would conquer the palaces of Busrah (Roman palaces). The third strike reduced the rock into small pieces and the digging continued.

Some hypocrites sarcastically exclaimed:

“A weak group of people are going to be attacked by a huge army and all of

them believe that they will be able to conquer such great empires.”

However, Suhaib رضي الله عنه and other good believers were sure that Islam would not be stopped by any other false power.

The huge army arrived near Al-Madinah. They found it surrounded with a huge trench. This was a plan they had never known before. They camped and began trying to cross over weak points of the trench. However, they were finally defeated by a hard, cold wind sent by Allâh to help the Muslims. All of their tents were thrown in the air like feathers.

The Jews at the suburbs of Al-Madinah had made covenants of mutual support with the Muslims. They were closer to Muslims than they were to the pagans, for they believed in Allâh and worshipped Him. However, out of jealousy and treachery against the teachings of Allâh, they supported the pagans. They told the Quraish and their allies that they would support them

against the Muslims. It was not strange for them to take this position as they had tried before to kill the Prophet ﷺ when he visited them asking for their help against the pagans.

When the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions finished with the invading army, they were ordered by Allâh to attack the treacherous Jews and put them to the sword. Suhaib ؓ and his fellow Muslims were very happy to see this end of the deceitful Jews.

Suhaib ؓ continued his efforts with his fellow Muslims building the Islamic State and proclaiming the Word of Allâh throughout the Arabian Peninsula. They were getting stronger and stronger in the face of idolatry.

Islam spreads over Arabia

In the sixth year after migration to Al-Madinah, the Prophet ﷺ wished to visit the Ka'bah. He told his Companions that they should not take any arms with them. He wanted the visit to be peaceful. One thousand

four hundred Muslims marched to Makkah. However, they were stopped by the Quraish. At a place called Al-Hudaibiyah, the Prophet ﷺ held a truce with the pagans. Both parties agreed to stop fighting for ten years.

The agreement stated that any attack against the Muslims or their allies, or vice versa, would be considered breaking the treaty. This would give the other party the right to retaliate.

This agreement gave the Muslims a good chance to call all the tribes of Arabia to Islam. Many of these tribes embraced Islam and gave the Muslims more power. Several distinguished men from the Quraish also accepted Islam and migrated to Al-Madinah like Khalid bin Al-Waleed and 'Amr bin Al-'Aas رضي الله عنها.

As the pagans held no honour for any treaty and as they were filled with hatred against the expanding religion, a tribe called Bakr, an ally of the Quraish, attacked

Khuza'ah, the Muslims' ally, and killed several men and women of the tribe.

The Quraish knew that the consequences of this act would be fatal to them. They were now well aware of the Muslims' strength, as many tribes and clans had accepted Islam during the truce period. They proposed to send a representative to the Prophet ﷺ to apologize for the incident. However, the representative, Abu Sufyan, came back with empty hands. Instead, he saw the huge number of the Muslims marching to Makkah to cleanse it of idolatry.

Conquest of Makkah

The Prophet ﷺ and the Muslim community, much stronger than before, decided to conquer Makkah and destroy polytheism in the Arabian Peninsula.

An army of ten thousand men marched to Makkah. Before arriving at the outskirts of Makkah, the Prophet ﷺ sent a messenger to the inhabitants asking them to surrender. He

told them that anyone resorting to the Ka‘bah or keeping inside his house would not receive any harm.

The Muslims entered Makkah peacefully. Suhaib ؓ, triumphant and victorious, decided again to give those who robbed his money and hard time. However, he could not act without receiving instructions from the Prophet ﷺ.

As Merciful As Ever

To Suhaib’s surprise, the Prophet ﷺ stood at the Ka‘bah door to announce a general amnesty to all who previously tortured the Muslims. He said to all the people:

“Go! You are free.”

As a reaction to this attitude of mercy and leniency, all the people of Makkah accepted Islam. They became sure that the Prophet ﷺ was not a conqueror, but was only sent to bring guidance to all humanity. Suhaib ؓ learnt from this attitude of the Prophet ﷺ that the triumphant

should not revenge himself over anyone who had insulted him, as long as spreading the eternal message of Islam was the objective behind every endeavor of the Muslims.

The Farewell Pilgrimage

Islam had spread all over the Arabian Peninsula. One hundred thousand Muslims gathered in Al-Madinah to perform pilgrimage. Suhaib ؓ prepared his camel for this great event and marched with the Muslims to Makkah that had now become a part of the land of Islam.

The Immortal Principles of Islam

Suhaib ؓ stood on Mount Arafat listening to the last words revealed to the Prophet ﷺ:

“Today, I have completed your religion for you, perfected my favour upon you and chosen Islam as a religion for you.”

(5:3)

It was a great moment. From that place, the Prophet ﷺ announced:

“You are all equal, black and white. You are all sons and daughters of Adam and Eve. No one has any privilege over another; rather, you are brothers and sisters. Relate these principles to generations to come.”

Upon hearing these words, Suhaib رضي الله عنه began crying. He felt in his heart that these words meant that the Prophet ﷺ was going to pass away soon. He knew that the Prophet ﷺ would leave this world after he had struggled hard to spread the Word of Allâh.



The Man of High Morals

Suhaib ؓ was so tender and gentle to the extent that he was searching for orphans and poor people to ease some of their hardships. All widows remembered this kind man who used all his means to make them happy and satisfied.

Looking after Orphans and the Needy

Suhaib ؓ was known among people as merciful and generous, just like rain falling on a dry land. ‘Umar bin Al Khattab ؓ, the second Caliph of Islam, was astonished to learn that Suhaib ؓ was spending all his money on the needy. He scolded him and asked him to keep something for himself. Suhaib ؓ replied:

“I heard the Prophet ﷺ saying: ‘The best among you are those who give their money in charity.’”

Suhaib ؓ was like his other brothers in Islam. After the death of the Prophet ﷺ, he kept struggling for the sake of Islam. He was

following the teachings of the Qur'ân and the Prophet ﷺ step by step.

He was reported as saying:

“I was a witness to all events with the Prophet ﷺ. I participated in all battles of Islam and was always close to the Prophet ﷺ. I was always there till the death of the Prophet ﷺ.”

All through his life he never let himself despair. He used the ups and downs of life for his privilege. He was a true believer who dedicated all his time and money for the service of Islam and the Muslims.

He was perfectly loyal to his faith and leader. He also was among the early Muslims who chose Abu Bakr ؓ to lead the Muslim *Ummah* after the death of the Prophet ﷺ.

During the rule of 'Umar bin Al-Khattab ؓ, he was so trustworthy that 'Umar ؓ instructed him to lead the Muslims in prayers when Abu Lu'lu' stabbed him while praying. It was a great honour to Suhaib ؓ to lead the other Companions in prayers.

It Was Time to Leave

Suhaib ؓ spent a life of struggle in the way of Islam. He did not spare any effort to see Islam spreading all over the world. During the rule of 'Uthman ؓ, the third Caliph of Islam, he moved to Kufah in Iraq, where he continued his peaceful efforts to bring people of all races to the truth of Islam.

Some years later he came back to live in Al-Madinah, the city where he had spent most of his life close to the Prophet ﷺ. He was longing all the time to join his brothers with whom he shared happy and bitter moments during the early days of Islam.

Days were passing very slowly for the old man. Day after day his body became weak and ill. Suhaib ؓ had no child to look after him in these difficult moments of his life. One night, he fell extremely ill. His weak body withered like a rose cut from a tree.

The atmosphere around him was very quiet. The old man lied down to go on a one way journey to join his brothers in the eternal life where he would enjoy their company forever.