

## **SEERAH SO FAR...**

### **1. Put the following events in the order in which they happened:**

Arrival at Quba

First Pledge of Aqabah

Plotting of Darul Nadwa

Second Pledge of Aqabah

Migration of the Prophet salAllahu alayhi wassalam

Constitution with the Jews

Establishment of the Prophet salAllahu alayhi wassalam's mosque

Brotherhood amongst the Muslims

## **THE BATTLE OF BADR**

This battle is one of the greatest and most famous battles in Islam. Those who participated in it hold a high status amongst the Muslims. This battle took place in the month of Ramadhan in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year after hijrah.

The Messenger of Allah salAllahu alayhi wassalam had heard that Abu Sufyan ibn Harb, who was extremely hostile to Islam, was coming from Syria with a large trading caravan belonging to the Quraysh. They were carrying a vast quantity of wealth and merchandise taken from the muhaajiroon (from the belongings they left behind in Makkah).

When the Messenger of Allah salAllahu alayhi wassalam heard about this caravan, he sent Muslims to attack it. He did not attach much importance to the confrontation and did not issue a compulsory order to wage war.

When Abu Sufyan heard that the Messenger of Allah salAllahu alayhi wassalam was coming towards him he sent to Makkah for help from the Quraysh to protect him from the Muslims. When this plea reached the people of Makkah, they decided that it must be serious. They prepared themselves quickly and departed. All of their nobles, apart from Abu Lahab, went to help and he appointed a man to take his place.

### **ASSURANCE FROM THE ANSAR:**

When the Messenger of Allah heard that the Quraysh had set out from Makkah to stop the Muslims, he consulted his Companions. He was concerned about the Ansar because their original homage included the condition that they only defend him in their home territory. Since he resolved to leave Madinah, he wanted to know where they stood. The Muhajirun assured him of their support, but he consulted them a

second time, and then a third time. The Ansar fully understood the reason why he was concerned about them. Sa'd ibn Mu'adh replied,

'It seems that you are alluding to us. Perhaps you fear that the Ansar do not think that they have to help you outside their own territory. I speak for the Ansar and answer for them. Go where you wish, join whom you wish and cut off whom you wish. Take what you wish from our property and give us what you wish. What you take from us is dearer than what you leave. Whatever you command, we will follow it. By Allah, if you were to travel until you reached Bark Ghamdan, we would go with you. By Allah, if you were to cross this sea, we would plunge into it with you.'

Al-Miqdad said, 'We do not say to you what the people of Musa said to Musa: "Go forth you and your Lord and do battle. We will be waiting here." (5: 24) We will do battle on your right and on your left and in front of you and behind you.'

When the Messenger of Allah salAllahu alayhi wassalam heard this, his face shone with happiness 'Be Steadiest!' he said to his Companions.

### **DISPARITY IN NUMBERS:**

The Messenger of Allah set off for Badr swiftly with three hundred and thirteen men but only two horses and seventy camels. Two or three men rode on a camel in turns without any distinction being made between a soldier and a general. The Messenger of Allah salAllahu alayhi wassalam, Abu Bakr, Umar and the great Companions were among them.

When Abu Sufyan heard that the Muslims had set out to intercept him, he turned his caravan towards the coast. When he saw that they were safe, he sent word to the Quraysh telling them to return as there was now nothing for them to do. The Quraysh wanted to turn back, but Abu Jahl insisted on attacking. The Quraysh army numbered more than a thousand, including all the warriors, leaders and horsemen. Of the fighters the Messenger of Allah salAllahu alayhi wassalam said, 'Makkah has sent you its treasures, dear and beloved ones.'

The Messenger of Allah salAllahu alayhi wassalam and his Companions reached the water of Badr first. They arrived at midnight and built cisterns which they filled with water. The Messenger of Allah allowed unbelievers to drink of this water, too.

Allah sent down heavy rain that night. It prevented the idol-worshippers from advancing. It was a mercy for the Muslims, however, as it made the ground smooth and the sand firm. This blessing strengthened their hearts. Allah describes the scene:

'He sent down water on you from heaven, to purify you thereby and to put away from you the defilement of Satan, and to strengthen your hearts and to confirm your feet.' (8: 11)

### **PREPARATION FOR BATTLE:**

A shelter was built for the Messenger of Allah on a small hill overlooking the battlefield. He went down to the battlefield and began to point with his hand, saying, 'So-and-so will die here. So-and-so will die here. So-and-so will die here if Allah wills.' None of those people went any further than where he had pointed.

When the idol-worshippers appeared and the two groups confronted one another, the Messenger of Allah salAllahu alayhi wassalam said, 'O Allah, this is the Quraysh who have come with their vanity and their pride. They have come to fight You and deny Your Messenger.'

It was the night of Friday, 17 Ramadan. In the morning, the Quraysh advanced in their squadrons and the two groups took up positions ready for battle.

### **SUPPLICATION AND ENTREATY:**

The Messenger of Allah organised the ranks and returned to his shelter. He and Abu Bakr went inside. The Messenger of Allah prayed. He asked for the help of Allah Whose judgement cannot be turned aside and Whose decree cannot be averted. There is no help but from Allah. He said, 'O Allah, if You let this group of men die, no one after them will worship You on the earth.'

He called out to his Lord, 'O Allah, give me the help which You promised me.'

He raised his hands to the sky until the cloak fell from his shoulders. Abu Bakr consoled and comforted him.

### **A CONFRONTATION:**

Then the Messenger of Allah salAllahu alayhi wassalam went out to encourage the Muslims to fight. Utbah ibn Rabi'ah and his brother Shaybah and his son al-Walid stepped forward from the Quraysh. When they came forward between the opposing forces, they asked for other people to come forward as was the custom. When three youths of the Ansar went out to them they asked, 'Who are you?'

'We are from the Ansar.'

'We demand our equals. Send some of our own tribe out to us.'

The Prophet said, 'Go forward, Ubaydah ibn al-Harith [ibn al-Muttalib ibn Abd Manaf], Hamzah and Ali.'

'Yes, these are our equals in nobility,' they said.

Ubaydah, the oldest man chosen, went out against Utbah, Hamzah against Shaybah and 'Ail against al-Walid ibn Utbah. Hamzah and Ali quickly killed their opponents. Ubaydah and Utbah exchanged blows and each of them floored the other. Hamzah and Ali turned their swords against Utbah and finished him off and carried back Ubaydah, who was wounded. He died a martyr.

### **A CLEAR VICTORY:**

When the victory of the Muslims and the defeat of the idol-worshippers became clear, the Messenger of Allah salAllahu alayhi wassalam said, 'Allah is greater! Praise belongs to Allah Who was true to His promise, helped His slave and defeated the parties alone.'

Allah certainly spoke the truth when He said: 'Allah surely helped you at Badr when you were utterly abject. So fear Allah and perhaps you will be thankful.' (3: 123)

Seventy leaders of the unbelievers were killed and another seventy captured on the Day of Badr. Six Muslims of the Quraysh and eight of the Ansar were martyred.

The Messenger of Allah salAllahu alayhi wassalam divided the captives among his Companions and told them to treat them well.

He then returned to Madinah confirmed in victory. All his enemies both in the city and in surrounding areas feared him. Many more people of Madinah were encouraged to become Muslims.

In Makkah the idol-worshippers mourned for their slain. Terror entered the hearts of all the Muslims' enemies.

In the Battle of Badr, Umayyah and his son were killed. Umayyah was the one who had tortured Bilal RadiAllahu anhu when he accepted Islam.

### **CAPTIVES AS TEACHERS:**

The Messenger of Allah salAllahu alayhi wassalam pardoned the captives and accepted ransom from them. He was gracious to those who had nothing and set them free. The Quraysh sent money to ransom the captives and he set them free too.

Among the captives were those who had nothing with which to ransom themselves. The Messenger of Allah salAllahu alayhi wassalam allowed them to earn their freedom by teaching the children of the Ansar to write. Each prisoner taught ten Muslims. Zayd ibn Thabit was one of those who learned in this way from the captives of Badr.