

THE TREATY OF HUDAYBIYYA.

According to the Muslim tradition, the Kaaba in Makkah was built by the Prophets Ibrahim and Ismail. The Holy Kaaba is the Qibla of the Muslims which means that they had to turn towards it when offering their prayers. Also by ancient custom, fighting of any kind was prohibited during the four sacred months. One of these months was Zilqad.

The Muslims longed to see the House of God thus after the sixth year of migration, the Holy Prophet declared that he would visit Makka to perform Umra. He left Madina in late February AD 628 with 1400 of his follower. They had taken their animals for sacrifice but no weapons.

When this caravan reached the outskirts of Makka, the Prophet was informed that the idolaters would not allow him to enter the city and that they would use force to prevent him from doing so.

They halted near a well in a place called Hudaibiyya in the North of Makka. The prophet sent a message to the Quraish that he wished only to do Tawaf, sacrifice the animals and return back to Madina with his followers. But the Quraish did not agree.

Eventually the Prophet ordered Umar bin al Khattab to go Makka and explain to the idolaters the purpose of their visit. But Umar refused to go and he thus suggested that they send Uthman bin Affan. Therefore was Uthman was sent to Makka, the idolates welcomed him and told him that he was free to perform Umra but he said that he alone could not perform Umra and that they had to allow the Prophet all the Muslims with him into the city. The Quraish did not accept it and they arrested Uthman.

When the news of Uthman reached the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) he decided that the Muslims should renew their pledge of obedience to the messenger of God regardless of the events which might take place henceforth. Those Muslims who gave this pledge are called "Companions of the Tree".

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The Quraish didn't want unnecessary bloodshed especially after seeing the resolution of the Muslims. They thus sent Suhayl bin Amr to the camp of the Muslims to conclude a treaty with the Prophet of Islam.

Some of the terms of this treaty were;-

- 1) There would be peace between the Muslims and Quraish for a period of ten years from the date of the signing of the treaty.
- 2) The Muslims would visit Makka to perform the pilgrimage in the following year but they would not stay for more than 3 days and the only weapons that they were allowed were swords.

This treaty is called the "Treaty of Hudaibiyya". It is the most important political document in the history of Islam. The secretary selected to indite its terms was Ali bin Abu Talib.

His mission was accomplished thus the Holy Prophet left Hudaibiyya with the pilgrims to return to Medina when the following verse came from heaven:-

"Verily we have granted thee a manifest victory"(Chap 48, Verse 1)

The treaty of Hudaibiyya brought many advantages to Islam, some of which are:-

- 1) The Quraish of Makka acknowledged the Holy Prophet as an equal person
- 2) The Muslims who lived in Makka and were afraid of the idolaters and could not practice their faith openly but after this treaty they began to practice Islam openly.

Badr and Kahndaq were a physical victory for the survival of Islam. And yet the Holy Quran didn't call either of them a manifest victory. In the sight of the Holy Quran, the Treaty of Hudaibiyya alone was a Manifest Victory.

Eighteen Months after signing this treaty, The Holy Prophet conquered Makka accompanied by 10,000 beleivers. The conquest of Makka was a direct result to this treaty.