

TAHMEED INSTITUTE SEERAH PART 8

Polytheists boycott the Muslims, Grief and Sorrow Afflict the Prophet

(صلى الله
عليه وسلم)

Polytheists boycott the Muslims:

Abu Talib Fearing escalating dangers to his nephew, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم), rallied close relatives from Banu Hashim and Banu Al-Muttalib, urging them to shield the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) from harm. Despite differing beliefs about Islam, all agreed to protect him, except Abu Lahab, who, though an uncle, aligned with the idol-worshippers.

Frustrated by their failed attempts to stop the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and with the new alliance of Banu Hashim and Banu Al-Muttalib, the Quraish escalated their tactics. They convened and formed a coalition, swearing an oath to sever all ties with the two clans—no trade, intermarriage, social interactions, or even verbal communication—until the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was surrendered to them. This harsh pact, written by Bagheed ibn 'Amir ibn Hisham, was hung on the Ka'bah's wall, and the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) invoked and cursed its author.

The oppressive boycott began.

Abu Talib led Banu Hashim and Banu Al-Muttalib to a valley outside Makkah, where the boycott took effect in Muharram of the seventh year of Prophethood. The clans endured severe deprivation, as polytheists hoarded food supplies entering Makkah and inflated prices for what little was available. The boycotted clans often resorted to eating tree leaves and animal hides, with children suffering from hunger's cries. Occasionally, a few compassionate individuals smuggled small amounts of food to them.

To protect the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم), Abu Talib took extreme precautions, having him sleep in one place but moving him to another after others slept, thwarting potential assassins. Despite the hardship, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) continued to worship openly when possible and preached to visitors in Makkah for trade or pilgrimage.

As the boycott dragged on for three years, dissent grew among some Makkans as they had kinship ties with the oppressed. Hisham ibn 'Amr, who secretly supplied food to the boycotted, gathered four others to form a group went to the kaaba where a group of polytheist were demanding the pact's end. They confronted Quraish leaders, including Abu Jahl, arguing the agreement was made without their consent.

During this dispute, Abu Talib, then around eighty, approached and shared a revelation received by the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم): ants had eaten the unjust parts of the boycott document, leaving only the portions bearing Allah's Name intact. He staked the Prophet's (صلى الله عليه وسلم) surrender on the truth of this claim. When the Makkans inspected the document and found it as described, they relented, nullifying the pact. The boycotted clans were finally allowed to return home, ending the cruel three-year ordeal.

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Grief and Sorrow Afflict the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) :

Death of Abu Talib:

Several months after the boycott's end, in Rajab or Ramadan of the 10th year of Prophethood, Abu Talib fell gravely ill. On his deathbed, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) visited him, finding Abu Jahl and Abdullah ibn Abi Umayyah already present. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) earnestly urged Abu Talib to embrace Islam by declaring that none is worthy of worship except Allah, so he could testify to his faith before Allah. Abu Jahl and his companion, however, pressured Abu Talib to cling to the religion of his forefathers, citing family ties and fear of disgrace. Despite the Prophet's (صلى الله عليه وسلم) repeated pleas, Abu Talib passed away adhering to the faith of Abdul Muttalib, without uttering the Shahadah.

Moved by grief, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) vowed, "By Allah, I will continuously seek forgiveness for you until I am forbidden." Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) then revealed, "It is not fitting for the Prophet and believers to seek forgiveness for polytheists, even if they are kin, after it is clear they are destined for the Fire due to their disbelief." [Surah At-Tawbah, 113] Later, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said of Abu Talib, "He is in a shallow fire, and were it not for me, he would be in the depths of Hellfire." [Sahih al-Bukhari]

Death of Khadeejah (رضي الله عنها):

In Ramadan of the same year, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) faced another profound loss with the passing of his wife, Khadeejah (رضي الله عنها) who was aged 65 years old. Since the revelation in the Cave of Hira, she had been an unwavering pillar of support in his household. For 25 years, she stood by the greatest man, bearing most of his children.

Years later, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) reflected, "She believed in me when others rejected me, trusted me when others called me a liar, and supported me with her presence and wealth when others turned away. Allah blessed me with children through her, unlike others." [Musnad Ahmad, Authentic]

The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) later referred to this 10th year of his prophethood as "the Year of Sorrow," marking the immense grief of losing both Abu Talib and Khadeejah (رضي الله عنها).

Marriage to saudah:

In the tenth year the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) married saudah bint Zam'ah , . She was an early convert whose husband was also a convert and migrated to Abyssinia in the second migration and died there.

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