

TAHMEED INSTITUTE

SEERAH PART 10

The Call to Islam Spreads Far and Wide and The Two Aqabah Pledges

The Call to Islam Spreads Far and Wide:

Despite receiving nothing but atrocious behaviour from the people of Taif, the **Prophet's** (ﷺ) conviction to spread Islam did not diminish in the least. As the pilgrimage was approaching, so too were pilgrims from far and wide. The **Prophet** (ﷺ) left no stoned unturned in the struggle to spread Islam.

He (ﷺ) approached many tribes but his efforts did not bear fruits. He initially approached **Banu Abdillah**, by trying to appeal to them using their father's beautiful name (i.e. **Abdullah**). He (ﷺ) approached **Banu Hanifah**, who rejected the message of Islam in the most repulsive manner. He (ﷺ) approached **Banu 'Amir Ibn Sa'sa'ah**, who were willing to enter the fold of Islam if they were granted leadership after the **Prophet** (ﷺ)!

He (ﷺ) received favourable responses from individuals when they were approached independent of their tribes. Some of those who entered the fold of Islam at this stage were:

- **Suwaid Ibn Samit (رضي الله عنه):**

A poet from Madinah, his people called him '**al-Kamil**' (**the perfect**) because of his lineage, poetry, nobility and family. He accepted Islam in the 11th year of Prophethood at the hands of the **Prophet** (ﷺ). He was killed in the fighting between the Aws and Khazraj tribes.

- **Eyas Ibn Muaadh (رضي الله عنه):**

He came to Makkah with his tribe Aws, seeking alliance with Quraish against Khazraj, who were the other major tribe in Madinah. Upon being presented Islam by the **Prophet** (ﷺ) and hearing some Quranic verses, he accepted Islam, to the dislike of his accompanying group. He too passed away shortly afterwards.

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- **Abu Dharr Al-Ghifari (رضي الله عنه)**

He was from the suburbs of Madinah. Upon hearing about the **Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)**, he sent his brother to investigate and bring news. Seeing that his brother did not bring beneficial knowledge on the matter, **Abu Dharr** himself set out for Makkah. After some efforts and struggle, he found the **Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)** and requested that he present Islam to him. He was instantly impressed by what he heard and embraced Islam. With the new-found energy in life, **Abu Dharr (رضي الله عنه)** set out to proclaim his Islam publicly. Some men from Quraish were so enraged that they severely beat him. This could have resulted in something more severe for him had **Abbas Ibn Abdul Muttalib** not interfered on his behalf.

- **Tufail Ibn 'Amr Al-Dawsi (رضي الله عنه)**

He was the chief of the Daws tribe, which was situated close to present day Yemen. Being an honest and well-respected poet, he arrived in Makkah in the 11th year of Prophethood to a great reception by Quraish befitting of such a personality. Without wasting time, Quraish poisoned his mind against the **Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)** and clouded it with falsehood so much that at times, he would put cotton in his ear just to avoid hearing the **Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)**.

But one day, Allah's will led him to the masjid. Out of curiosity, he listened to the **Prophet's (صلى الله عليه وسلم)** recitation. With the temptation reaching an irresistible level, he then followed the **Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)** to his house. Being the talented poet that he was, **Tufail (رضي الله عنه)** grasped the beauty of the Quran and embraced Islam. He began by inviting his father and wife to Islam, both of whom immediately followed suit. His people, however, were initially reluctant but with time, many started to enter Islam as a result of the enthusiastic preaching by **Tufail**. He was martyred on the day of Yamaamah, after the death of the **Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)**.

Promising signs from Madinah:

Among the groups of tribes that had come to Makkah for pilgrimage during the 11th year of Prophethood was Khazraj from Madinah. The **Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)** presented Islam to a group of six men and they immediately realized that **he (صلى الله عليه وسلم)** was the Prophet, the one the Jews of Madinah were waiting for. The men accepted Islam and after returning to Madinah, began to preach Islam with full zeal and succeeded in winning many supporters for Islam.

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The Two Aqabah Pledges:

The First Aqabah Pledge:

Despite the people of Makkah knowing the **Prophet** (ﷺ) very well, both before and after Prophethood, it was the people of Madinah who started to accept Islam in larger numbers. After the six men from the Khazraj embraced Islam, they invited many others in Madinah, many of whom readily entered the fold of Islam.

Five of these six men returned the following year (i.e. the 12th year of Prophethood) along with seven new people. All of them readily accepted the **Prophet Muhammad** (ﷺ) as the final prophet of **Allah** (سبحانه وتعالى) and pledged their allegiance to him. **Mus'ab Ibn Umair** (رضي الله عنه) became the first Muslim ambassador when the **Prophet** (ﷺ) sent him with the twelve men to Madinah to convey the teachings of Islam to the people.

Islam rapidly spread from house to house, and from tribe to tribe. Shortly before the pilgrimage season of the 13th year, **Mus'ab** returned to Makkah and shared news about the nascent fertile ground in Madinah.

The Second Aqabah Pledge:

More than seventy Muslims came from Madinah in the 13th year of Prophethood to perform the rituals of pilgrimage in Makkah. The frequent question among them was: “Is it not high time for us to protect **Muhammad** (ﷺ) instead of leaving him abandoned, deserted and stumbling in the hillocks of Makkah?”

They agreed with the **Prophet** (ﷺ) to meet him secretly at night during the **tashreeq** days (11th, 12th and 13th days of Dhul Hijjah). The meeting place was to be the hillock at **Al-'Aqabah**, same as the previous year. The **seventy-three men and two women** pledged the following:

1. To listen and obey in every difficulty and ease
2. To spend in plenty as well as in scarcity
3. To enjoin good and forbid evil
4. In Allah's service, they will fear the censure of none

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5. To aid the **Prophet** (ﷺ) when he migrates to Madinah, and to protect him from anything they protect themselves, their spouses and their children from

One of the people asked, “What is our reward if we observe all the stipulations of this pact? The **Prophet** (ﷺ) replied, “Paradise is in store for you.” At that, the **Prophet** (ﷺ) stretched out his hand and took the pledge from all the males. With the two women, **he** (ﷺ) took the pledge orally instead.

When whispers of this pledge leaked to the Quraish, they understood its far-reaching ramifications. The next morning, a large number of Makkans went to the camp where the pilgrims from Madinah were staying. Upon being questioned, the polytheists among the group from Madinah, who were completely unaware of the pledge, answered emphatically to the allegations and were able to somewhat calm the Quraish down that no such pledge had taken place. None of the Muslims from Madinah spoke.

The Quraish were not fully convinced and tried to verify the reports but by the time they established beyond a shadow of doubt that the secret meeting did take place, the pilgrims from Madinah had departed. Some laid chase and were able to capture **Sa'd Ibn Ubaadah** (رضي الله عنه). They subjected him to unspeakable torture before two people who had trade relations with **Sa'd**, including **Mut'im Ibn 'Adi**, were able to rescue him. **Mut'im Ibn 'Adi** is the same person who had previously ensured the safe reentry of the **Prophet** (ﷺ) into Makkah after he returned from Taif.