

The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions

Sa'd bin Mu'adh رضي الله عنه

**THE TRUE
SUPPORTER
OF ISLAM**

By: Abdul Basit Ahmad

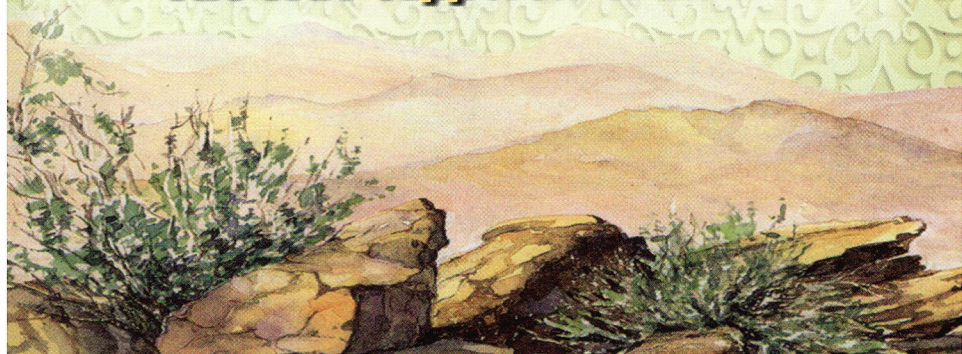
Edited by: Aqeel Walker & Muhammad Ayub Sapra

The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions

سعد بن معاذ رضي الله عنه — مؤيد الإسلام

Sa'd bin Mu'adh رضي الله عنه

The True Supporter of Islam





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Edited by

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Muhammad Ayub Sapra



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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 of books, *'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 the following story, titled *'Sa'd bin Mu'adh ؓ – the true Supporter of Islam'*, you will read about one of the most famous Companions of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, Sa'd bin Mu'adh ؓ. He was one of the earliest converts to Islam in Al-Madinah and one of the chiefs of Bani Abdul Ash-hal, a clan living in Al-Madinah.

He had embraced Islam before seeing the Prophet ﷺ and invited his whole tribe to embrace the new religion. When he died in his bed a smell of musk was coming from his body. The Prophet ﷺ said:

“Congratulations to you Sa'd! You have fulfilled

your promise and verily Allâh will keep his promise to you.”

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)

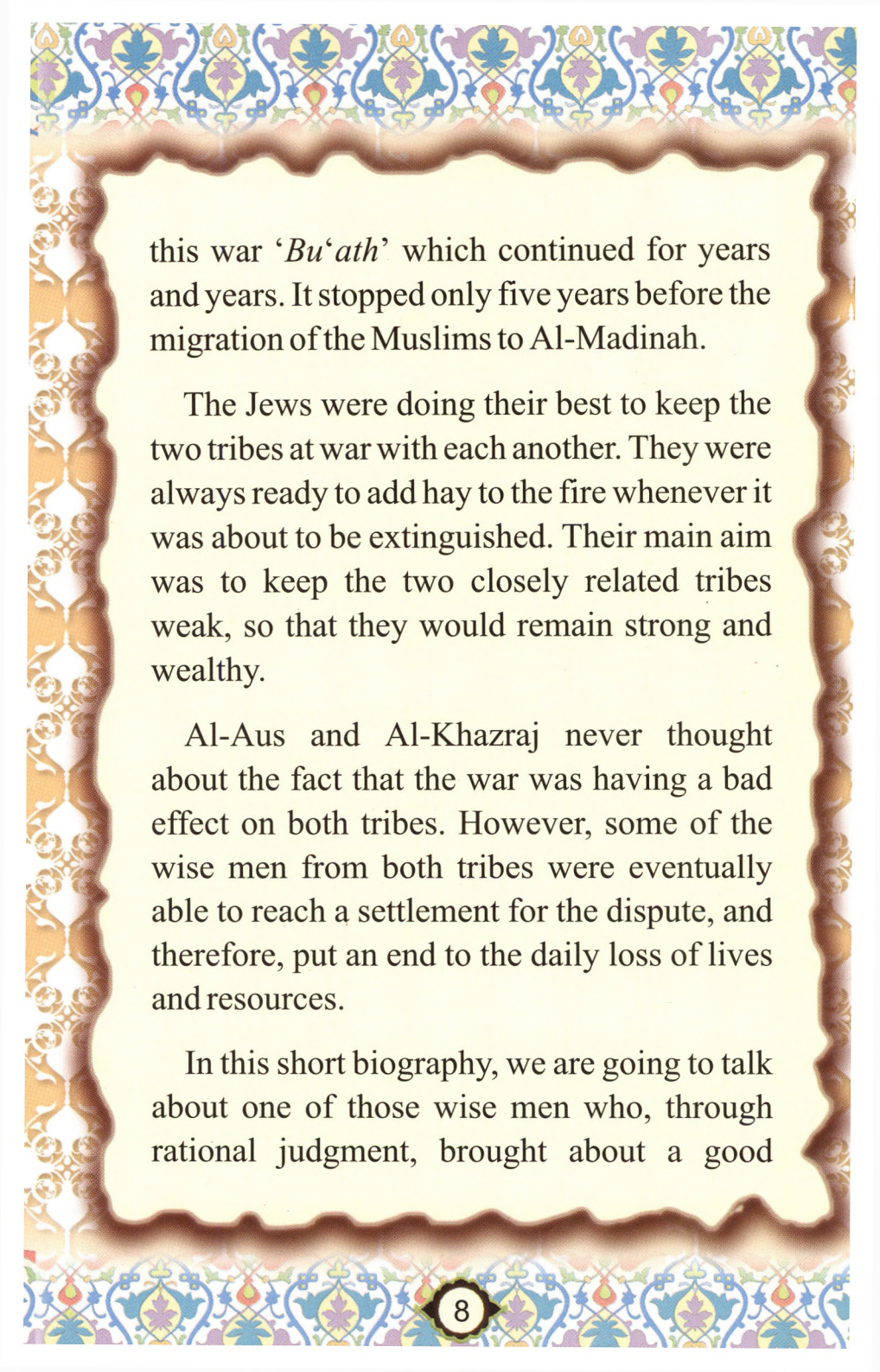
And our final word is that all praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager

Foreword

Before the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ received revelation from Allâh, the Arab tribes in the Arabian Peninsula were waging constant wars against each another. These wars often lasted many years. No one among tribe members except chieftains had the right to question the validity of the causes for which these wars were waged. Some of these wars erupted just because a member of a tribe might have killed a camel belonging to a man from another tribe or because a woman from one tribe insulted a woman from another tribe.

The people who inhabited Yathrib (Al-Madinah) were members of two closely related tribes, namely Al-Aus and Al-Khazraj. The two tribes engaged in a war that depleted most of their resources and left them weak in the face of the Jews who also lived in Al-Madinah with the two tribes. They called



this war '*Bu'ath*' which continued for years and years. It stopped only five years before the migration of the Muslims to Al-Madinah.

The Jews were doing their best to keep the two tribes at war with each another. They were always ready to add hay to the fire whenever it was about to be extinguished. Their main aim was to keep the two closely related tribes weak, so that they would remain strong and wealthy.

Al-Aus and Al-Khazraj never thought about the fact that the war was having a bad effect on both tribes. However, some of the wise men from both tribes were eventually able to reach a settlement for the dispute, and therefore, put an end to the daily loss of lives and resources.

In this short biography, we are going to talk about one of those wise men who, through rational judgment, brought about a good

solution between the two tribes.

Our hero, Sa'd bin Mu'adh ؓ, was the chief of Bani Abdul Ash-hal, a clan living in Al-Madinah. He had embraced Islam before seeing the Prophet ﷺ and invited his whole tribe to embrace the new religion. As soon as he listened to the true Word of Allâh, he declared with all sincerity that he was fully devoted to support the Message of Islam. He did his best to support the Prophet ﷺ and the new call of guidance until the last moment of his life.

Let us together learn something about one of those great men who built the great Islamic State and who sacrificed their lives in defense of the ultimate truth.

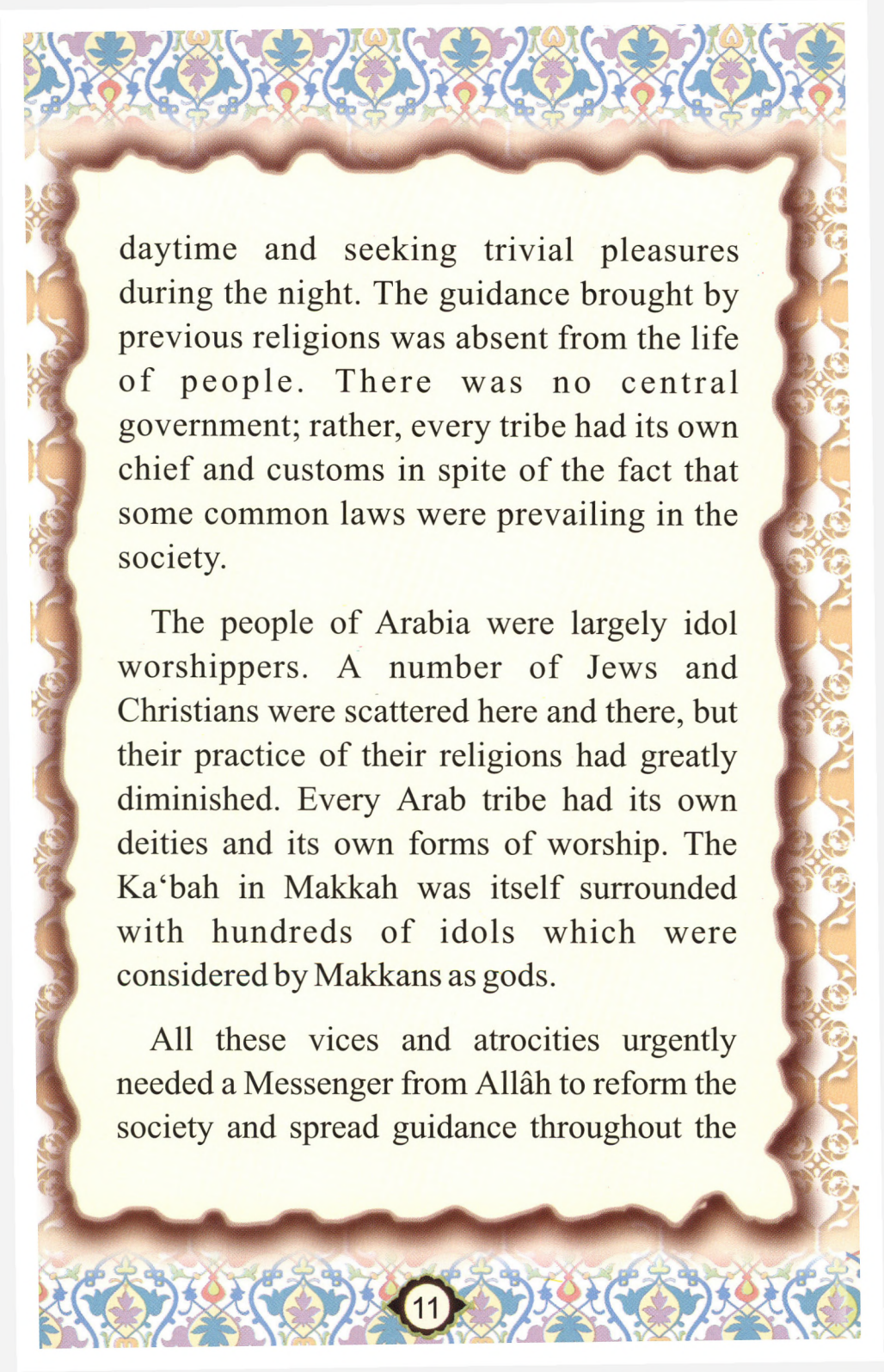
Abdul-Basit Ahmad

Introduction

Arabs before the rise of Islam

The Arab society in the Arabian Peninsula and surrounding areas mainly 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. These tribes were usually involved in wars amongst each other. Every tribe was invading and invaded by other tribes.

The gloom that loomed over the Arabian Peninsula and the world in general before the rise of Islam killed nearly every virtue in the minds and hearts of human beings at that time. 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 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 were largely idol worshippers. A number of Jews and Christians were scattered here and there, but their practice of their religions had greatly diminished. Every Arab tribe had its own deities and its own forms of worship. The Ka'bah in Makkah was itself surrounded with hundreds of idols which were considered by Makkans as gods.

All these vices and atrocities urgently needed a Messenger from Allâh to reform the society and spread guidance throughout the

Arabian Peninsula in particular and the world in general.

Advent of Islam

The child Muhammad ﷺ grew up in such an environment. 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 known to be sincere and trustworthy 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 of standing before any idol pleading for help. He sometimes engaged in trade on behalf of wealthy men. 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 over 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.

The Prophet ﷺ spent thirteen years in Makkah calling the people of Makkah and its surrounding areas to accept Islam. However, he did not realize much success.

He visited some nearby towns like Tâ'if to preach Islam and to seek protection against oppression. His attempts did not meet success.

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.

Values and Morals called by the Prophet ﷺ

The first thing the Prophet ﷺ called people to adopt was to worship One Allâh. He told people that the stones they were worshipping were just stones made by them and that they did not deserve to be worshipped. These stones were not the real creators of this vast universe. They could not bring their worshippers any good or cause them any harm. The Prophet ﷺ urged people to stop burying their daughters alive. These little girls were given the right by Allâh to live and no one should deprive them of this sacred right. He also urged them to be just to their slaves and not to be hard on them. He invited the different tribes to stop invading each other and to unite their efforts under the banner of Islam to become a real nation. He also preached against all vices and evils that were spreading amongst the people.

Followers of Islam

In the beginning of the call, most of those who accepted

Islam were weak people and slaves. They found justice and truth in the principles preached by the Prophet ﷺ. Although some of the early believers held good positions in their society, they also received their share of oppression and torture. These followers were worshipping Allâh secretly. They faced the challenge with courage and steadfastness. All means to make them abandon their faith were of no avail. The torture they received at the hands of the pagans did not succeed in making them even say one word against their faith. Some of them were even killed under torture.

Attempts of the Quraish to Stop the Call

The chiefs of the Quraish were furious to see Islam spread among people. In the beginning, they tried their best to make the followers of Islam recant. When they could not force the believers to give up their faith, they began accusing the Prophet ﷺ of things that they themselves knew were untrue. They alleged that Muhammad ﷺ was a magician or a liar, although they themselves used to call him the Trustworthy. However, all their attempts were of no avail. They followed another direction. They began

negotiating with the Prophet ﷺ and his uncle to reach a compromise. They told the Prophet ﷺ that they would make him a king or give him all the money he might ask for. However, the Prophet ﷺ rejected all of their worldly proposals and continued preaching the message of Islam to all humanity.




The Beginning

The Man

Sa'd bin Mu'adh was the chief of Bani Abdul Ash-hal, a branch of Al-Khazraj tribe. He was a man of dignity, honor and wisdom. He was the most well spoken person of his tribe. He was also very strong and brave when it came to facing enemies.

Like the rest of the Arabs in the Arabian Peninsula, Sa'd and his tribe worshipped idols made of stone. The Jews who were their neighbors knew that they were leading a misguided life, but they never tried to help guide them. On the contrary, they were always threatening them that a new Prophet would appear in Arabia. They told them that they would follow the new Prophet and defeat them.

Four hundred kilometers away from Yathrib, Muhammad ﷺ started calling the Quraish and the other tribes in Makkah to Islam. The few people who believed in the message of Islam were subjected to oppression and all kinds of bad treatment at the hands of the chiefs



of the Quraish. However these few people were very strong in their belief in Islam and kept steadfast to their faith.

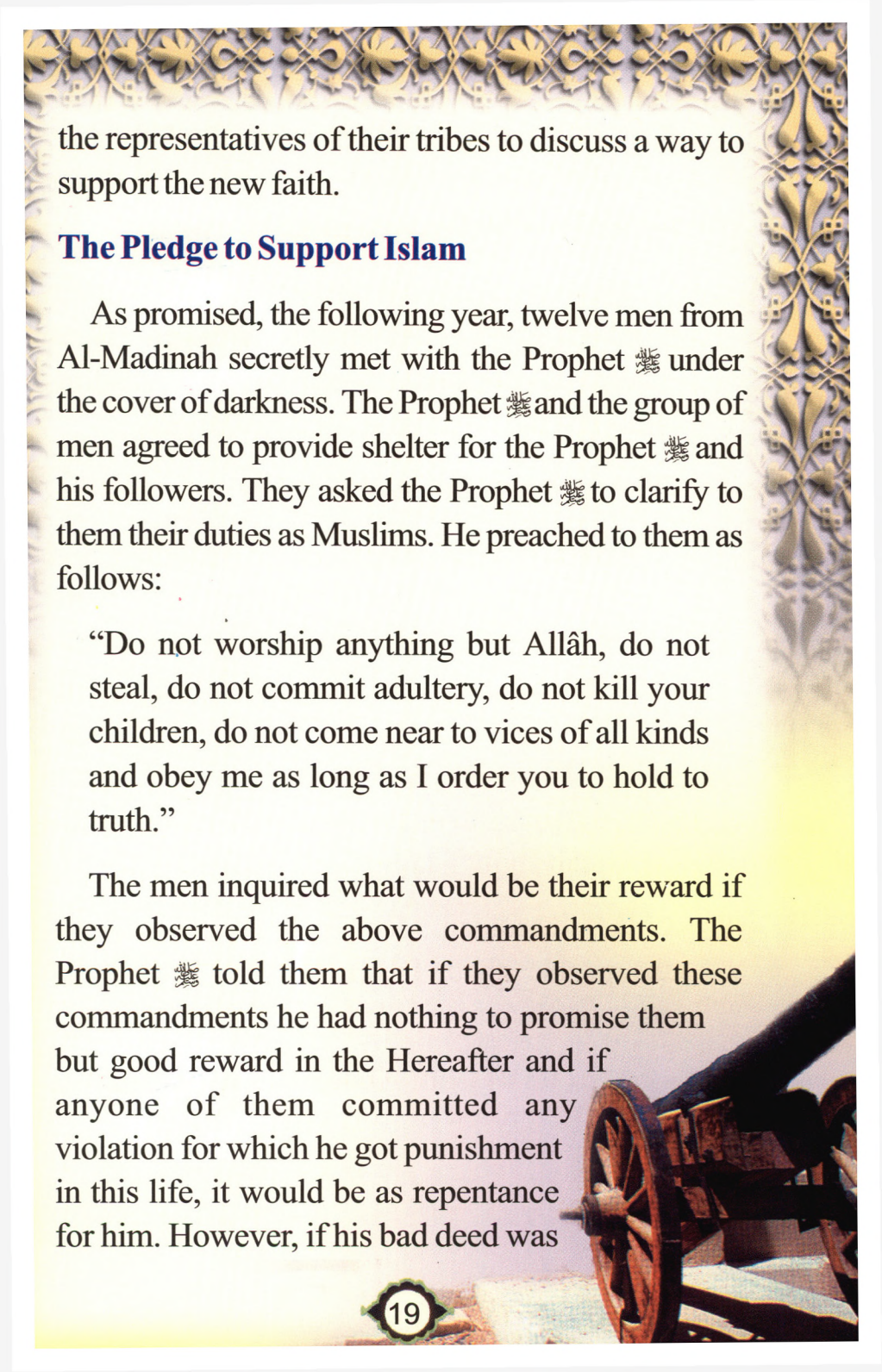
The Prophet's endeavours to spread Islam

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was doing his best to spread the message of Islam. He went to the city of Tâ'if in hopes that the people of Tâ'if would accept Islam. Unfortunately, the people of Tâ'if not only rejected the message, but also insulted him and turned him out of their city.

The people of Al-Madinah accept Islam

The following year a group of men from Al-Madinah visited Makkah to perform pilgrimage. They heard of the message of Islam. They met the Prophet ﷺ, listened to him carefully and believed that he was the Messenger of Allâh. They all accepted Islam.

The Prophet ﷺ asked them to provide him protection so that he would be able to continue his effort in spreading Islam. The group of men discussed the Prophet's proposal and promised to come back the following year with



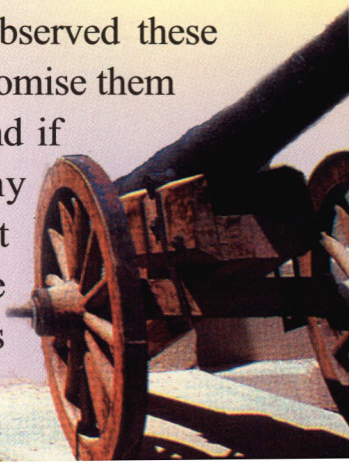
the representatives of their tribes to discuss a way to support the new faith.


The Pledge to Support Islam

As promised, the following year, twelve men from Al-Madinah secretly met with the Prophet ﷺ under the cover of darkness. The Prophet ﷺ and the group of men agreed to provide shelter for the Prophet ﷺ and his followers. They asked the Prophet ﷺ to clarify to them their duties as Muslims. He preached to them as follows:

“Do not worship anything but Allâh, do not steal, do not commit adultery, do not kill your children, do not come near to vices of all kinds and obey me as long as I order you to hold to truth.”

The men inquired what would be their reward if they observed the above commandments. The Prophet ﷺ told them that if they observed these commandments he had nothing to promise them but good reward in the Hereafter and if anyone of them committed any violation for which he got punishment in this life, it would be as repentance for him. However, if his bad deed was





kept covered, he would be left to the Judgment of Allâh, and Allâh alone would have the right to punish or forgive him in the Hereafter.

They all accepted these commandments, left back to Al-Madinah and started calling to Islam. In no time, Islam began spreading amongst the inhabitants of Al-Madinah.

The Ambassador and Teacher

However, the people of Al-Madinah had very little knowledge of Islam. They were keen to learn more and more about the religion. So, they asked the Prophet ﷺ to send them someone to teach them more about Islam. The Prophet ﷺ decided to send Mus'ab bin 'Umair ؓ to teach the new Muslims in Al-Madinah about Islam.

In Al-Madinah, Mus'ab bin 'Umair ؓ taught the people about Islam. He was helped and protected by a man called As'd bin Zurarah ؓ.

A group of Bani Abdul Ash-hal heard that

the Prophet's representative was teaching the people not to worship idols and to worship the Allâh Alone who was the Creator of everything. They were very angry with this and decided to warn the representative and his supporter.

Sa'd Challenges Islam

Sa'd bin Mu'adh and Usayd bin Hudhair, the chiefs of the clan came to the conclusion that Usayd should prevent Mus'ab ؓ and his supporter from spreading the message of Islam amongst the clan members. Usayd immediately went to the two men and threatened them that he would kill them if they continued to call people to Islam.

Mus'ab ؓ was a very wise representative of the Prophet ﷺ. He asked Usayd to listen to the message of Islam and if he was convinced with the message he should accept it. However, if he rejected it, then he would not bother him or his clan with the message of Islam.

Usayd agreed to listen to Mus'ab ﷺ. Mus'ab ﷺ recited some Verses of the Qur'ân. Usayd's heart was very much touched by the Verses. He immediately accepted Islam. Usayd ﷺ told Mus'ab ﷺ that Sa'd bin Mu'adh was waiting to hear the news of his meeting with him. He told him that if he could convince Sa'd bin Mu'adh to accept Islam it would be a great step forward.

Usayd ﷺ left the two men and went back to Sa'd and the rest of his tribesmen. As he was approaching them, they could see that Usayd ﷺ had changed.

As soon as Sa'd heard that Usayd ﷺ had accepted Islam, he immediately took out his sword in a rage of anger, and went off to see Mus'ab and As'd رضي الله عنهما. Sa'd threatened both Mus'ab and As'd bin Zurarah to stop calling the people to Islam or they would have to face some very bad consequences.

Again, Mus'ab ﷺ asked Sa'd to listen to the

message of Islam. If he accepted it, it would be good, and if he rejected the message of Islam, then he would not talk to him or his tribe members about the new religion. Sa'd accepted Mus'ab's proposal. He calmly sat down and listened to Mus'ab ﷺ explaining the principles of Islam. As soon as Mus'ab ﷺ finished reciting the Verses of the Noble Qur'ân, Sa'd knew that Islam was the true religion of Allâh. He immediately became a Muslim.

Sa'd ﷺ Preaches Islam

Sa'd ﷺ went back to his tribesmen who were waiting to know from him the outcome of the meeting. Sa'd ﷺ was a different man from the one who had left them a while ago. He addressed them saying: "What is my rank among you?" They replied:

"You are our chief, a wise man and of the best morals."

Sa'd ﷺ told them that he would isolate himself from them unless they believed in

Allâh and His Messenger ﷺ. All the tribe members accepted Sa‘d’s proposal and became Muslims.

Meanwhile, the Prophet ﷺ and the Muslims in Makkah received the good news that Sa‘d had become a Muslim. They were very happy to have a strong supporter of Islam.

Sa‘d ؓ Destroys Symbols of Idolatry

Sa‘d ؓ was aware that the total change that he had undergone would not be complete unless and until he destroyed the roots of idolatry in the city. He, with Usayd bin Hudhair ؓ, took axes and destroyed the idols that had been worshipped by the people in Al-Madinah. Sa‘d ؓ had left behind the life of ignorance that he was leading. He had now started a new purposeful life.

Longing to see the Prophet ﷺ

Sa‘d ؓ was very keen to meet the Prophet ﷺ to be able to listen to him directly. He was longing to see the day when he would see the Prophet ﷺ face to face, talk to him and listen to his sweet words.

A year later, along with seventy other men and women, Sa'd رضي الله عنه left Al-Madinah to Makkah to meet the Prophet ﷺ. He kept awake all the night before meeting the Prophet ﷺ. In the meeting, the Prophet ﷺ advised Sa'd رضي الله عنه and his colleagues to obey him, to give alms to the poor, to have good morals, to abandon wickedness, to support the cause of Allâh in every way possible, to support him if he migrated to their land and to protect him as they would protect themselves and their families.

Sa'd رضي الله عنه and his colleagues accepted the Prophet's commandments. He returned to Al-Madinah convinced that the message of Islam would spread over Arabia.

The Migration

As the Prophet ﷺ was sure that Sa'd رضي الله عنه and his tribesmen were serious about their belief in Islam and ready to provide him with protection, he ordered his Companions to leave Makkah to Al-Madinah.

The Muslims started leaving to Al-Madinah secretly. In Al-Madinah, they received warm

welcome by the people. They provided them with all means to start a new life in their town.

Welcoming the Prophet ﷺ in Al-Madinah

When the Prophet ﷺ was sure that all the Muslims had left Makkah and settled in Al-Madinah, he told his closest Companion, Abu Bakr ؓ, that it was time for both of them to leave together to Al-Madinah.

The Quraish plotted to prevent the Prophet ﷺ from migrating to Al-Madinah. They agreed to gather forty strong young men from all clans to kill the Prophet ﷺ.

Gabriel عليه السلام told the Prophet ﷺ that the pagans had decided to kill him and ordered him to leave the city. The Prophet ﷺ told his cousin, 'Ali bin Abi Tâlib ؓ to stay behind to give back trusts the Quraish people kept with the Prophet ﷺ and then to catch up with him in Al-Madinah.

Both the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr ؓ left in the dark. Although the forty young men were

surrounding the house of the Prophet ﷺ, he left his house without being noticed by them. Allâh protected him against their evil plots.

On the day of the Prophet's arrival to Al-Madinah, Sa'd ؓ led his people to the outskirts of Al-Madinah waiting to welcome the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion, Abu Bakr ؓ. As soon as the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion appeared in the horizon, Sa'd ؓ and his people welcomed them with cheers of happiness and joy. He was so happy to give shelter to the new message and to sacrifice all he had to see it victorious.

Building the New Islamic State

The first thing that the Prophet ﷺ did after settling down in Al-Madinah was to make ties of brotherhood among *Muhajirun* (migrants) and *Ansar* (supporters). Every supporter took one of the emigrants as his brother in Islam. They provided the emigrants with all means to help them settle

in Al-Madinah. Even they divided their property into two equal parts among themselves and the emigrants. Sa'd رضي الله عنه took Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas رضي الله عنه to his house as a new brother in Islam. He divided his money into two equal parts between him and Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas رضي الله عنه.




The Test

As days went by, Islam began gaining more power in Al-Madinah. Meanwhile, the Quraish in Makkah were filled with anger to see the Muslims safe and protected against their tyranny and oppression.

Permission to Fight Idolatry

The Muslims felt that they should take revenge against those who robbed their houses and belongings while they were in Makkah. They received news that a trade caravan belonging to the Quraish was heading back from Damascus to Makkah. So they decided to capture the caravan. Abu Sufyan, the leader of the caravan, came to know of the plan and quickly changed his route to Makkah. He eventually escaped the Muslims' capture. At the same time, he sent a messenger to Makkah informing them that their trade was in danger of being captured by the Muslims.



The Quraish outrageously gathered an army of one thousand fully armed men ready to save their trade and put an end to the Muslims. Although Abu Sufyan sent another messenger telling the Makkans that the caravan was now safe and intact and that there was no need to fight, the arrogant chieftains of the Quraish, especially Abu Jahl, were determined to destroy the new religion.

According to the agreement concluded between the Prophet ﷺ and supporters, the supporters were ready to protect the Prophet ﷺ while he remained inside their city. There was no mention of any mutual support outside the boundaries of Al-Madinah.

The emigrants asked the Prophet ﷺ to gather as many men as he could to be prepared to meet the army of the Quraish. The Prophet ﷺ, however, was not a man who would break his covenants. He wanted to be sure that the supporters would accept to fight with him outside the boundaries of Al-Madinah. Every time he was urged by the emigrants to march to meet the army of the Quraish, he insisted on knowing the opinion of the supporters. He kept

saying: 'I want your advice.'

Best in Faith, Best in War

During these difficult moments, the leader of the supporters, Sa'd bin Mu'adh ؓ stood up and said:


“It seems to me you mean us.”

The Prophet ﷺ replied: “Yes!”

Filled with the spirit that Islam had inspired in him, Sa'd bin Mu'adh ؓ said:

“You know, O Messenger of Allâh ﷺ, that we believed in your message and declared that the message you brought to us was true. We gave you the covenant and promise to support you, obey you and accept your orders. Do as you like. By Allâh, if you ask us even to cross this sea, no one among us would say no. We will never be discouraged to meet our enemy tomorrow. We are steadfast in the battle and sincere to our faith. By Allâh we will please you!”

These were the words of Sa'd ؓ. He was a real supporter of Islam. He knew Islam was the truth, and he



never hesitated when support was needed in the most difficult situations. He knew that Allâh had sent Muhammad ﷺ with the message of Islam and he would never leave him in any way unprotected.

The Prophet ﷺ was very happy to hear these words. He immediately gave orders to his Companions to march to Badr and promised them victory. Upon arrival at Badr, the Prophet ﷺ started preparing for the battle.

Sa'd ؓ being a man experienced with battles suggested that a command center be built for the Prophet ﷺ to direct the battle. He, with other Companions made a shade of palm branches for the Prophet ﷺ. He addressed the Prophet ﷺ saying:

“O Messenger of Allâh, you stay here. When the battle starts, it will either be our loss or victory. If we win the battle, it will be good for all of us; but if we lose, you just go back to Al-Madinah. Allâh knows we left behind people who are more truthful to you than we are.”

Sa'd ؓ knew that if the leader was killed, it would be the end of the whole message he was

commissioned to deliver. He, as a true Muslim, was ready to sacrifice himself and all his companions for the life of the Prophet ﷺ and the new faith. Sa'd ؓ was very sincere, a true advisor and supporter of Islam.


The Prophet ﷺ was very convinced that men like Sa'd ؓ would not, by any means, hesitate to offer anything they had to make Islam victorious. He praised Sa'd's good advice and accepted the proposal.

Just before the start of the battle, the Prophet ﷺ gave his final orders to the fighters and left the scene to the shade so that he could have a good command of the battlefield.

Sa'd bin Mu'adh ؓ was keen to protect the life of the Prophet ﷺ for he knew he would be targeted by the enemy to weaken the morale of the Muslim fighters. So, he asked the Prophet ﷺ to allow him and a few fighters to guard him. Sa'd ؓ stood with a sword in his hand challenging anyone who came close to the Prophet ﷺ. He was ready to fight to the end in order to keep the banner of Islam high.

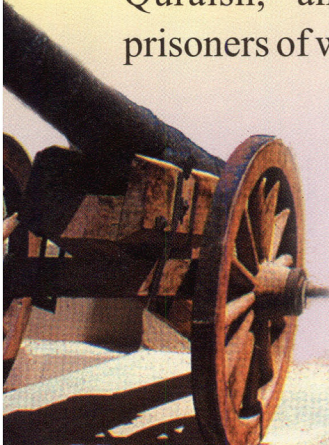
Both armies got ready for the fight





and warriors of both sides asked for a duel. Three strong men from the Quraish army advanced between the two armies and challenged anyone from the Muslim army to fight. The Prophet ﷺ asked three of his close relatives to respond to the challenge. The challenge ended with the murder of the three Quraishite soldiers.

Seeing the result of the challenge, the Muslim army members felt very strong and were longing to start the fight. The Prophet ﷺ however, asked them not to engage in direct combat. Instead, he asked archers to start shooting at the advancing pagan army. When both sides engaged in fierce fighting, the words ‘Allâh is the Greatest’ became louder and louder. In no time, the army of the Quraish began retreating and quitting the battlefield. The blows of the Muslim army surprised them. The battle ended with quick defeat of the army of the Quraish, and the Muslims began catching prisoners of war.



The Prophet ﷺ was praying to Allâh for victory. He turned his face to Sa’d رضي الله عنه to see signs of displeasure for taking the prisoners of war. He exclaimed:

“It seems you are not satisfied.”

Sa‘d رضي الله عنه replied:

“It is the first defeat for the pagans. It would be better to kill them in order to seed terror in their hearts so that they will never think of fighting the Muslims again.”

The heavenly confirmation of Sa‘d’s point of view immediately came down to the Prophet ﷺ stating:

“It is not (fitting) for a Prophet (ﷺ) that he should have prisoners of war until he had made a great slaughter in the land. You desire the goods of this world, but Allâh desires the Hereafter.” (8:67)

The harsh blow that the Quraish received at the battle of Badr added to their persistent plots to undermine Islam. Everyday that went by after the defeat, made the Quraish more and more determined to take revenge for their loss at Badr.

More Challenges

The following year, the Quraish

gathered a heavily armed army of three thousand men. This time they thought they would come back with the heads of the Muslims dragging behind their horses. They even aroused their slaves and women to share in what they thought to be the final battle against Muhammad ﷺ and his Companions.

The huge army headed to Al-Madinah with a fancy parade that had never been made before in the history of Arabia. Abu Sufyan led the army. It had many horsemen known for their strength and experience like Khaled bin Al-Waleed and ‘Amr bin Al-‘Aas.

The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions received the news of the advancing army and discussed amongst themselves the best way to face the challenge. Enthusiastic young men finally decided that the best solution would be to face the Makkan army outside Al-Madinah.

Consequences of Disobedience

On the way to the battlefield close to Mount Uhud, some hypocrites led by Abdullah bin Ubay retreated to Al-Madinah. They said that the Prophet ﷺ did not listen to their advice to stay inside Al-Madinah.

However, the rest of the Muslims continued their march to Uhud. The Prophet ﷺ began preparing for the battle and organizing the rows of his army. He deployed fifty archers over a small hill to protect the backs of the Muslim army. The Prophet ﷺ ordered the archers not to leave their positions whatever the result of the battle would be.

Fighting started fiercely between the Muslim and non-Muslim armies. Signs of victory began to show in favour of the Muslim army. The Muslims would have gained a second victory in this battle, but the archers whom the Prophet ﷺ had ordered not to leave their positions, decided to leave their positions when they saw that the army of the Quraish retreated. Their leader urged them to keep to their positions but many of them ignored his orders.

On the side of the non-Muslim army there was Khalid bin Al-Waleed with a group of horsemen waiting for something to change the course of the battle. As soon as he saw the archers leaving the top of the hill, he turned behind the hill, climbed it and killed the remaining archers. The course of the battle began to

change in favor of the non-Muslims. Many Muslim soldiers were killed. There was also a false rumor that the Prophet ﷺ had been killed. Hence, some Muslim soldiers began leaving the battlefield. They thought that it was not practical to fight after the death of the Prophet ﷺ. The battle ended with a heavy loss to the Muslims.

Sa'd bin Mu'adh ؓ was one of those people who held fast to their positions and fought the battle in the best way he could. He, along with a few other Muslims gathered around the Prophet ﷺ and put their souls in sacrifice for their faith and leader. Even though they received many blows by the non-Muslim army, they did not leave their positions or give their enemy a chance to achieve full triumph.

After the battle had ended, Sa'd ؓ discovered that his brother 'Amr ؓ had been killed. However, he kept steadfast. He knew that they were all seeking to be martyrs.

Like Mother, like Son

The Muslims gathered the bodies of their martyred soldiers, buried them and went back to Al-Madinah.

Sa'd's mother, among the other women who had received news of the defeat, went out of their houses waiting to meet the Muslims on their way back from Uhud. Sa'd's mother pushed her way forward and asked how the Prophet ﷺ was. Sa'd ﷺ told her that her son had been killed but she was more concerned about the Prophet of Allâh ﷺ.

Although she lost her son, she told the Prophet ﷺ that nothing in the world would be equal to his position in her heart.



The Trench

Jewish Conspiracies

The Quraish were very pleased with the victory they had gained over the Muslims. They thought that it would be easy for them to fight the last and fatal battle against the Muslims. The Jews in Al-Madinah were also very keen to put an end to the religion of Islam, especially since they saw how fast Islam was spreading. So, they connived with the Quraish and many of the other Arab tribes to destroy Islam. Although they had made promises with the Muslims to defend them, they broke their promises. The Bani Quraytha Jews sent envoys to Makkah to arouse the Quraish against the Muslims. They even promised to support them in their final battle against Islam.

The Quraish along with other tribes of Arabia gathered a huge army that had never been gathered before in the Arabian

Peninsula. With all their might they made their way to Al-Madinah with great dreams of putting an end to Islam and the Muslims.

The Muslims knew of the plot of their enemies. The Prophet ﷺ sought advice from his Companions on how to face the challenge. They discussed many options. However, all such options did not satisfy the Prophet ﷺ. At last, Salman Al-Farsi ؓ suggested that they should dig a trench around Al-Madinah in order to defend their city against the tremendous threat. Sa'd bin Mu'adh ؓ was very enthusiastic to carry out the plan. He took part in digging the trench. He spent days with the rest of his Muslim brothers to complete digging the trench before the arrival of their enemies. During the nights he kept open eyes to guard the trench in case the non-Muslims tried to cross over it.

The Prophet ﷺ sent Sa'd ؓ and other chiefs to the Jews to check what their position was. Sa'd ؓ found out that they did

not keep their promise to defend the Muslims. In fact they threatened to kill the envoys. The situation became very difficult for the Muslims. The Quraish were waiting outside Al-Madinah for the Muslims to surrender and the Jews were waiting inside Al-Madinah to see an end to Islam.

The Prophet ﷺ thought it would be better to negotiate a settlement with the major part of the non-Muslims' army that was the Ghatafan tribe. The Prophet ﷺ hoped that they would withdraw from the army.

He told his Companions that he would accept the Ghatafan tribe's proposal to take part of the Al-Madinah's fruit harvest if they accepted to leave the battlefield.

However, Sa'd ؓ decisively refused the proposal. He stood up in dignity and told the Prophet ﷺ that they should not surrender to the plots of the non-Muslims and they should fight them.

The Prophet ﷺ agreed to Sa'd's point of view. Sa'd ؓ said to the Prophet ﷺ:

“Let them remain as hard as they wish for we will never surrender.”

When the armies were ready to confront each other. Sa‘d ﷺ stood on the edge of the trench with his sword in his hand challenging the horsemen to cross over. Many of the non-Muslim soldiers tried to cross over the trench but they were all killed by Sa‘d ﷺ and his fellow soldiers.

On the other side of the trench, a cowardly soldier shot an arrow that hit the vein on Sa‘d’s arm. The other Muslim soldiers managed to move him to the back and tried their best to stop the bleeding.

Sa‘d felt that he was going to die. He prayed to Allâh to keep him alive until he was satisfied that the war with the non-Muslims had come to an end.

Skirmishes continued for some days between the two armies. The Quraishite army became desperate to find a way through to Al-Madinah. They decided to leave because the nights were very windy and cold. Allâh had sent His soldiers (high wind and cold) to support the Muslims in their fight against idolaters.

After the Quraishite army left back to Makkah, the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions put their arms aside. They finally felt safe after such a long period of siege.

Sa'd's wound was still bleeding. He stayed at home receiving treatment. The Prophet ﷺ visited him and prayed for his recovery.



The Just Judge

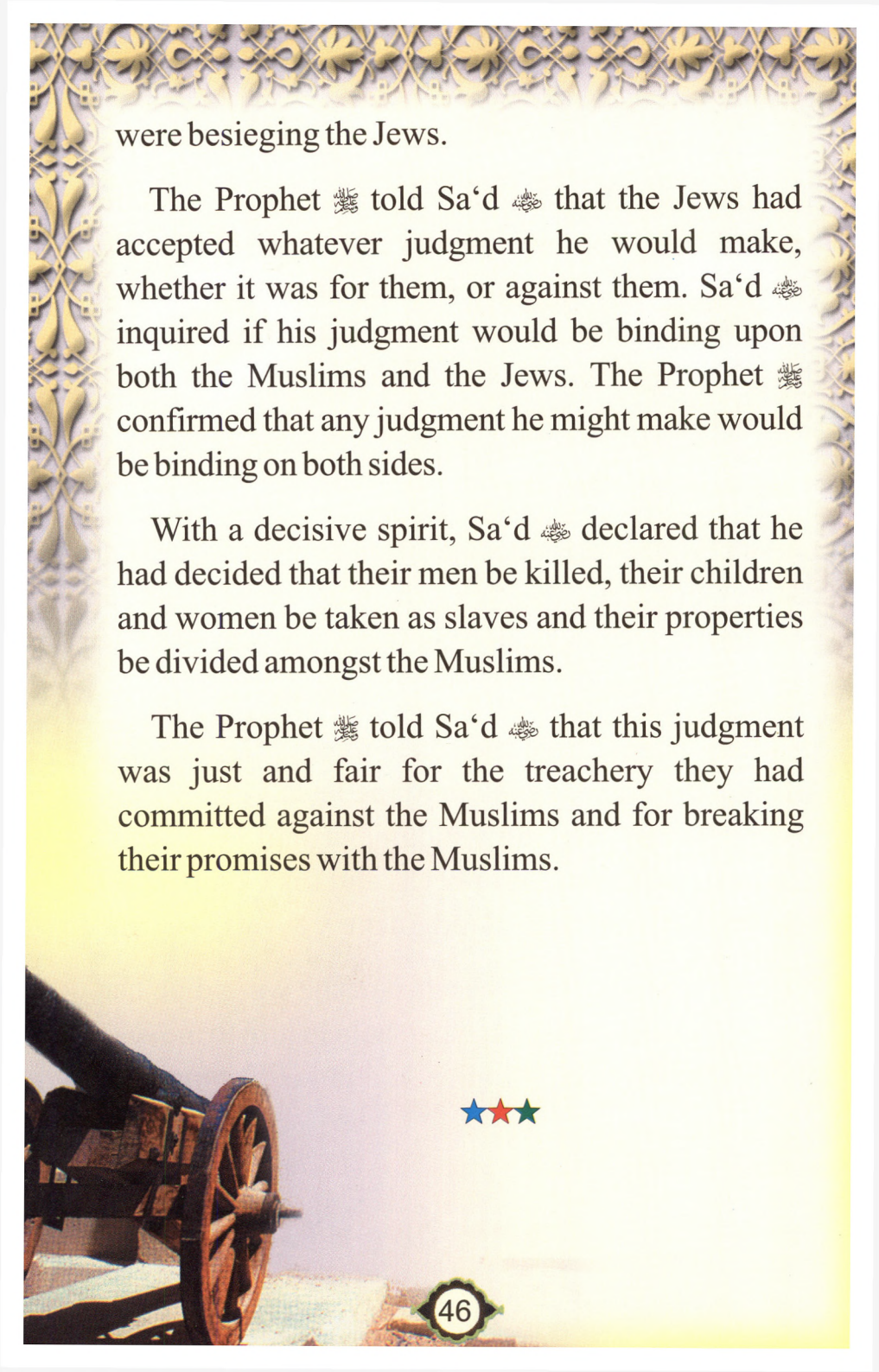
On the day the Quraishite army withdrew from the battlefield, the Prophet ﷺ was at his house when the angel Gabriel عليه السلام came down asking him to continue the war against the treacherous Jews. He told the Prophet ﷺ that he should gather his men and march to Bani Quraytha.

Punishing the Traitors

The Prophet ﷺ immediately led an army to besiege Bani Quraytha. The Jews had no choice but to surrender. They accepted Sa'd bin Mu'adh ؓ to be the judge regarding the conditions of surrender.

Many people tried their best to urge Sa'd ؓ into making a judgment in favor of the Jews. However, he did not accept making a judgment until he reached the place where the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions gathered to hear his final judgment.

Sa'd ؓ was very ill because of the wound he had received. His brothers in Islam helped him to move to the place where the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions



were besieging the Jews.

The Prophet ﷺ told Sa'd ؓ that the Jews had accepted whatever judgment he would make, whether it was for them, or against them. Sa'd ؓ inquired if his judgment would be binding upon both the Muslims and the Jews. The Prophet ﷺ confirmed that any judgment he might make would be binding on both sides.

With a decisive spirit, Sa'd ؓ declared that he had decided that their men be killed, their children and women be taken as slaves and their properties be divided amongst the Muslims.

The Prophet ﷺ told Sa'd ؓ that this judgment was just and fair for the treachery they had committed against the Muslims and for breaking their promises with the Muslims.



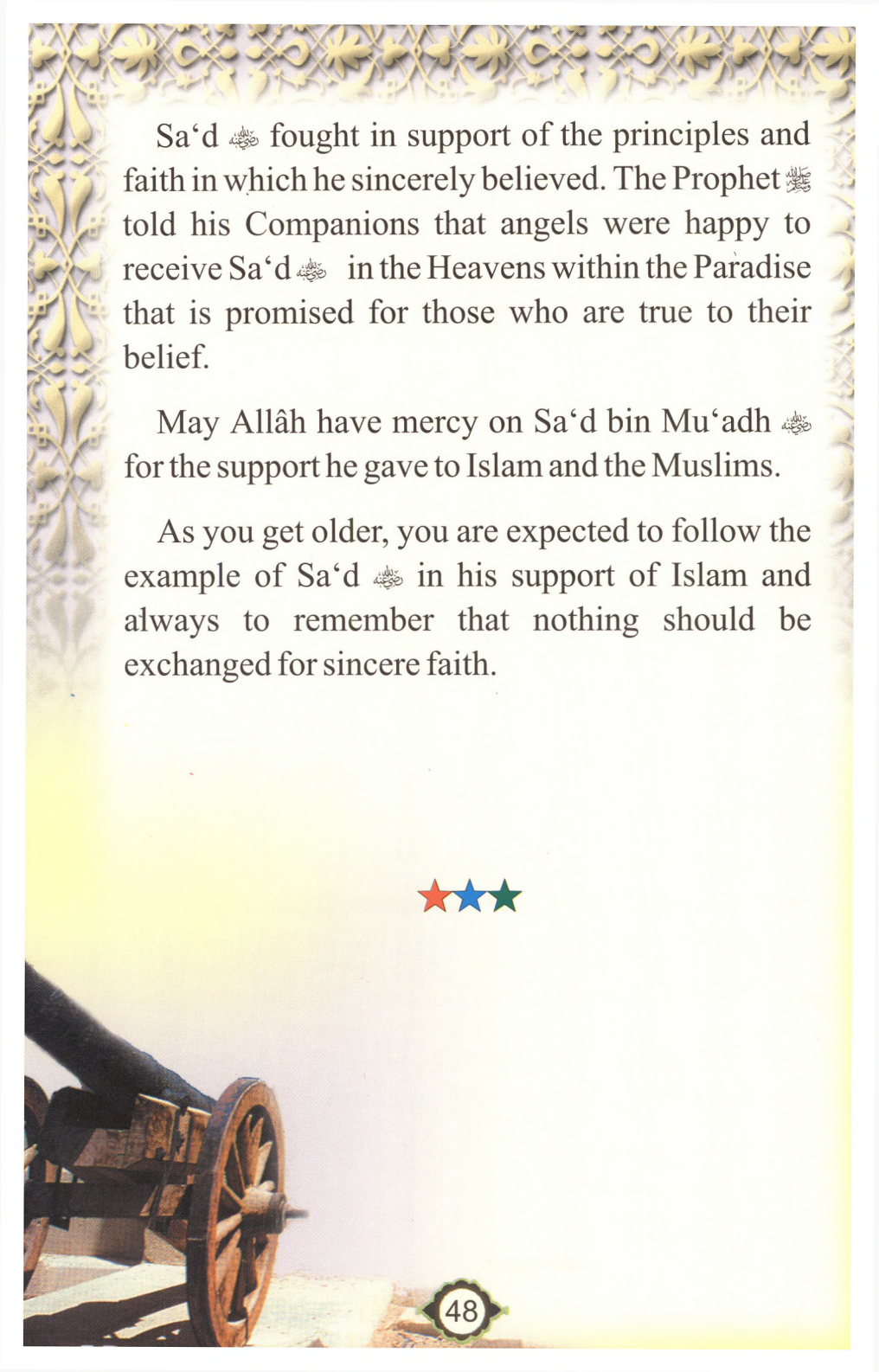
The End

Sa'd ؓ was now satisfied that his battle with the powers of gloom had come to an end. The wound he had suffered at the battle of the Trench was now and then profusely bleeding. He had become very ill. The Prophet ﷺ visited Sa'd ؓ to find him desperately ill and about to leave this world. He took Sa'd's head and put it in his lap and said:

“I bear witness before Allâh that he has fought for the sake of Allâh with faith and sincerity. I pray to Allâh that He accepts his soul in the best way Allâh accepts any soul.”

Gabriel عليه السلام came down to the Prophet ﷺ telling him about a man who died that night and whose soul was welcomed in the best manner by the angels. The Prophet ﷺ knew that Sa'd ؓ had died. He hurried up to Sa'd's house to find the man lying on his bed with a smell of musk coming from his body. He Said:

“Congratulations to you Sa'd! You have fulfilled your promise and verily Allâh will keep his promise to you.”



Sa'd ﷺ fought in support of the principles and faith in which he sincerely believed. The Prophet ﷺ told his Companions that angels were happy to receive Sa'd ﷺ in the Heavens within the Paradise that is promised for those who are true to their belief.

May Allâh have mercy on Sa'd bin Mu'adh ﷺ for the support he gave to Islam and the Muslims.

As you get older, you are expected to follow the example of Sa'd ﷺ in his support of Islam and always to remember that nothing should be exchanged for sincere faith.

