

UNIT

C

CHAPTER

SIX

Fateh Makkah: The Great Victory

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

- 1 Recognize Prophet Muhammad's love of peace.
- 2 Learn about the events of Fateh Makkah.
- 3 Learn about Prophet Muhammad's actions upon his entry to Makkah.
- 4 Appreciate the Prophet's forgiveness of Quraysh.
- 5 Appreciate the virtue of Hilm, or tolerance and forgiveness.
- 6 Learn and memorize Ayaat 33-35 of Surat Fussilat.
- 7 Understand the meaning of the names of Allah "Al-Fattah" and "Al-Haleem".

The Prophet's Love for Peace

Allah and His messenger really wanted to avoid bloodshed in Makkah. They wanted the people of the Quraysh and all of Arabia to open their hearts and minds to the true faith of Islam. Had the Prophet followed the traditions of Arabian or ancient conquerors, Makkah would have been ransacked. But he was praying for a bloodless victory. Therefore, Allah had sent him an ally in the person of Al-Abbas, a mediator whom both sides would listen for respect.

On the morning of Tuesday, Ramadan 20th of the 8th year after Hijrah, the Prophet ordered entry into Makkah. He then ordered that there should be no fighting, unless unavoidable. Abu Sufyan went into Makkah calling upon people to surrender and not to fight. He conveyed to the people of Makkah the message of Prophet Muhammad. He told them that whoever stayed at home, at the Mosque or came to the house of Abu Sufyan then would be safe. Suhail Ibn Amr, Ikrimah Ibn Abi Jahl, Safwan Ibn Umayyah and a few others vowed to fight but most people were not in agreement and did not rally to their call.

It came to the ears of the Prophet that Sa'd Ibn 'Ubadah had said to Abu Sufyan: "Today is the Day of Malhamah, or slaughtering. Today Makkah will be ransacked."

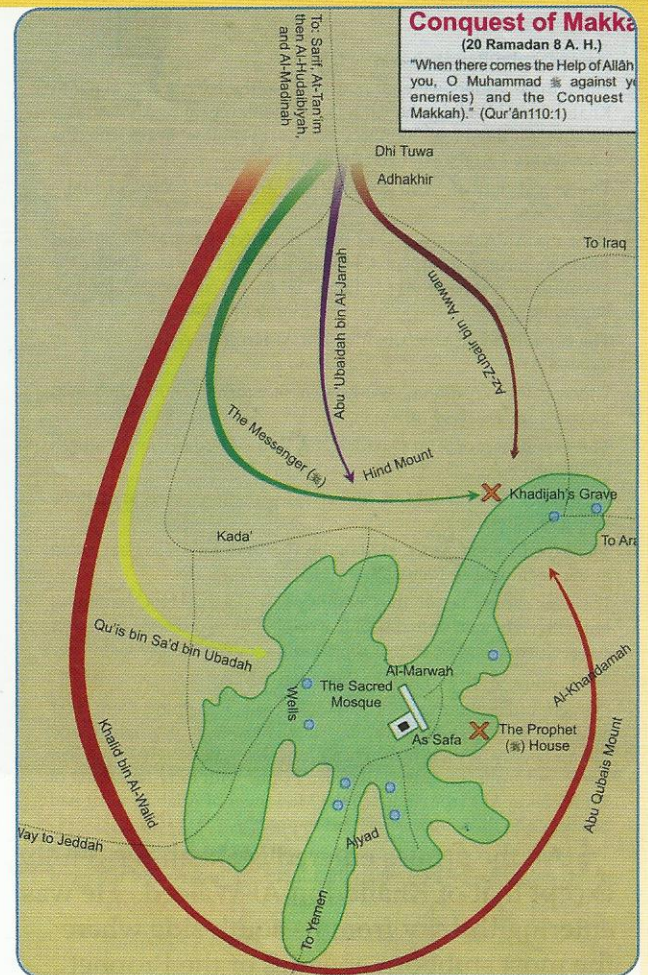
The Prophet said: "He lied. Actually today Allah will glorify the Ka'bah and the Quraysh will be respected." The Prophet responded to Sa'd by immediately removing the standard from him and giving it to his son, Qays, instead. The Prophet was not going to allow any excuse for wide bloodshed.

Rasoolullah ﷺ marched on until he reached Thee-Tuwa where he could see Makkah lying before him. His standards were waving in the air and his men were marching in the path of Allah. He stopped on his mount and thanked Allah for having opened the gates of Makkah for him allowing him and his companions to enter in peace. You have probably studied about ancient Egyptian History in your history class. What do you think of when you hear the word Egypt? Do you think about the huge pyramids and the Nile River? Or do you remember the story of Prophet Moosa and the Bani Israel, or the children of Israel in Egypt? For us Muslims Egypt is important not because of its huge pyramids and sphinx, it is important because Egypt is the birthplace of Prophet Moosa.

Phir'oun thought of himself as a god and he wanted his people to obey him and worship him alone.

The Muslim Army moves into Makkah

The Prophet was always thankful to God for His favors but he never forgot to implement his own measures to insure the protection of the Muslims. He divided his army into four divisions. Az-Zubair Ibn Al-'Awwam was in charge of the left wing and was ordered to enter Makkah from the North.

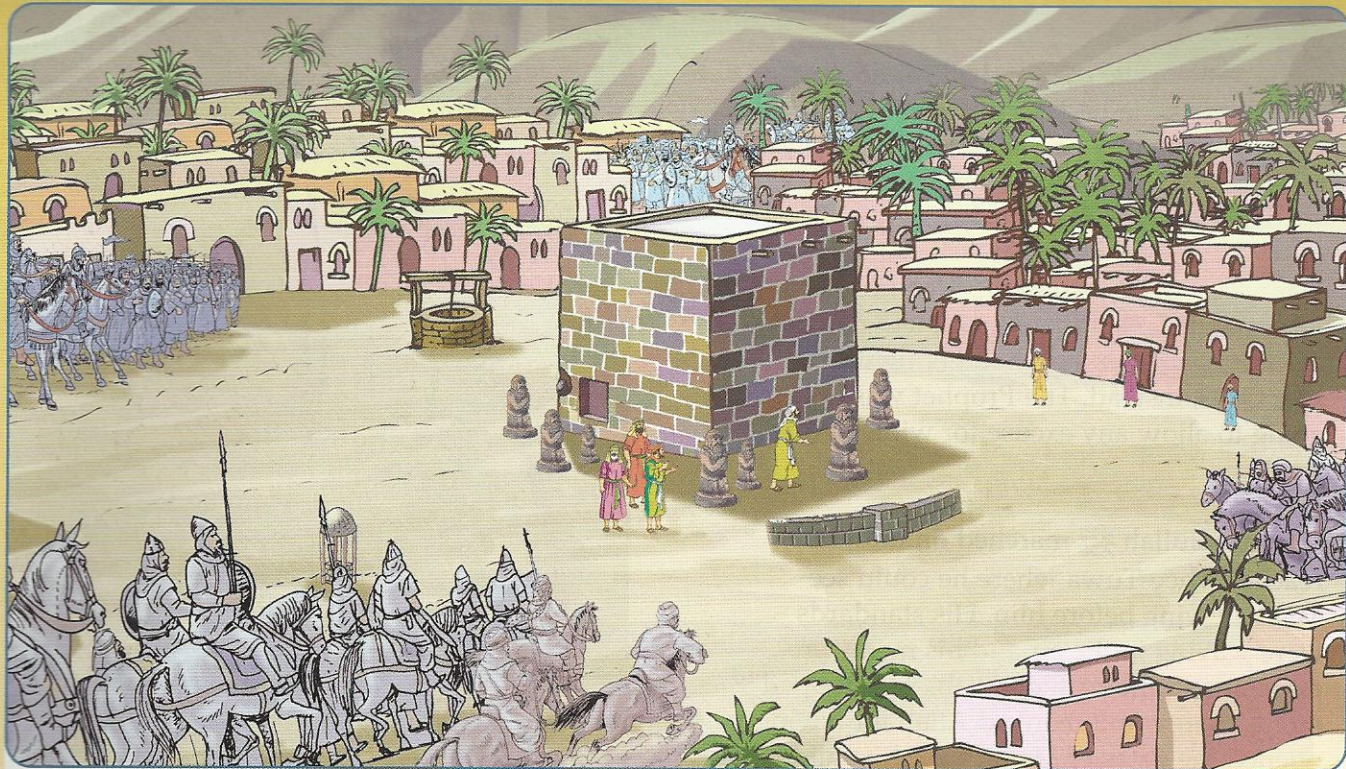


A diagram of Muslim armies entering Makkah

Source: Dr. Shawqi Abu Khalil, *Atlas on the Prophet's Biography*, 2004 Darussalam.

Khalid Ibn-ul-Waleed was in charge of the right wing and was ordered to enter Makkah from its south side. Sa'd Ibn 'Ubadah, at the head of Al-Ansar was ordered to enter from the West. Abu-'Ubaydah Ibn-ul-Jarrah, at the head of the Muhajireen and the Prophet himself, were to enter from the heights of Jabal Hind in the northwestern side of Makkah.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ gave the Muslim army strict orders not to fight and not to shed blood unless they were absolutely forced to do so. "If you have to fight, do what is right and fight only those who fight you," the Prophet instructed. The Prophet, however, ordered the army to only fight Safwan Ibn Umayyah, Ikrimah the son of Abu Jahl and other dangerous people who threatened to fight the Muslims."



All the armies entered Makkah peacefully except that of Khalid Ibn Al-Waleed. He was entering the city from its south side where the most stubborn enemies of the Prophet from among the Quraysh resided. Safwan Ibn Umayyah, Suhail Ibn Amr and 'Ikrimah Ibn Abi Jahl shot at the Muslims with arrows. Khalid was more than a match for them. It has been reported that around twenty four pagans were killed that day.

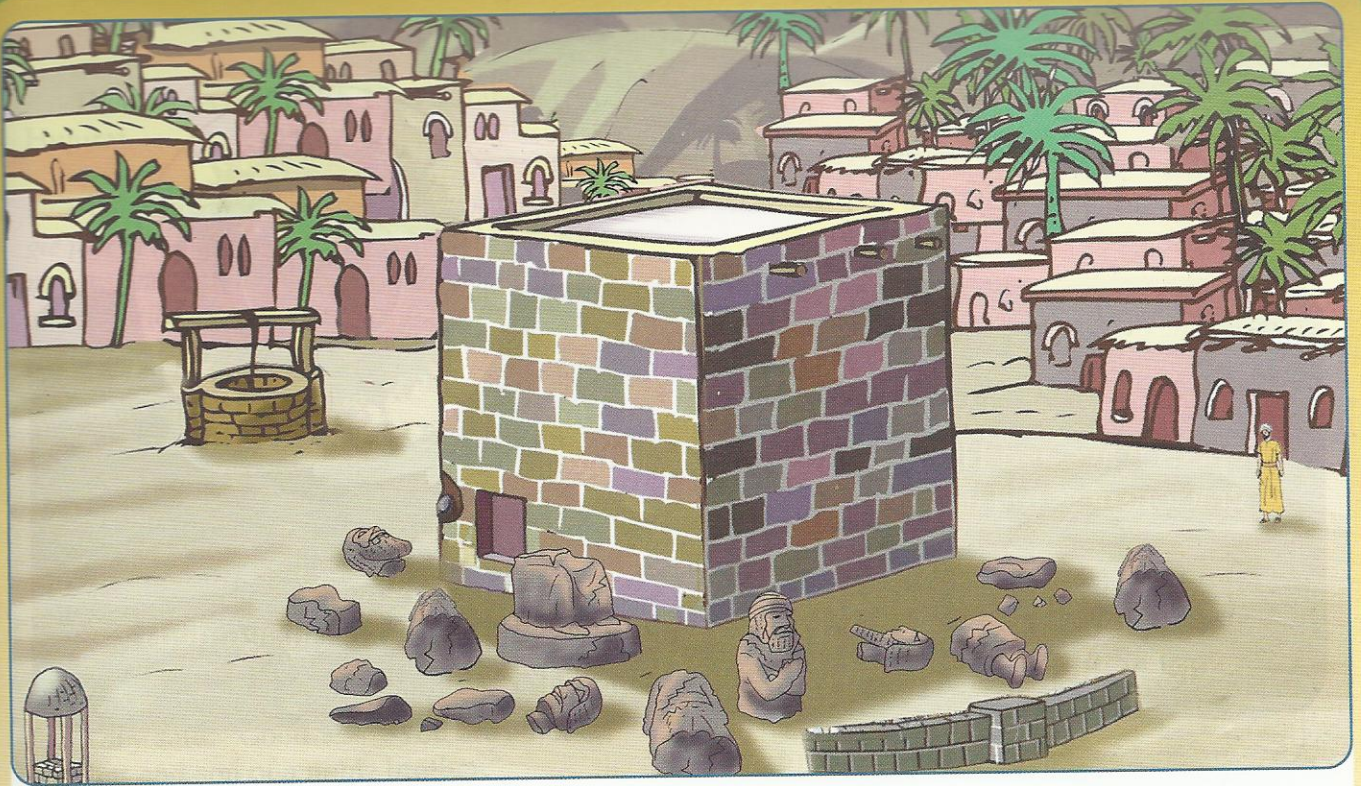
The Prophet Enters Makkah

The Prophet sat in his tent at the summit of Jabal Hind close to the tombs of Abu-Talib and Khadijah رضي الله عنها. This location prompted vivid memories to come flooding back. He remembered his childhood, youth, and his call to prophethood in the Cave of Hira'. He recalled the time when he went home so afraid and shaken and how his beloved wife Khadijah رضي الله عنها had com-

forted him and believed in him at the time when he most needed it.

Now Allah's Promise is being fulfilled in this world and more would follow in the hereafter. How could he sufficiently thank Allah for His bounties? No one could. He forgot all the persecution, all the abuse and the many attempts that were made against his life by the people of Makkah. Rasoolullah's eyes were filled with tears of submission to Allah. Allah is the Truth and He alone is in full control of all affairs of this world. Man is nothing but an atom compared to Allah. Everything in heaven and earth is going round with Allah's praises and His glorification.

On the 20th day of Ramadan in the 8th year after Hijrah, the Prophet entered Makkah riding his she-camel Al-Qaswa' and wearing his black turban. He made seven circles (Tawaf) around the Ka'bah, the House of Allah with his head bowed on his camel's back out of sheer respect, modesty and awe.



While he was performing his Tawaf around the Ka'bah, the Prophet was using his bow to push down the idols and statues that were positioned around Al-Ka'bah. The removal of the idols was a priority for the Prophet in Makkah. As you learned earlier, there were three hundred sixty idols around the Ka'bah throughout Makkah. Later, his Sahabah went around Al-Ka'bah to purify it by removing all the idols and statues. He later sent Khalid Ibn-ul-Waleed to destroy Al-Uzza the main idol of the Mudar clan. He sent Amr ibn-ul-Aas to destroy Suwaa', the main idol of the Huthayl clan. He also sent Sa'd Ibn Zaid to destroy Manaat, another big idol located on the outskirts of Makkah. The Prophet wanted to cleanse Makkah of all the manifestations and rituals of idolatry and Shirk. The time had come for Makkah to enter a period of enlightenment, an era of Islam. And as the Prophet helped in the purification of Al-Masjid-ul-Haram he recited Ayah 81 of Surat-ul-Israa':

وَقُلْ جَاءَ الْحَقُّ وَزَهَقَ الْبَاطِلُ إِنَّ الْبَاطِلَ كَانَ
زَهُوقًا ﴿١٨﴾

"Truth has come and falsehood has disappeared. Surely falsehood is bound to disappear." (17:81).



99 Names of Allah



Al-Fattah

Allah is **الفتاح** Al-Fattah (The Opener). He opens ways and His treasures of knowledge and graciousness to His faithful servants.

رَبَّنَا افْتَحْ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَ قَوْمِنَا بِالْحَقِّ وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الْفَاتِحِينَ ﴿٨٩﴾

“Oh our Lord, open your judgment between us and our (misguided) people with truth, you are the best of Judges [7:89].”

Prophet Muhammad Prays inside Al-Ka'bah

When he had finished making Tawaf, the Prophet ﷺ called 'Uthman Ibn Talhah to open the door of Al-Ka'bah and stand there. 'Uthman was the chief of Bani Shaybah, the clan of the Quraysh that was entrusted with holding the key to Al-Ka'bah. Ten years earlier, 'Uthman had refused to allow the Prophet to pray inside the Ka'bah when he expressed his dislike of praying near the idols that were spread all around Al-Masjid-ul-Haram. 'Uthman was then an idol worshipper, but at the time of Fateh Makkah he became a Muslim and willingly gave the keys of Al-Ka'bah to Rasoolullah.

As he was exiting Al-Ka'bah with the keys in his hand, the Prophet was approached by Ali ibn Abi Talib who asked him to keep the keys to Al-Ka'bah. "No" the Prophet said. Instead, he called 'Uthman Ibn Talhah, and handed him the keys and said,

Oh 'Uthman, here is your key. Today is a day of goodness and fulfillment. This key will stay with you and your offspring until the Day of Judgment. Only evil people will take it away from you.

Sure enough, today the Bani Shaybah clan in Makkah still keeps the key to Al-Ka'bah.

Rasoolullah Speaks to the People in Makkah

The people of Makkah gathered around the Prophet ﷺ in the Mosque as he delivered an address:

“There is no god but Allah. He exists by Himself without a partner. He has fulfilled His promise and helped His servant; He alone defeated the tribes. All pride, all ancient custom of revenge, and all feudal fights are under my feet (i.e., are abolished). Nothing remains except the custody of the Ka'bah and supplying water to the pilgrims.”

“Oh, you people of the Quraysh! Surely Allah has removed from you all pride of the time of Jahiliyyah (Ignorance) and all pride in your ancestry. All men are descendants from Adam, and Adam was created from dust (or earth).”

Then he recited Ayah 13 of Surat-ul-Hujurat.

*"Oh mankind! We created * You from a single pair of a male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, that You may know each, other. Verily the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is he who is the most righteous of you."*

The Prophet Pardons the Quraysh

After he had finished his address he looked at the Quraysh and asked: "Oh you people of the Quraysh! What do you think I am going to do with you?"

They said: "Goodness". You are a noble brother and son of a noble brother."

He said: "No blame on you today. Go away, you are free."

The Prophet was standing amongst his former enemies who had abused him, stoned him, despised and expelled him. They even conspired to kill him and fought him relentlessly. And now having power over their life and death, he took no hostages, imposed no penalties, and used no force. He gave them only five words "Go away, you are free!" These few words changed the whole course of history. The fact is that the Prophet loved all mankind. He hated no one. But there are certain things that are beyond human control.



The Prophet taught everyone a great lesson in Hilm, or tolerance. Hilm is a deeper quality than mere tolerance. It is not only to tolerate but to also forgive those who hurt you and to treat them kindly.



An old Key of Al-Ka'bah Al-Musharrafah

However, ten persons were designated by the Prophet as guilty of heinous crimes deserving death. All but four were forgiven. Even Hind, wife of Abu Sufyan who chewed Hamza's liver raw during the Battle of Uhud was forgiven. 'Ikrimah the son of Abu Jahl and Safwan Ibn Ummayah were all forgiven as well.

99 Names of Allah



Al-Haleem

Allah is **العليم** Al-Haleem

"واعلموا أن الله غفور حلِيم"

"And know that Allah is forgiving and tolerant "

The Victory of Allah

Thus the conquest of Makkah was in fact a victory for truth over falsehood. It was the victory of Allah over false gods and those who had worshipped them for thousands of years. The Prophet and the Muslims took part in this victory but the real force behind it was the will of Allah. Those who do not believe in this "Will of Allah", and do not appreciate its force, will never understand Islam, the Qur'an, or its Prophet. The whole spirit of Islam lies in trying to discover the will of Allah and acting according to it. Whoever wanders away from this basic principle of Islam will never find consolation in anything that exists, and least of all in his own soul.

Bilal Calls the First Athan in Makkah

When the Ka'bah had been purified the Prophet ordered Bilal to climb to the roof and call the Athan, announcing the time for prayer to the people. From that day until this

day, the call has been repeated five times a day in that mosque. May it go on as long as this world lasts.

Some of the leaders of the Quraysh felt offended when they saw Bilal on the top of Al-Ka'bah. To them he was just a slave who used to sleep with the animals in the stable of 'Umayyah Ibn Khalaf. To Muslims, however, he was and is today considered a great sahabi and the most fit to call the Athan from atop Al-Ka'bah Al-Musharrafah.

This shows how Islam elevates people from being slaves of people to becoming servants of Allah alone. It is true that Bilal was a slave in Makkah, but Islam gave him his freedom, restored his honor and dignity, and developed him as the greatest mua'thin in Islamic history.

On that great day, Allah revealed to His messenger the great Surat-un-Nasr :

إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ ﴿١﴾ وَرَأَيْتَ النَّاسَ
يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجًا ﴿٢﴾ فَسَبِّحْ
بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَاسْتَغْفِرْهُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ تَوَّابًا ﴿٣﴾

- [1] When there comes the help of Allah and the victory,
[2] And you see men entering the religion of Allah in masses,
[3] Then celebrate the praise of your Lord, and ask His forgiveness; surely He is oft giving of forgiveness.

Abu Quhafah Enters Islam

Then Abu Bakr led his aged father Abu Quhafah by the hand, as he was blind, and brought him to the Prophet ﷺ. When the Prophet saw the old man he said: "Shouldn't you have let the old man stay in his house and I would come to him?"

Then he sat him beside the Prophet, and the Prophet passed his hand on his chest and said: "Embrace Islam." And Abu Quhafah did.

Makkah Made Sacred Forever

No blood is to be shed and no tree to be cut.

The next morning the Prophet heard that Khuza'ah had killed a pagan of the tribe of Huthayl within Holy Makkah. He was angry and addressed the people:

"O people! Allah made Makkah a holy land the day He made the heavens and earth. Therefore it is declared holy until the Day of Resurrection. It is not allowed for anyone who believes in Allah and the Last Day to shed blood therein or to cut a tree. It was not allowed before me and it is not allowed to anyone who comes after me. And it was not

allowed to me until lately, on account of Allah's anger on its residents but it has returned to its sacredness as before. Let him who is here carry this message to the absent. If anyone says to you that the Messenger of Allah shed blood therein, then you say that Allah had allowed him [to purify it from idolatry] and Allah has not allowed you to do so. Oh people of Khuza'ah. Stop using your hands for bloodshed. I must pay compensation on your behalf. Whoever is guilty of bloodshed hereafter, his family must be responsible for it. They may kill the killer or tie him up."

The Makkans were taken aback at the Prophets reprimand of his allies by Muhammad and at his justice, fairness and forgiveness. They came in groups to join Islam. And thus was God's saying in Surat Fussilat applied:

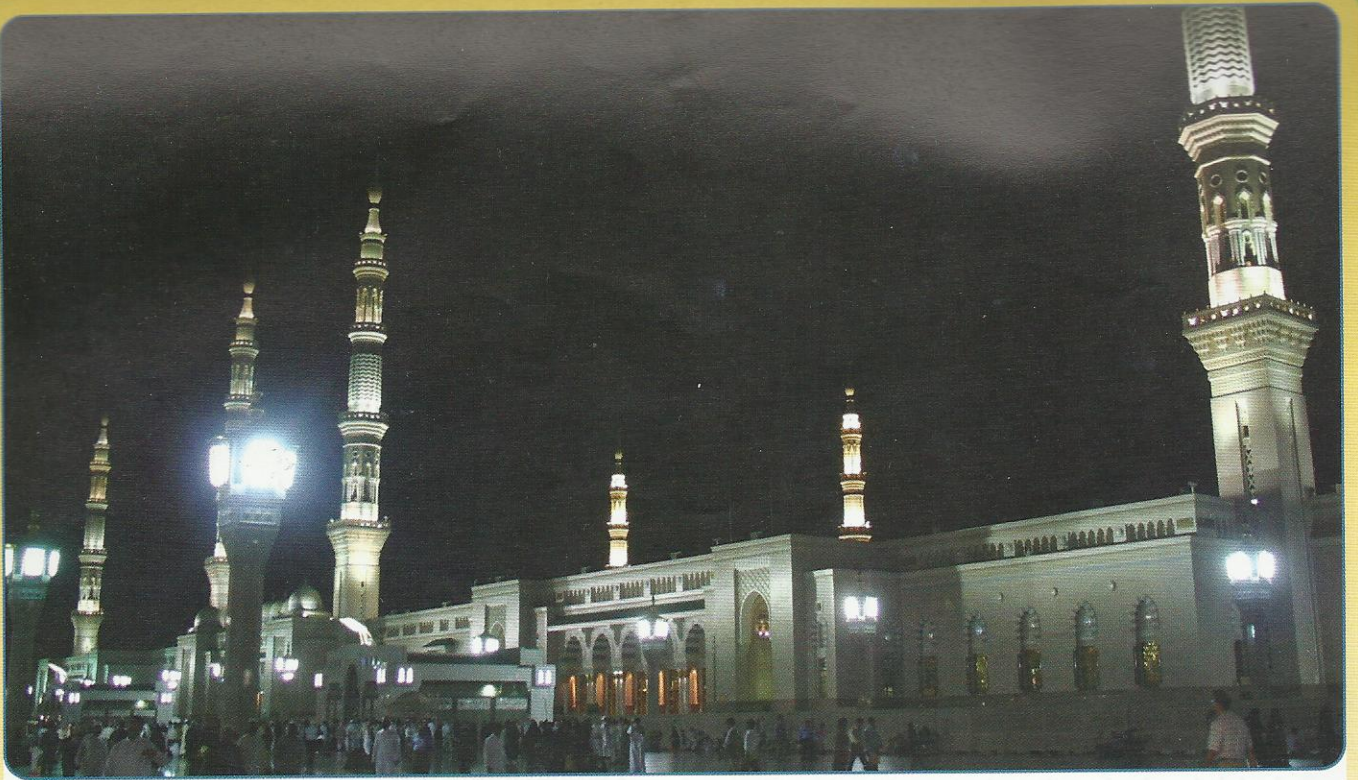
وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِّمَّنْ دَعَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَعَمِلَ
صَالِحًا وَقَالَ إِنَّنِي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٣٣﴾ وَلَا
تَسْتَوِي الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ
أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ
حَمِيمٌ ﴿٣٤﴾ وَمَا يُلْقَاهَا إِلَّا الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا وَمَا
يُلْقَاهَا إِلَّا ذُو حَظٍّ عَظِيمٍ ﴿٣٥﴾

And who speaks better than he who calls to Allah while he himself does good, and says: I am surely of the Muslims?

And not alike are the good and the evil. Repel (evil) with what is best! [Doing so] will turn your enemy into a warm friend.

And none are made to have this manner but those who are patient and those who have a mighty good fortune. (Qur'an, 41:33-35)

The people marveled at the Prophet's evenhanded justice towards both Muslims and non-Muslims. In a mere fifteen days the Prophet had wiped out all traces of idol worship which had been practiced for more than two thousand years. He appointed 'Uthman Ibn Talha and his sons as guardians of the Ka'bah for perpetuity, and the office of sup-



plying water to pilgrims was assigned to his uncle Al-Abbas and his children.

The Pledge

Once things settled down, the victory of Islam became evident. At that point, the Prophet called upon the people of Makkah to give him their Bay'ah, or pledge of allegiance to be practicing Muslims. All the men came and pledged Rasoolullah to adhere the deen of Islam. Afterwards, the women came and gave their Bay'ah to the Prophet. They promised to the Prophet that they would worship Allah alone and never associate others with Him, nor to steal, nor to commit adultery, nor to kill their children, nor to claim baby's to other than their true fathers, and finally, never to disobey the Prophet when he ordered them to do a good deed.

The Prophet also forbade the people from selling idols, wine, pork and other prohibited items. This made it clear that not only using them was Haram, but also trading with them.

Al-Ansar's Fears

Seeing how good and merciful the Prophet had been to the Makkans and how intense his love and care of the House of Allah was, the Ansar began to fear that he might stay there for good. The Prophet came to know of this and said, "Allah be my protection, I lived with you and I will die with you": the words which he had used at the pledge of 'Aqaba. The Prophet always kept his word.

Back to Madina

After nineteen days, the Prophet and most of the Muslims left Makkah to return to Madina. The Ansar were so thrilled that the Prophet and most of the Muhajireen were coming back to Madina with them. They had grown to love preferred the City of Madina over their native hometown.