

❖ **Lesson Four: The Beginning Of The Islamic Call**

➤ **Facing the Torments, Enemies**

Three years passed and one day the Archangel *Gabriel* came to the Prophet (pbuh) and ordered him to start preaching openly to everyone. So the Prophet (pbuh) told the people of Mecca that he had something very important to tell them. He stood on a hillside in Mecca, called Safa, and they gathered around to hear what he had to say. He started by asking them if they would believe him were he to say that an army was about to attack them. They answered that indeed they would, because he never lied. He then told them that he was the Messenger of Allah, sent to show them the right way, and to warn them of terrible punishments if they did not follow him in worshipping only Allah and none other. Abu Lahab, one of the Prophet's uncles who was among the listeners, suddenly stood up and said:

'May you perish! Did you call us here just to tell us this?' At this, Allah sent to the Prophet (pbuh) the following Surah:

In the Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful

“The Power of Abu Lahab will perish, and he will perish. His wealth and gains will not save him. He shall roast at a flaming fire, And his wife, the carrier of firewood Will have upon her neck a rope of palm-fibre”. (Qur'an 111.1-5)

Then the crowd dispersed and the Prophet (pbuh) was left alone, His message ignored by most of the people. The prophet faced much difficulty and harm from them. As an example; once while the Prophet was praying, some people from Quraysh placed the bowels of a slaughtered animal next to him, then ‘Uqbah Ibn Abu Ma’et’ took them and placed on his back while he was prostrating, the Prophet’s daughter *Fatimah* removed them, when the Prophet finished his prayer and supplicated to Allah saying ‘*O Allah punish the elite of Quraysh*’.

After the death of his wife Khadeejah and his uncle Abu Talib, people applied more pressure on the prophet and harmed him worse than ever before. He commanded his companions to leave for Abyssinia in order to escape oppression and torture

➤ **Al-Hijrah To Yathrib (migration)**

After his companions had left for Yathrib, the Prophet (pbuh) stayed in Mecca, waiting for permission from Allah to leave the city. *Abu Bakr* and *Ali* stayed with him. There were also some Muslims whom Quraysh had not allowed to leave. The leaders of Quraysh assembled in the house of their ancestor, when they had an important decision to make. They had to find a way of getting rid of the Prophet *Muhammad (pbuh)*, before he was able to join his friends in Yathrib. they were arguing, and started to put forward ideas about what should be done, but none of them could agree about which was best, until *Abu Jahl* told them his plan. This was that each clan should provide a strong, young warrior, each of whom would be given a sword. All would then wait outside the Prophet's house and together attack him as he came out. In

this way they would be rid of him. The leaders of Quraysh then left to carry out their plan to murder the Prophet (pbuh).

“And when the unbelievers plot against thee, to confine thee, or kill thee, or to drive thee out, they were plotting, But Allah was (also) plotting; and Allah is the best of plotters”.
(Qur'an 8.30)

Before the night fell, on which *Muhammad (pbuh)* was to be killed, the Archangel *Gabriel* came to him and said, *'Do not sleep tonight in your own bed.'* The Prophet (pbuh) understood what was going to happen, so he told „Ali to lie in his bed and wrap himself in the blanket that the Prophet (pbuh) normally used, promising that no harm would befall him. With the coming of darkness the young men of Quraysh had gathered outside the Prophet's house, waiting for him to come out. After he made sure that *'Ali* was safe the Prophet (pbuh) left the house. At that very moment *Allah* took away the sight of the warriors so that they could not see the Prophet (pbuh).

The young men waited the whole night and were furious when, in the morning, they saw „*Ali* instead of the Prophet (pbuh) coming out of the house. They realised that their plan had failed completely.

In the meantime, the Prophet (pbuh) went to *Abu Bakr's* house and told him, *'Allah has told me that now is the time for us to leave Mecca'.* 'Together?' asked *Abu Bakr*. 'Together', the Prophet (pbuh) replied. *Abu Bakr* wept for joy. And so, the two of them left for a cave in *Thawr*, a mountain to the south of Mecca where they intended to hide. When they were out of the city the Prophet (pbuh) looked back and said, *'Of all Allah's earth, you are the dearest place to Allah and to me and if my people had not driven me out I would never have left you'.*

When Quraysh found out that the Prophet (pbuh) and his companion had gone, they set out after them, searching in every direction. Three days later they finally reached the cave where the Prophet (pbuh) and *Abu Bakr* were hiding, but a strange and wonderful thing had happened. A spider had woven its web right across the entrance to the cave and a dove was nesting with her mate nearby. *Abu Bakr* began to fear for their safety. He whispered to the Prophet (pbuh): ‘they are very close. If one of them turns we will be seen’.

But he was comforted by the Prophet's reply: *“What do you think of two who have with them Allah as their third? 'Grieve not, for verily Allah is with us”* (Qur'an 9.40).

After a few moments the search party decided that no one could have entered the cave recently, or the spider's web would not have been complete and the dove would not have nested there, and so they left without searching inside. Three days later the Prophet (pbuh) and *Abu Bakr* thought it safe to leave the cave. Then they continued their journey to *Yathrib*.

The Prophet's journey from Mecca is called the *hijrah*, or migration. It was really the first step towards the spread of Islam throughout the entire world, and Muslims begin their calendar from the year of the *hijrah*.

➤ **Arrival In Yathrib**

When the people of Yathrib heard that the Prophet (pbuh) had left Mecca and was on his way to their city, they anxiously awaited his arrival. On Monday, September 27, in the year 622 A.D., someone saw him in the distance and shouted to everyone, 'Here is Muhammad! (pbuh) the Messenger of Allah has arrived!' All the Muslims went out to greet him, shouting, "Allahu Akbar"! Allah is Great! Muhammad the Messenger of Allah has arrived!'. The Prophet (pbuh) entered the city with his friend Abu Bakr. Yathrib would now be Called al-Medina, which means, The City.

After this many of the wealthiest men invited him to come and live with them. But he refused and, pointing to his she-camel,, said, '*Let her go her way*', because he knew that his camel was under Allah's command and would guide him to the spot where he should stay. They let the camel go until she finally knelt down beside a house belonging to the *Bani an-Najjar*, the tribe to whom the Prophet's mother was related. The Prophet (pbuh) ordered that a mosque and a place for him to live be built on the site. All the Muslims worked together to finish it quickly even the Prophet (pbuh) joined in. It was here that the Muslims would pray and meet to make important decisions and plans.

After the building of the mosque, the Prophet (pbuh) wanted to strengthen the relationship between the people called the *Muhajirah* or *Emigrants*, who had left Mecca with him, and the people of *Medina*, who were known as the *Ansar*, or *Helpers*. Each man from Medinah took as his brother a man from Mecca, sharing everything with him and treating him as a member of his own family. This was the beginning of the Islamic brotherhood.

In the early days of Islam, the times for prayer were not announced. After the vision of Abd Allah Ibn Zayd, the Prophet sent for Bilal, and ordered him to call the people to prayer.

His battels: the Prohpet (pbuh) fought twenty seven battels of which some were led by him himself they were the battels of *Badr*, *Uhud*, *Al Khandaq*, *Khaybar*, *Hunayn*, *Taa'if*, and *the Conquest of Makkah*.