

Gazwah Khyber (Muharram 7th Hijrah year)

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One of the prominent Gazwah after Hudabiyah is Khyber. History records it equally prominent as Ahzaab because the plot of Ahzaab was basically hatched in Khyber, thus it is a continuation of the same series. They were left unattended till now because more powerful enemy, Quraish had engaged Muslims and the later entered into a peace treaty with Muslims at Hudabiyah which proved a great victory for Muslims. Quran also testifies it a great victory.¹ Thus to avoid confrontation with Khyber it was necessary to deal with more powerful enemy who were at war with Muslims from the day first. Treaty of Hudabiyah has provided an opportunity to propagate message to foreign world on one side and on the other side all those plot hatched, who always create tension and chaos among Muslims by instigating and stimulating other tribes against the Prophet of Islam were to be dealt with.

More strong party of the Ahzaab, Quraish were cut short by Muslims in the battle of Ditch along with Banu Quraidha and now there left only one group, who hatched all the mission and they were living in Khyber. The Prophet after Hudabiya in the month of Muharram 7th Hijrah asked the companions to move to Khyber, only those were allowed who are sincere in the cause of Allah. Thus all those who participated in Bait-i Ridhwan moved to Khyber. Exegetes wrote that the land of Khyber was promised to the Prophet² Selective people were taken to Khyber, only those who participated in Bait-i Ridhwan because Madinah at that time was inhabited by munafiqeen also who were internally supporting the cause of the Jewes of Khyber that is why every one was not allowed to participate as they may create any problem for the cause. Quran has beautifully mentioned there non participation in Khyber.³

سَيَقُولُ الْمُخَلَّفُونَ إِذَا انطَلَقْتُمْ إِلَى مَغَائِمٍ لَتَأْخُذُوا بِهَا دُرُوبًا تَتَّبِعُكُمْ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يُبَدِّلُوا كَلِمَ اللَّهِ قُلْ لَنْ تَتَّبِعُونَا عَذَابُ اللَّهِ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَفْشَوْا قُلْ لَنْ تَتَّبِعُونَا إِلَّا قَلِيلٌ

Those who lagged behind (will say) when ye (are free to) march and take booty (in war): "Permit us to follow you." They wish to change Allah's decree: Say: "Not thus will ye follow us: Allah has already declared (this) beforehand": then they will say "but ye are jealous of us." Nay but little do they understand (such things). (48:15)

Khyber was a center of Jewish power in Arabia, Jews of Banu Nadhir were also banished from Madinah to Khyber. They took their abode there and started a series of conspiracies against Islam and Muslims of which battle of Khandaq was one of the examples. One of their chiefs, Hayy b. Akhtab was killed in the battle with Banu Quraidha because he along with some others had gone to Makkah and with the help of Quraish stirred up a strong revolt from one end of Arabia to the other and that revolt had actually stormed Madinan, the very center of Islam but with the grace of Allah it failed but the force then at work were still operative from their stronghold in Khyber.

The Jews of Khyber now again started to hatch plot in collaboration with Gatfan and they were also well informed about the activities of the Muslims through the hypocrites. The Prophet had a wish to have a treaty with these people also and Abdullah b. Rawaha was deputed to Khyber for asking the Jews to come to an agreement. Meanwhile an arch hypocrite Abdullah b. Ubay informed them that the Prophet was planning an attack with some unarmed handful of Muslims, no match to your power and wealth. Having received the message of Abdullah b. Ubay they deputed a delegation to Gatfan to join them in the attack on Madinah and also promised them half of the yield.⁴