

Treaty of Hudabiyah and Bait-i Ridwan (6th year of Hijrah)

Dr. Ghulam Nabi

Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, IUST, Awantipora

Well known treaty of Hudabiya between Quraish and the Prophet marks a change in Muslim power in Arabia¹. On one hand Muslims were longing for return to Makkah as it was their beloved home and they always remember it;² Secondly to establish a stronghold of the sacred place Makkah, the Kabah, which is a Qiblah direction also; and third is that now almost all kinds of uprisings against Islam and Muslims were suppressed and Muslims are now in a position of to take Makkah in their custody.

The enthusiasm of the Muslims for pilgrimage to Makkah started when the Prophet in a dream saw that he along with the companions entered into the sacred mosque of Makkah and doing circumambulation of Kaba and also doing Umrah. Prophet told the companions about the dream he was shown and also told that this year you will also perform Umrah. So the companions started preparing for the same. Now Prophet announced in Madinah to get ready for Umrah, on 1ST Zi al- Qadah Prophet along with 1400 / 1500 of his companions set out for Makkah. To avoid misconception of the visit companions were not allowed to carry arms except sword which was their customary part of carrying swords when they were on journey, that too was to be sheathed. At Dhul Halifa Prophet made preliminary preparations needed for Umrah³

As a precautionary measure a person from Khuza'a tribe, whose Islam was not known to Quraish, was sent in advance to bring the news from Quraish. He came up with the news that Quraish along with other tribes were at war and they are adamant of not to allow Muslims to enter Makkah. Anyway Quraish prepared under the command of Khalid and were waiting on the way. Prophet changed the course and move forward and halted at Hudabiyah. From here he deputed Budail b. Warqa, chief of Khuza'a, with the message of peace to Quraish. Exchange of ambassadors from both sides made the process of peace easier,⁴ but some disgruntled persons among Quraish tried to disrupt peace and during night they were about to attack Muslim camp but the warrior of Islam, Muhammad b. Muslimah caught them and Prophet set them free only to establish peace for both sides.⁵ Quran has illustrated it as:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي كَفَّ أَيْدِيَهُمْ عَنْكُمْ وَأَيْدِيَكُمْ عَنْهُمْ بِبَطْنِ مَكَّةَ مِنْ بَعْدِ أَنْ أَظْفَرَكُمْ عَلَيْهِمْ ۚ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرًا

And it is He who has restrained their hands from you and your hand from them in the midst of Mecca after that He gave you the victory over them. And Allah sees well all that ye do. (48:24) ⁶

Hadhrat Uthman as Ambassador

When the things started to go in a wrong direction Prophet now thought of sending a person from his companions who will convey the utmost message of the mission, after a due consultation choice of ambassadorship fell upon Hadhrat Uthman as:

1. Hadhrat Uthman was popular among all the companions as he was wealthiest
2. He was having almost all his kins living in Makkah as they had not yet accepted Islam
3. It was not possible for Makkans to harm him as his clan was holding all the affairs at that time