

GAZWAH AHZAB / BATTLE OF KHANDAQ AND BANU QURAIIDHA (SHAWWAL / ZI-QADAH 5TH HIJRAH) (A TURNING POINT IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ISLAMIC STATE)

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The battle of Khandaq was very important for the establishment of an Islamic state as it has cut the roots of all the enemies in a single blow and Muslims now live freely with dominant power in whole of Arabia. They are now free from any uprising as the battle has proved Muslim hegemony in all the parts of Arabian Peninsula, hence Prophet now started to call other states to come under the fold of Islam from 6th Hijrah. Thus internal security was restored.

The Jews along with their menace were not allowing Muslims to remain in peace, after which Prophet was working from the day first of his entry in Madinah- making treaties with them and allowed them to keep their religion- Mithaq-i Madinah is the best module of co-existence, it has allowed all those living in Madinah to live together and to stand in defense if there is any foreign invasion. The Jews constantly breached the sacred covenant and created many hardships for the Muslims in general and Prophet in particular. They not only joined hands with hypocrites and the Quraish but instigated all the sections of the society and the adjacent tribes to come forward for the annihilation of Muslims. Ahzab is one of the major examples of their malicious propaganda.

Ahzab, plural of Hizb, means a party. In this battle many parties of Arab joined together to fight against Islam and Muslims. The start was given by the Jews of Banu Nadhir and Banu Wai'l who sent a delegation to Quraish to come up with arms against Muslims. After much deliberation over the consequences Quraish accepted to join them. On return they also approached Gathfan tribe to join with them, they too accepted with the condition that the Jews should give them an annual harvest of Khyber orchards. Sirah writers recorded that total number of forces they mustered were 10000 in total, 4000 from Quraish and 6000 from Gathfan with Abu Sufian as chief.

Khandaq

The information of Ahzab, with such a big force of 10000 warriors, received by the Prophet was a matter of great concern, Prophet immediately called a council and after a due consultation suggestion of Salman Farsi of digging a Khandaq around Madinah was taken into account and the companions started a Khandaq. The Madinian total population at the time was less than the enemy force. So the need of the hour was to defend Madinah and companions along with the Prophet get the work done before the enemy should enter the city. Quran mentioned the occasion as:

إِذْ جَاءَكُمْ مِنْ فَوْقِكُمْ وَمِنْ أَسْفَلَ مِنْكُمْ وَإِذْ زَاغَتِ الْأَبْصَارُ وَبَلَغَتِ الْقُلُوبُ الْحَنَاجِرَ وَتَظُنُّونَ بِاللَّهِ الظُّنُونَا

When the enemy attacked you from above and from below; when your eyes were petrified due to fear and your hearts leaped up to your throats, and you began to entertain all sorts of doubts about Allah (33:10)¹

هَذَاكَ ابْتُلِيَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَزُلْزِلُوا زَلْزَالًا شَدِيدًا

there, the believers were put to test; and were shaken with tremendous shaking (33:11)

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