

# Islamic Academy of Coventry

Sīrah of Muḥammad ﷺ

Part 28

The Battle of Mu'tah

Maulānā Ebrahim Noor



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Sīrah of Muḥammad ﷺ  
Part 28 – The Battle of Mu'tah  
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Islamic Academy of Coventry  
83-87 Cambridge Street  
Coventry CV1 5HU

[www.Islamicacademycoventry.org](http://www.Islamicacademycoventry.org)

[Islamicacademycoventry@hotmail.com](mailto:Islamicacademycoventry@hotmail.com)

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## بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

### Introduction

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ had made the journey from Madīnah to Makkah in the month of Dhul Qa‘dah, in the 7<sup>th</sup> year of Hijrah. The previous year, the Muslims had been denied entry into Makkah to perform ‘Umrah, but the treaty of Ḥudaybiyah had been agreed in which one of the conditions was for the Muslims to return to Makkah the following year.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ entered the Holy city of Makkah and performed ‘Umrah with his Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ. They were allowed to stay for three days. During this time, Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ married Maymūnah bint al-Ḥārith رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا. According to ibn Sa‘ad, this was the final marriage of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. He did not take any more wives after this.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ sent a request to the Quraysh asking if he could extend his stay, so he could perform the Walimah of his marriage. The request was denied, so Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ left Makkah immediately with his Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ.

Abū Rāfi‘ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ, the servant of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ was left with Maymūnah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا. He brought her to a place outside Makkah called Sarif where she met Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ and they travelled north to Madīnah.

During the stay in Makkah, the daughter of Ḥamzah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ came out calling for Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ as he was leaving. According to other narrations, Zayd ibn Ḥārithah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ brought her with him. There were three Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ who all wanted to look after her. These were ‘Alī, Zayd and Ja‘far رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ. Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ made the decision that she should stay with Ja‘far رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ as he was married to her maternal aunt and the maternal aunt is like the mother.

Islām was now on the rise. More and more people were now coming into the fold of Islām. It was during this time when many great personalities like, Khālīd ibn al-Walīd, ‘Uthmān ibn Ṭalḥah and ‘Amr ibn al-‘Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ came into the fold of Islām.

After the treaty of Ḥudaybiyah, Khālīd ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ thought that the strength and might of the Quraysh had now finished. Should he travel to Hiraqla and become or Jew or Christian or wait and see what happens. It was during this time, Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ came to perform ‘Umrah. Walīd ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ, the brother of Khālīd ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ had already embraced Islām and came looking for his brother but was unable to find him.

Walīd ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ then wrote a letter to his brother, expressing his amazement how an intelligent person like him had not entered the fold of Islām. He also mentioned how Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ was also surprised. When Khālīd ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ

read the letter, his yearning for Islām increased and he made the intention to travel to Madīnah and see Rasūlullāh ﷺ.

Khālid ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ decided to ask some of his friends, to see if they would accompany him. He asked Şafwān ibn Ummayah and Ikrimah ibn Abū Jahl. He was rebuked by both and they refused to go with him.

Khālid ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ then asked ‘Uthmān ibn Ṭalḥah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. ‘Uthmān ibn Ṭalḥah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ agreed to go with him and they started to make their way to Madīnah. Along the way they met ‘Amr ibn al-‘Āṣ رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ who also had the same intention.

The three Companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ entered Madīnah and put their camels to rest. They then went to Rasūlullāh ﷺ and pledged their allegiance.



## The Battle of Mu'tah

**A**fter coming back to Madīnah, Rasūlullāh spent the month of Dhul Ḥijjah in Madīnah. During this time, the polytheists supervised the Ḥajj in Makkah.

It was now the beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> Year of Hijrah and Rasūlullāh ﷺ spent the first four months in Madīnah. In the month of Jumādā al-Ūlā', he sent a force towards Shām. The force would eventually meet the enemy in a place called Mu'tah, which was in the region of Balqā, close to the 'Dead Sea'. You can see from the map below, the present-day location of Mu'tah in Jordan.



## The Letter

Rasūlullāh ﷺ had sent letters to the leaders and kings of the surrounding nations and empires. One of these letters was sent with Ḥārith ibn ‘Umayr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ to Shuraḥbīl ibn ‘Amr Ghassānī. He was the deputy in charge of Shām on behalf of Hiraqla, the emperor of Rome.



When Ḥārith ibn ‘Umayr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ arrived at Mu'tah with the letter, he was killed upon the order of Shuraḥbīl. When Rasūlullāh ﷺ received news of this, he was very upset. Messengers from other leaders were supposed to be treated with respect. This act was extremely dishonourable and a heinous crime. Due to this, Rasūlullāh ﷺ sent an army of 3,000 Companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ towards Shām.

## The Army

In Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī, in a Ḥadīth narrated by ‘Abdullāh ibn ‘Umar رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, he mentions that Zayd ibn Ḥārithah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ was made the Commander of the army for the battle of Mu'tah.

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عُمَرَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ أَمَرَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فِي غَزْوَةِ مَوْتَةَ زَيْدَ بْنَ حَارِثَةَ فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ



"إِنْ قُتِلَ زَيْدٌ فَجَعْفَرٌ وَإِنْ قُتِلَ جَعْفَرٌ فَعَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنِ رَوَاحَةَ"<sup>1</sup>

‘Rasūlullāh ﷺ said ‘If Zayd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ gets killed, then Ja‘far ibn Abū Ṭālib رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ (will become the Commander), if he gets killed then ‘Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ.’”

This expedition was also known as ‘Jaysh al-Umarā’, which means ‘Army of the leaders’.

### The Advice

Zayd ibn Ḥārithah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ was given a white flag by Rasūlullāh ﷺ. He was then told to go to the locality where Ḥārith ibn ‘Umayr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ had been martyred and invite the local people who lived there towards Islām. If they embraced, then that would be good. Otherwise, he should supplicate to Allāh سُبْحَانَكَ وَتَعَالَى for help and assistance and then confront them.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ accompanied the army until they reached Thaniyāt al-Wadā‘. He then stopped and advised the army as follows:

- At all times remain God conscious and devout
- Look after your companions

<sup>1</sup> Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 4261

- In Allāh's path, in his name, confront those who have denied the truth
- Do not abuse anyone's trust or rebel
- Do not hurt any child, woman, or elderly person

When the army was about to leave, ‘Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ started to weep. He was asked, what has caused him to cry. ‘Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ replied:

أَمَّا وَاللَّهِ مَا بِي حُبُّ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا صَبَابَةٌ بِكُمْ وَلَكِنِّي سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ  
اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقْرَأُ آيَةً مِنْ كِتَابِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ يَذْكُرُ  
فِيهَا النَّارَ

‘Know this, by Allāh, I have no love for this world, and I am not distracted by yourselves. But I heard Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ reciting a verse from the book of Allāh in which the fire was mentioned:

وَإِنْ مِنْكُمْ إِلَّا وَارِدُهَا كَانَ عَلَى رَبِّكَ حَتْمًا مَقْضِيًّا ﴿٧١﴾<sup>2</sup>

“There is none among you who does not have to arrive at it (meaning the Sirāt, a bridge over Hell). This is undertaken by your Lord as an absolute decree, bound to be enforced.”

<sup>2</sup> Sūrah Maryam – verse 71

فَلَسْتُ أَدْرِي كَيْفَ لِي بِالصَّدْرِ بَعْدَ الْوُرُودِ

I do not know how I will return after I pass over it.'

The Muslims then said:

صَحِبَكُمْ اللَّهُ وَدَفَعَ عَنْكُمْ وَرَدَّكُمْ إِلَيْنَا صَالِحِينَ

'May Allāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ be with you and protect you and bring you back to us safely.'

‘Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ said some couplets asking for forgiveness from Allāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ and asking him for martyrdom. He then went to Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ and bade him farewell.

As the army started to march forward, Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ accompanied them until the time came for him to bid farewell. ‘Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ then said:

خَلَفَ السَّلَامُ عَلَى امْرِيٍّ وَدَعْتُهُ فِي النَّخْلِ خَيْرَ مُشِيْعٍ وَخَلِيلٍ

‘May peace remain on the one who I said goodbye to amid the palms, the best companion and friend.’





## The Consultation

**T**he Muslim army set out from Madīnah and started to make their way north. Shuraḥbīl found out that the Muslim army were making their way towards Shām and prepared an army of more than 100,000. Hiraqla also arrived at Balqā' to aid Shuraḥbīl with another 100,000 soldiers. The total size of the force facing the Muslims was 200,000!

The Muslim army reached a village called Ma'ān and received news that 200,000 armed soldiers had gathered at Balqā' lying in wait for them. The army stayed in Ma'ān for 2 nights and discussed what their next steps should be. One opinion was to inform Rasūlullāh ﷺ about the situation and then wait for his command and reinforcements. To this 'Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ said:

يا قوم والله ان التي تكرهون للتي خرجتم اياها تطلبون الشهادة  
و ما نقاتل الناس بعدد و لا قوة و لا كثرة ما نقاتلهم الا بهذا  
الدين الذي اكرمنا الله به فانطلقوا فانما هي احدى الحسنين اما  
ظهور و اما شهادة

'O people, by Allāh, that matter which you find undesirable, is the martyrdom you have come out for. And we do not fight them because of strength or large numbers, we don't fight them except for this religion which Allāh has honoured us with, so get

up and go, we will get one of the 2 bounties, either we will be victorious or gain martyrdom.'

The people said, by Allāh what 'Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ said is the truth. The Muslim army numbering only 3,000 then made their way towards Mu'tah to encounter the enemy numbering 200,000.





## The Battle

**B**oth armies faced each other on the battlefield. The Muslim army had Qūṭbah ibn Qatādah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ overlooking the right wing and ‘Ubāya ibn Mālik رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ over the left.

## The Martyrdom of Zayd ibn Ḥārithah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ

Zayd ibn Ḥārithah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ went forward with the standard of the Muslim army. The Roman army brought him down with their spears. As a result, he lost a lot of blood and attained martyrdom.



Figure 1 - The Tomb of Zayd ibn Ḥārithah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ



## The Martyrdom of Ja'far ibn Abū Tālib رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ

After the demise of Zayd ibn Hārithah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, Ja'far ibn Abū Tālib رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ took up the standard of the Muslim army and went forward fighting. He was surrounded by the enemy and his horse also got injured. He then got off his horse and started to fight bravely. He would engage the enemy and recite the following couplets:

يَا حَبْدَا الْجَنَّةِ وَاقْتِرَابُهَا  
 طَيِّبَةٌ وَبَارِدًا شَرَابُهَا  
 وَالرُّومَ رُومَ قَدَدْنَا عَذَابُهَا  
 كَافِرَةٌ بَعِيدَةٌ أَنْسَابُهَا  
 عَلَيَّ إِذْ لَا قَيْتُهَا ضِرَابُهَا

*How lovely is Jannah and its close places*

*How pure and cool is its water*

*And the punishment for the Romans has come near*

*The disbelievers and their lineage are so far from us*

*It is incumbent upon me, that when I meet them, I confront them*

As Ja'far رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ was confronting the enemy, his right hand got cut off. He then took the standard of the army and held it in his left hand. The left hand of Ja'far رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ also now got cut off. He then held the standard to his chest. Ja'far رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ continued fighting in

this way until he was also martyred. In return for this, Allāh ﷻ granted Ja'far رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ two wings in Jannah, hence he was known as 'Dhul Janāḥayn'.

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عُمَرَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ أَمَرَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فِي غَزْوَةِ مُوتَةَ زَيْدَ بْنَ حَارِثَةَ فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " إِنَّ قَتِيلَ زَيْدٍ فَجَعَفَرٌ وَإِنْ قُتِلَ جَعْفَرٌ فَعَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنِ رَوَاحَةَ ". قَالَ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ كُنْتُ فِيهِمْ فِي تِلْكَ الْغَزْوَةِ فَالْتَمَسْنَا جَعْفَرَ بْنَ أَبِي طَالِبٍ فَوَجَدْنَاهُ فِي الْقَتْلِ وَوَجَدْنَا مَا فِي جَسَدِهِ بِضْعًا وَتِسْعِينَ مِنْ طَعْنَةٍ وَرَمِيَةٍ<sup>3</sup>

‘Abdullāh ibn ‘Umar رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ reports ‘I was with them in this battle (Mu'tah), and we searched for Ja'far ibn Abū Ṭālib رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ (on the battlefield). We found him with the bodies of the martyrs, and we found more than 90 wounds on his body caused by stabs or shots (of arrows).’

<sup>3</sup> Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 4261



Figure 2 - The Tomb of Ja'far ibn Abū Ṭālib رضي الله عنه



### The Martyrdom of ‘Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ

After Ja‘far رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ was martyred, ‘Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ picked up the standard of the Muslim army. He started to advance on his horse but sensed some hesitation, so he pressured himself to go forward. He recited some couplets addressing himself, then dismounted from his horse.

A cousin of ‘Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ approached him and gave him a bone, telling him to strengthen himself with it, as he hadn't eaten for many days. He took the bone and sucked it only once. He then threw it away and again addressed himself saying that people were fighting, and he busy with the world.

‘Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ took his sword and went forward into the battlefield. He fought bravely until he was also martyred. The standard for the army then fell from his hand.



Figure 3 - The Tomb of ‘Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ

## The Standard

Thābit ibn Aqram رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ now took the standard of the Muslim army in his hands. He called out to the Muslims and told them to agree on a leader among them. The people replied that he was their leader, and they were all happy with him. Thābit ibn Aqram رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ did not assume the leadership but took the standard and placed it in the hands of Khālid ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. Thābit ibn Aqram رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ told Khālid ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ that he familiar with the art warfare.

Khālid ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ took a while to agree, but all the Muslims were agreed upon him being their leader. Khālid ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ took the standard, went forward, and fought with great bravery.

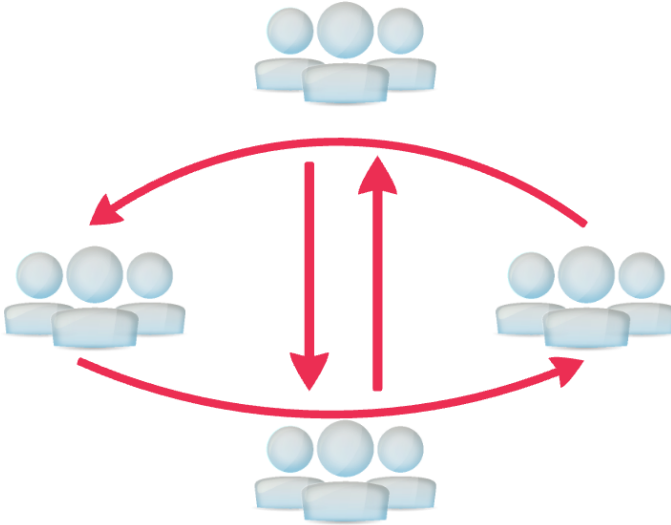
قَيْسٌ قَالَ سَمِعْتُ خَالِدَ بْنَ الْوَلِيدِ يَقُولُ لَقَدْ دُقَّ فِي يَدِي يَوْمَ مُوتَةَ  
تِسْعَةُ أَسْيَافٍ وَصَبْرَتْ فِي يَدِي صَفِيحَةٌ لِي يَمَانِيَّةٌ<sup>4</sup>

Khālid ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ said, “On the day of Mu'tah, 9 swords broke in my hand and the only sword that was left was a Yemeni sword of mine”.

<sup>4</sup> Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 4266

## The Strategy

The following day, Khālīd ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ changed the battle lines. He moved the forward line to the back and swapped the right and left flanks. When the enemy saw this, they thought that new reinforcements had arrived.



Ibn Sa‘ad, Abū ‘Āmir رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ says that when Khālīd ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ attacked the Romans, he dealt such a defeat to them that he had never seen a defeat like this ever.

Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى then gave Khālīd ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ victory. When the Romans retreated, Khālīd ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ decided not to lay chase to them. He took his army and returned to Madīnah.



## The Martyrs

There was a total of 12 Companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ who were martyred in this battle as follows:

- ❖ Zayd ibn Ḥārithah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ
- ❖ Ja'far ibn Abū Ṭālib رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ
- ❖ 'Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ
- ❖ Mas'ūd ibn al-Aswad رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ
- ❖ Wahb ibn Sa'ad رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ
- ❖ 'Abbād ibn Qays رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ
- ❖ Al-Ḥārith ibn Nu'mān رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ
- ❖ Surāqah ibn 'Amr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ
- ❖ Abū Kulayb ibn 'Amr ibn Zayd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ
- ❖ Jābir ibn 'Amr ibn Zayd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ
- ❖ 'Amr ibn Sa'ad ibn al-Ḥārith رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ
- ❖ 'Āmir ibn Sa'ad ibn al-Ḥārith رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ



Figure 4 - Site of the Battle of Mu'tah

## The News

**O**n the day of the battle of Mu'tah, when the leaders were falling, Allāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ showed Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ what was happening hundreds of miles away whilst he was in Madīnah.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ gathered the Companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ by announcing 'Aṣṣalātu Jāmi'ah'. He then climbed upon the pulpit and could see what was happening on the battlefield, relating the information to the Companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said that Zayd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ held the standard of Islām and fought bravely until he was martyred and entered Jannah. After Zayd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, Ja'far رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ took up the standard and fought bravely until he was also martyred. Ja'far رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ has entered Jannah and is flying with the Angels with two wings.



After this 'Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ took up the standard. Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ mentioned this, then remained quiet for a while. The Anṣār saw this and got worried and thought maybe 'Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ has done some action which has caused Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ to remain quiet.

After a while Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ continued and said, ‘Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ also fought bravely until he was also martyred. All three of these have been lifted to Jannah and are sitting on golden thrones.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ was saying these words whilst tears were flowing from his eyes. He then said, one of the swords from the swords of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى has taken up the standard and fought until Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى granted the Muslims victory. This sword was none other than Khālid ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ.

In another narration, Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said ‘Oh Allāh, Khālid is a sword from one of your swords, You alone can help him’. From that day Khālid ibn Al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ became famous with the name ‘Sayfullāh’ (sword of Allāh).





## The Household of Ja'far رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ

**A**fter Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ had finished relating the incident to the Companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ, he went to the house of Ja'far رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ and called his children. Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ passed his blessed hands over their heads whilst he was crying.

Asmā' bint 'Umays رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا, the wife of Ja'far رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ realised that something had happened. She asked Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ why he was crying and if he had received some news about Ja'far رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ and his companions. Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ replied that Ja'far رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ had been martyred that day. Asmā' bint 'Umays رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا let out a scream and a number of women gathered around her.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ went to his own house and asked his family to cook food and send it for the family of Ja'far رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, as they were busy in their grief. Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ himself was also greatly affected by this loss and remained in the Masjid for three days.



Khālid ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ brought the Muslim army back to Madīnah. When they were near, Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ and the other Companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ came out to meet them.

## The Sariyah of ‘Amr ibn al-‘Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ

In the month of Jumādā al-Thāni in 8<sup>th</sup> year of Hijri, Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ received news that a group from the Banū Quḍā‘ah was preparing to attack Madīnah.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ sent ‘Amr ibn al-Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ with 330 people in the direction of Dhāt al-Salāsil. Dhāh al-Salāsil was located behind Wādī al-Qurā’ and was 10 days journey from Madīnah. The small army comprised of 300 foot soldiers and 30 cavalry.



When they arrived close to their destination, they found out that the enemy had gathered a massive force to confront them. The army decided to momentarily halt their advance and Rāfi‘ ibn Mukīth رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ was sent to Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ requesting reinforcements.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ accepted their request and sent Abū ‘Ubaydah ibn al-Jarrāh رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ with 200 people to go and help them. Abū Bakr and ‘Umar رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا were also in this contingent. Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ gave them advice to go and join ‘Amr ibn al-Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ and stressed the need for unity and harmony.

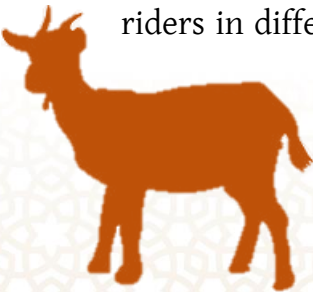
Abū ‘Ubaydah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ reached there and the time for Ṣalāh arrived. Abū ‘Ubaydah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ wanted to lead the Salāh but ‘Amr ibn al-Āṣ

رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ reminded him that he was the leader of the army and Abū 'Ubaydah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ had come to help them.

Abū 'Ubaydah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ said that he was the leader of his group and 'Amr ibn al-Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ was the leader of his group. After a while, Abū 'Ubaydah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ said that when he was leaving, Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ had given him advice that they should follow each other and not have any differences, therefore he would follow 'Amr ibn al-Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. 'Amr ibn al-Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ then used to lead the Ṣalāh and Abū 'Ubaydah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ would join the other Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ and read behind him.

The two contingents of the Muslim army now joined forced and attacked the Banū Quḍā'ah. The enemy were in awe of the Muslim army and ran away, dispersing in different directions. News of the victory was sent with 'Auf ibn Mālik رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ to Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ in Madīnah.

'Amr ibn al-Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ stayed there for a few days and sent out riders in different directions. They used to come back with camels and goats, which were then cooked and eaten by the Muslim army. After this, the Muslim force returned victorious to Madīnah.





## The Sariyah of Abū 'Ubaydah ibn al-Jarrāh

رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ

In the month of Rajjab, Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ sent Abū 'Ubaydah ibn al-Jarrāh رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ at the head of 300 people to Sayf al-Baḥr, towards the tribe of Juhaynah. 'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ and Jābir ibn 'Abdullāh رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ were also in this army.

While the army was leaving, Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ gave them a bag of dates as provisions for the expedition. The Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ ate the dates to sustain themselves and after this, they used to suck on the date stones and drink water.

When the date stones also ran out, they used to shake leaves from the trees, wet them with water and then eat them. By eating the leaves, the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ injured their mouths and lips. In one narration it mentions that they ate 'khabṭ' which means the desert bushes. Hence this expedition was also known as 'Jaysh al-Khabṭ'.



The army reached the sea shore and were struggling with hunger when suddenly Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى sent them some help. A large sea creature was thrown from the sea onto the sea shore. This fish was so large, that the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ ate from it for a month according to some narrations.

By eating the fish, they got back all their strength and became well again. This fish was known as al-<sup>ع</sup>Anbar.

Abū 'Ubaydah ibn al-Jarrāh رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ took one of the ribs of the fish and stood it up. He then saddled the largest animal and one of the tallest soldiers was asked to ride the animal under the rib. The companion did as he was told and managed to go under the rib without touching it. This showed how big the fish was.

During this expedition, there were no hostilities and the army arrived back in Madīnah. They told Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ about the fish and he said that this was sustenance from Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. He then asked, if there was any meat left from the fish, they should bring it to him. He was given some of the meat and he ate it.



## Summary

**M**u'tah is the name of a place in modern day Jordan, close to the 'Dead Sea'. Rasūlullāh ﷺ had sent Ḥārith ibn 'Umayr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ to Shuraḥbīl ibn 'Amr Ghassānī with a letter inviting him to Islām. Ḥārith ibn 'Umayr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ had been killed and this was the reason Rasūlullāh ﷺ sent an army of 3,000 to this place.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ made Zayd ibn Ḥārithah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ the leader of the army and had given instruction that if he falls, then Ja'far ibn Abū Ṭālib رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ should become the leader, and if he also falls then 'Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. If he also then falls, the army should select a leader from among themselves.

Shuraḥbīl gathered an army of 100,000 and Hiraqla also came to his aid with another 100,000. The Muslim army was against heavy odds, more than sixty enemy soldiers to one Muslim soldier. Both armies met in Mu'tah and the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ fought bravely. Zayd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ advanced with the standard of the Muslim army in hand. He fought bravely until he was martyred. Ja'far رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ then took up the standard and he was also martyred. 'Abdullāh ibn al-Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ then took it up and was also martyred.

As per the instructions of Rasūlullāh ﷺ, the Muslims then had to choose a leader. They rallied around Khālīd ibn al-Walīd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ and made him their leader. He changed the formation of



the army causing confusion in the ranks of the enemy force. He then led the army back to Madīnah.

Whilst the battle was ongoing, Allāh ﷻ showed Rasūlullāh ﷺ what was happening, and he gathered the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ. He told them how all three of the leaders had become martyred and entered Jannah.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ continued to send out expeditions in different directions. Upon receiving news of an impending attack on Madīnah, ‘Amr ibn al-Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ was sent to Dhāt al-Salāsil. When the army found out that the enemy had amassed a large force, reinforcements were requested. Rasūlullāh ﷺ sent ‘Abdullāh ibn al-Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ with another contingent to support ‘Amr ibn al-Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. The united Muslim army then launched an attack on the Banū Qudā‘ah and were victorious.

Another expedition was sent under the leadership of Abū ‘Ubaydah ibn al-Jarrāh رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. The army ran out of provisions and were surviving by eating the leaves off trees which had been soaked in water. Allāh ﷻ provided a large fish for them as sustenance and the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ ate for many days from this fish. They even took some of the meat back with them to Madīnah and Rasūlullāh ﷺ ate from it.

Very soon, the Quraysh would break the terms of the treaty of Ḥudaybiyah resulting in the conquest of Makkah.

سِرَّاهُ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
Part 28 – The Battle of Mu'tah

[www.Islamicacademycoventry.org](http://www.Islamicacademycoventry.org)

Islamicacademycoventry@hotmail.com

83-87 Cambridge Street

Coventry CV1 5HU