

Life of the Prophet

(peace be upon him)

A decorative floral border with eight stylized, symmetrical scroll-like elements arranged in a circular pattern around the central text.

Great Battle of Badr

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The Great Battle of Badr

The Prophet (peace be upon him) got the news that a commercial caravan of the people of Quraish was on its way back from Shâm (the region covering Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine) to Mecca. This caravan contained precious commercial merchandise for the people of the Quraish. It was led by Abu Sufyân bin Harb. The Prophet (peace be upon him) decided to attack this caravan and take what they had in return for the property of the Muhâjirûn (immigrants) which had been taken by the people of Mecca. When Abu Sufyân learned of the decision of the Prophet (peace be upon him), he tried to flee along with his caravan. He sent to the people of Mecca asking for help.



In response to his plea, the people of Quraish gathered and went out to defend their commercial caravan. At that time Abu Sufyân had already managed to flee with the caravan.

Consequently he sent a message to those who had gone out to defend the caravan telling them to return to Mecca. But the prominent leaders of Quraish, especially Abu Jahl refused to return. They insisted on going on and fighting against the Muslims. They went on to Medina in an army of about 1000 fighters.

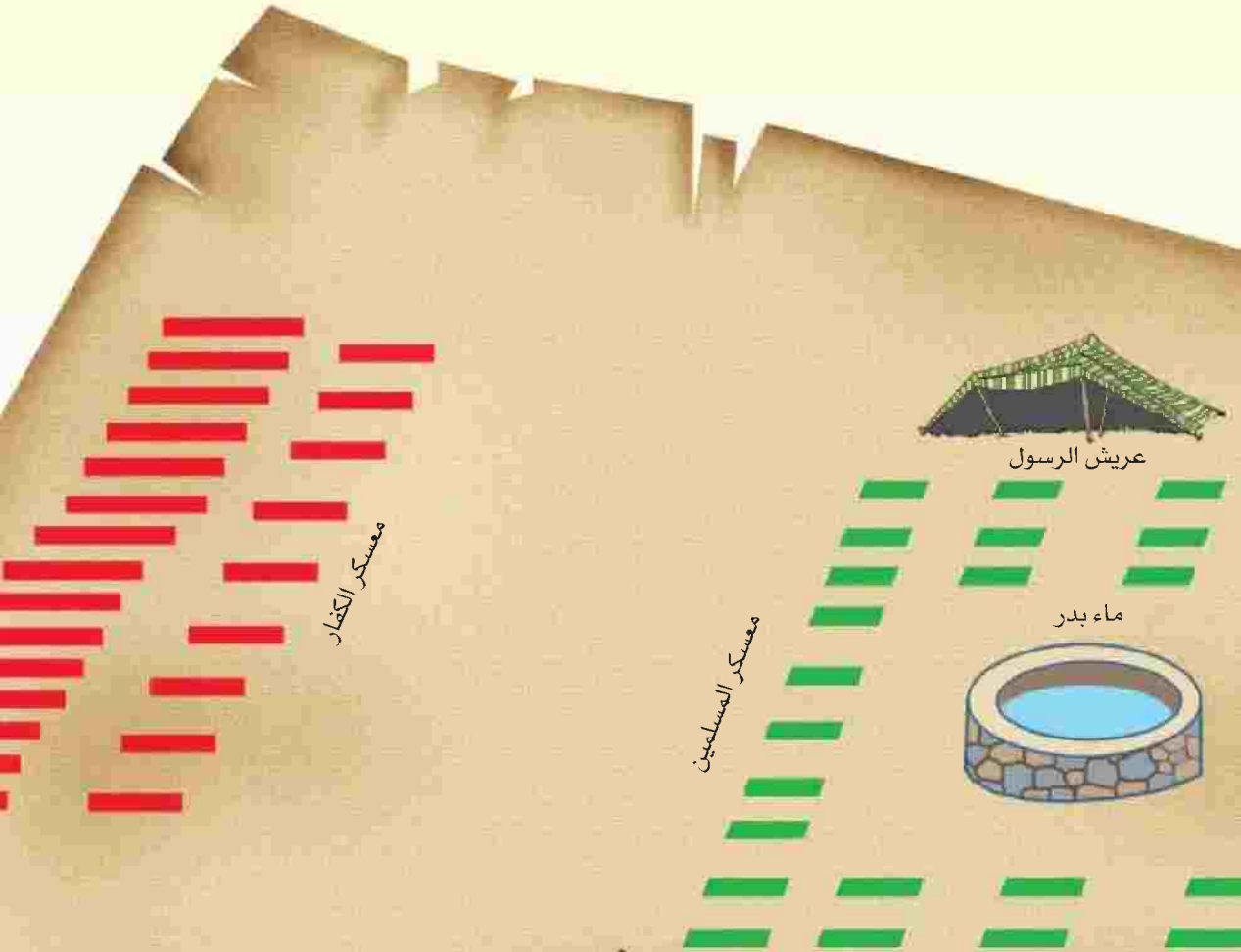


The group that had gone with the Prophet (peace be upon him) to attack the caravan of Quraish was only 317 men Muhâjirûn (immigrants) and Ansâr (supporters). They had only 70 camels. So they rode on them alternately. The Prophet (peace be upon him), 'Aly bin Abu Tâlib and Marthad bin Abu Marthad were supposed to share one camel, however, 'Aly and Marthad agreed to walk the entire way and let the Prophet (peace be upon him) ride. Their compassion and love for the Prophet (peace be upon him) brought them to this decision. But the Prophet (peace be upon him) refused their suggestion and said, "You are not stronger than me to walk nor are you more eager than me to receive the divine reward (of bearing the hardships of walking)."



It was Friday, the 17 of Ramad  n when the Muslims engaged in fighting with the polytheists. This was the Great Battle of Badr. On that great day, Allah honored the religion of Islam. He granted Muslims victory. When Muslims showed bravery, Allah supported them with 5000 angels to fight the polytheists with them. In that battle, 70 polytheists were killed and 70 others were taken captive. On the other hand, only 14 Muslims were killed: six of the Muh  jir  n and eight of the Ans  r.

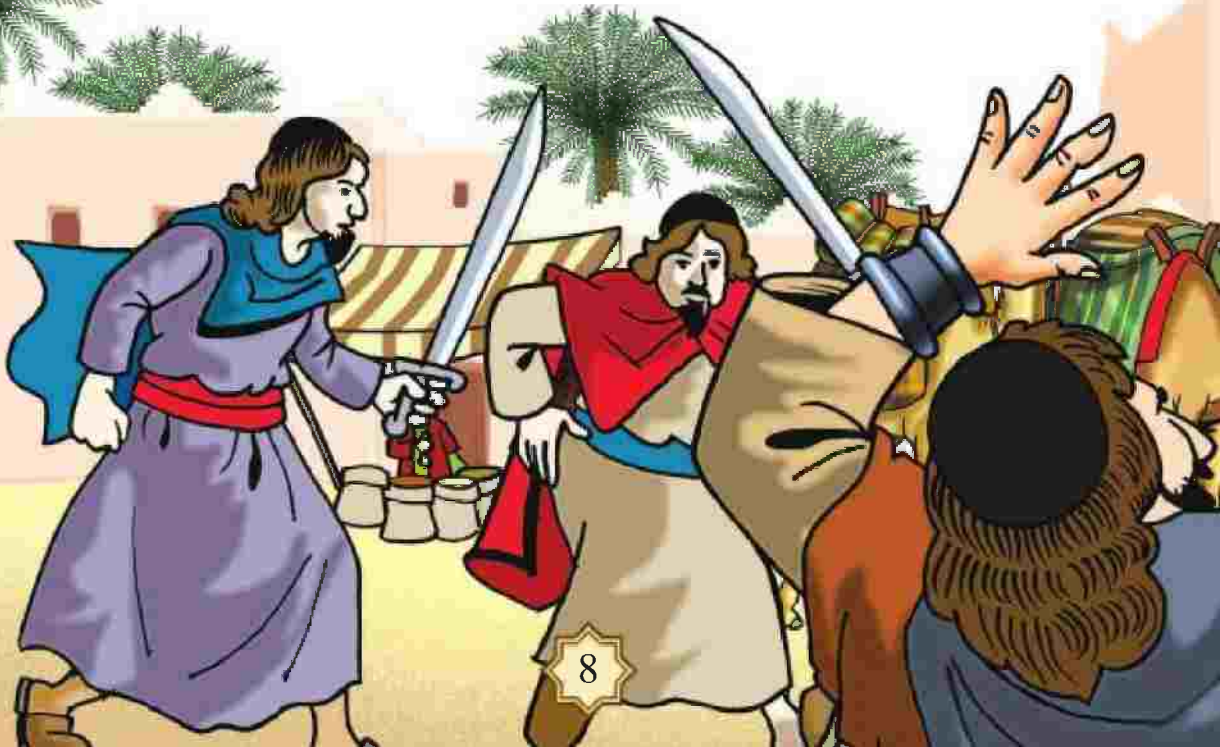




The Battle of Banu Qainuqâ'

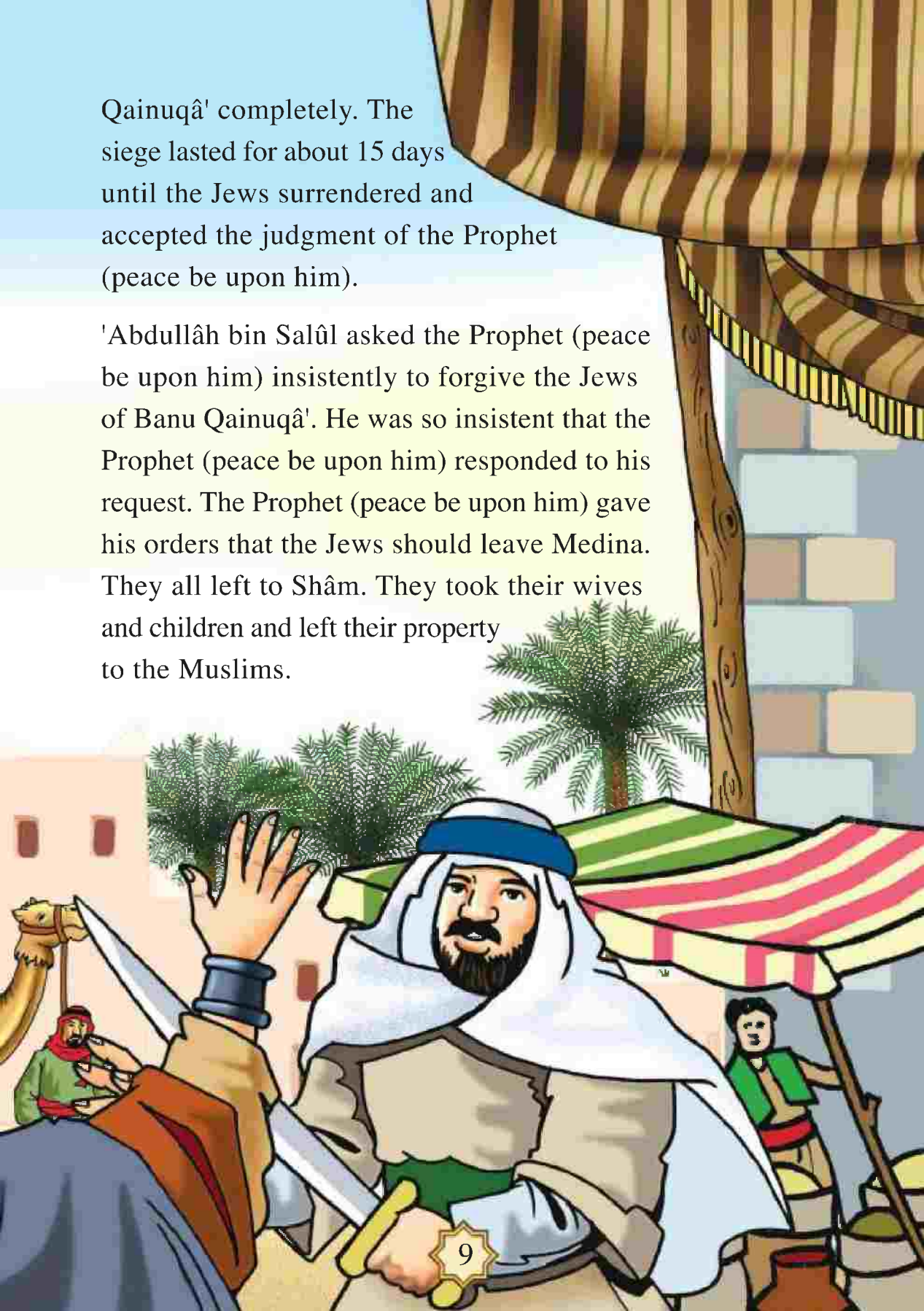
Immediately after the Battle of Badr, the Jews of Banu Qainuqâ' daringly started to take hostile actions against Muslims. Their aim was to devalue the effect of the Muslims' victory at the Battle of Badr. It happened that a Muslim woman went to the market of Banu Qainuqâ' in Medina. She went to buy something from a Jewish jeweler. The jeweler asked her to uncover her face, but she refused. Then the malicious Jew tied the tip of the woman's dress to her back while she was sitting down. When she stood up her back was uncovered and the Jews laughed at her. Then she cried, "O Muslims! Help me!"

Hearing that, a Muslim man attacked the Jew and killed him. The Jews gathered around the Muslim man and killed him. When the Prophet (peace be upon him) was informed of it, he prepared an army and surrounded the Jews of Banu



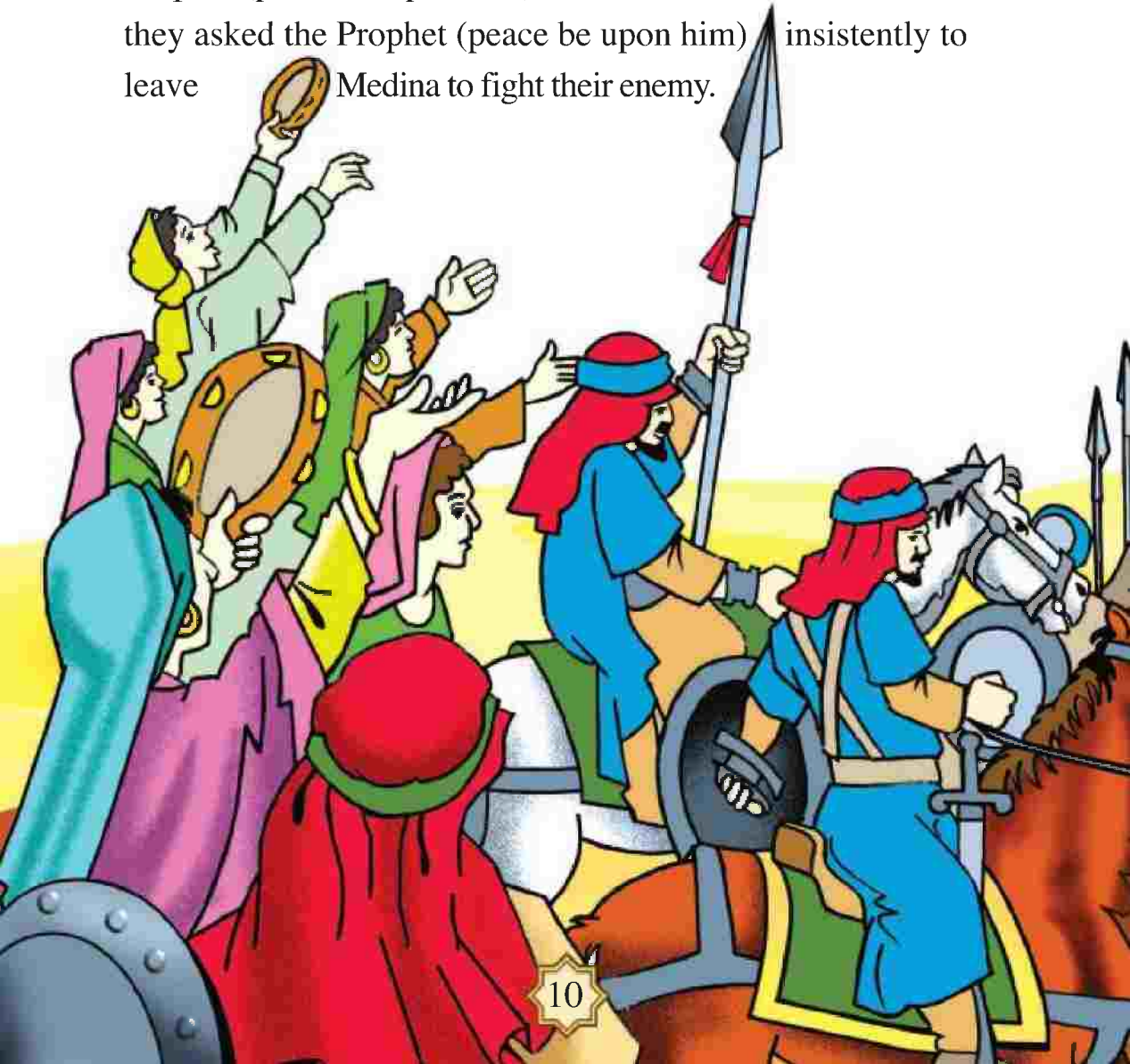
Qainuqâ' completely. The siege lasted for about 15 days until the Jews surrendered and accepted the judgment of the Prophet (peace be upon him).

'Abdullâh bin Salûl asked the Prophet (peace be upon him) insistently to forgive the Jews of Banu Qainuqâ'. He was so insistent that the Prophet (peace be upon him) responded to his request. The Prophet (peace be upon him) gave his orders that the Jews should leave Medina. They all left to Shâm. They took their wives and children and left their property to the Muslims.



The Battle of Uhud

The people of Quraish did not forget their defeat in the Battle of Badr. They wanted to take revenge on the Prophet (peace be upon him) and his Companions for their earlier defeat. They gathered an army of 3000 fighters under the leadership of Abu Sufyân. They went out on the 15th of Shawwâl, (the third year after Hijrah). They proceeded to Medina to fight against the Prophet (peace be upon him). When the Muslims learned of it, they asked the Prophet (peace be upon him) insistently to leave Medina to fight their enemy.



The Prophet (peace be upon him) agreed due to their pressure although he held a different opinion. He felt that the Muslims should stay in Medina until the polytheists started to attack them, and then they should start defending themselves.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) gathered and led an army of 1000 fighters. They went out to meet the troops of the Quraish. On the way, some of the hypocrites separated themselves from the Muslim army and returned. There were only 700 fighters left. They went on under the leadership of the Prophet (peace be upon him) until they reached the mountain of Uhud. The Prophet (peace be upon him) arrayed the army with its back to the mountain of Uhud and its front to Medina. The Prophet (peace be upon him) ordered a group of archers to stand on top of a small mountain. There were 50 archers led by 'Abdullâh bin Jubair (may Allah be pleased with him). The Prophet (peace be upon him) ordered them not to leave their places until the end of the battle.



The battle started and it was a fierce and difficult one. In the beginning, Muslims managed to win the battle and the polytheists fled. When the Muslim archers saw that from their place on the mountain, they left their positions and descended in order to collect the spoils of war. The leader of the polytheist horsemen, Khâlid bins Al-Walîd, saw them descending and leaving their vital places. So he seized the opportunity and encircled the mountain where the shooters were. He and his troops killed the remaining nine archers. Then he launched an abrupt attack on the Muslim army. They shouted to gather the other polytheists. In a short time they had gathered and started rearranging their army. Under the polytheists' abrupt attacks, the Muslim army scattered and a large number of them were killed.



Among the Muslims killed were Hamzah and Mus'ab.

The disbelievers propagated an ugly rumor that the Prophet (peace be upon him) had been killed. But later the Quraish knew that the Prophet (peace be upon him) was still alive, so they stopped fighting and were satisfied with the partial victory they had achieved and returned to Mecca. In this Battle 70 Muslims were martyred. The Muslim army returned to Medina to guard its gates.

After the Prophet (peace be upon him) had finished the Fajr (Dawn) prayer, he asked Muslims to prepare themselves to go out once again. They went out led by the Prophet (peace be upon him) and stayed at a place called Hamrâ' Al-Asad so as to resume fighting at a later time. When the Quraish got news of it, Allah put terror into their hearts and they fled to Mecca.



The Battle of Banu An-Nadîr

In the 4th Hijri year, the Prophet (peace be upon him) visited the Jews of Banu An-Nadîr and asked them to participate in paying the Dīyah (blood money) of two men. These two men had been mistakenly killed by 'Amr bin Umayyah who thought them enemies. They were allies of the Prophet (peace be upon him). The Jews agreed to help the Prophet (peace be upon him), but they were hiding an evil plot: to kill the Prophet (peace be upon him).

One of them ascended the wall of a house on which the Prophet (peace be upon him) was leaning. He held a big rock and raised it to throw it on the Prophet (peace be upon him). But Angel Jibrîl (Gabriel, peace be upon him) came to the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) and informed him of the evil plan of the Jews.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) rose as if he were going to do something. He returned to Medina at once. Later, his Companions followed him. When they asked him why he had left, he (peace be upon him) answered them, "The Jews had an evil conspiracy against my life, but Allah informed me of it, so I went away."



Later on, the Prophet (peace be upon him) and his Companions went back to the Jews and surrounded them. The siege lasted six days. At the end, the Jews asked the Prophet (peace be upon him) to lift the siege. They asked to be allowed to leave Medina without weapons. The Prophet (peace be upon him) accepted their request. They left to Khaibar after destroying their own houses so that the Muslims would not be able to use them later.

