

The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions

خَبَّابُ بْنُ الْأَرَتِ رضي الله عنه - المعلم

Khabbab bin Al-Aratt رضي الله عنه

The Teacher



*In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

“Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allâh [i.e. they have gone out for *Jihâd* (holy fighting), and showed not their backs to the disbelievers]; of them some have fulfilled their obligations (i.e. have been martyred); and some of them are still waiting, but they have never changed (i.e. they never proved treacherous to their covenant which they concluded with Allâh) in the least.”
(33:23)

Publishers Note

All praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists. May Allâh's peace and blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, his family and his Companions.

Darussalam is pleased to present this valuable series, "*The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions*", to the Muslim youth. The purpose of these books is to enlighten our youth about the lives of the greatest heroes of Islam, the Prophet's Companions. Also, we wish to increase the enthusiasm of the Muslim youth for following and adhering to their religion. In this way, these books achieve two very important tasks: educating our youth and encouraging them to be good Muslims.

The story you are about to read, '*Khabbab bin Al-Aratt* ﷺ – *The Teacher*', is an inspiring story of the life of one of Islam's earliest converters. He was one of the weak and oppressed slaves who accepted Islam in its early days in Makkah. He patiently persevered through the tortures and persecution he received for the cause of Islam. He was one of the few people who could read,

and thus he used his knowledge to teach Muslims how to read the Noble Qur'ân. He truly dedicated his entire life to support the cause of Allâh and His Messenger ﷺ.

We hope that these books are beneficial to our Muslim youth, as they are the future of Islam. We at Darussalam realize the importance of good Islamic literature for Muslim youth, especially in the West where non-Islamic influences are so strong. For this reason, we feel that the availability of this series will be a valuable aid in instilling a genuine love for Islam in our youth. We would like to thank the author, Mr. Abdul Basit Ahmad, the editors, Mr. Aqeel Walker and Mr. Muhammad Ayub Sapra for their diligent work in preparing this series. As Allâh says:

“Is there any reward for good other than good?” (55:60)

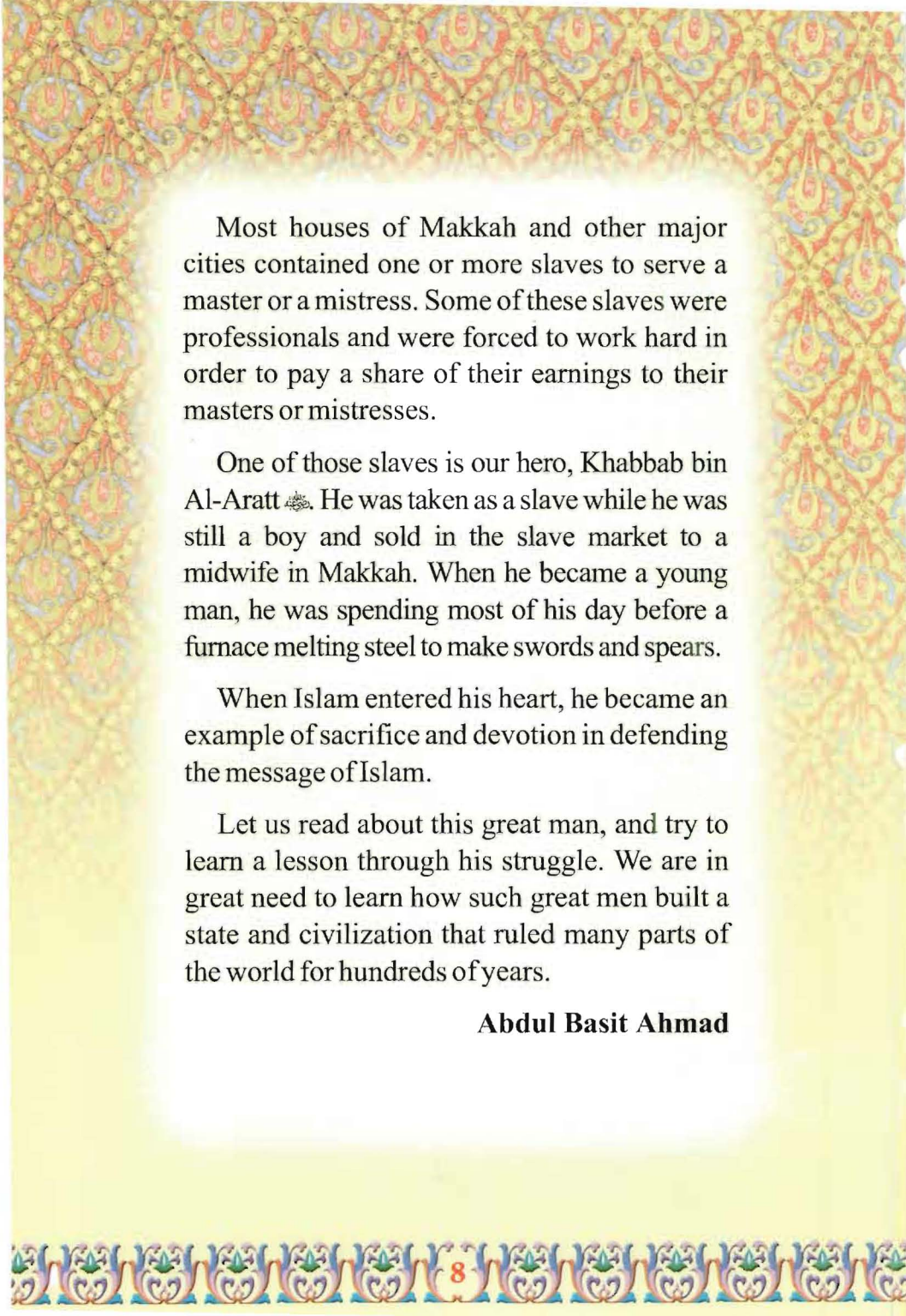
And our final word is that all praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager

Foreword

Gloom and injustice dominated the Pre-Islamic era in the Arabian Peninsula in particular and the whole world in general. Many human beings were treated very badly and even not allowed to live freely. The rich and powerful were able to take as many slaves as they wished. Slaves were treated with cruelty. Their masters and mistresses used and abused them. During those days, slavery had its markets where human beings, sometimes prisoners of war, were sold to whoever paid a good price for them. Slave traders, on the other hand, were roaming everywhere to add to the agonies of humanity. No free man could consider himself secure against being taken as a slave. The invasions and retaliations of tribes could turn a master into a slave within no time.

The bad treatment of slaves was very common. Hard work, humiliation and oppression were some of the things that no slave escaped. Boys, girls, women and men were subjected to torture and hardships to make them submit to the orders of their masters.



Most houses of Makkah and other major cities contained one or more slaves to serve a master or a mistress. Some of these slaves were professionals and were forced to work hard in order to pay a share of their earnings to their masters or mistresses.

One of those slaves is our hero, Khabbab bin Al-Aratt ﷺ. He was taken as a slave while he was still a boy and sold in the slave market to a midwife in Makkah. When he became a young man, he was spending most of his day before a furnace melting steel to make swords and spears.

When Islam entered his heart, he became an example of sacrifice and devotion in defending the message of Islam.

Let us read about this great man, and try to learn a lesson through his struggle. We are in great need to learn how such great men built a state and civilization that ruled many parts of the world for hundreds of years.

Abdul Basit Ahmad

Introduction

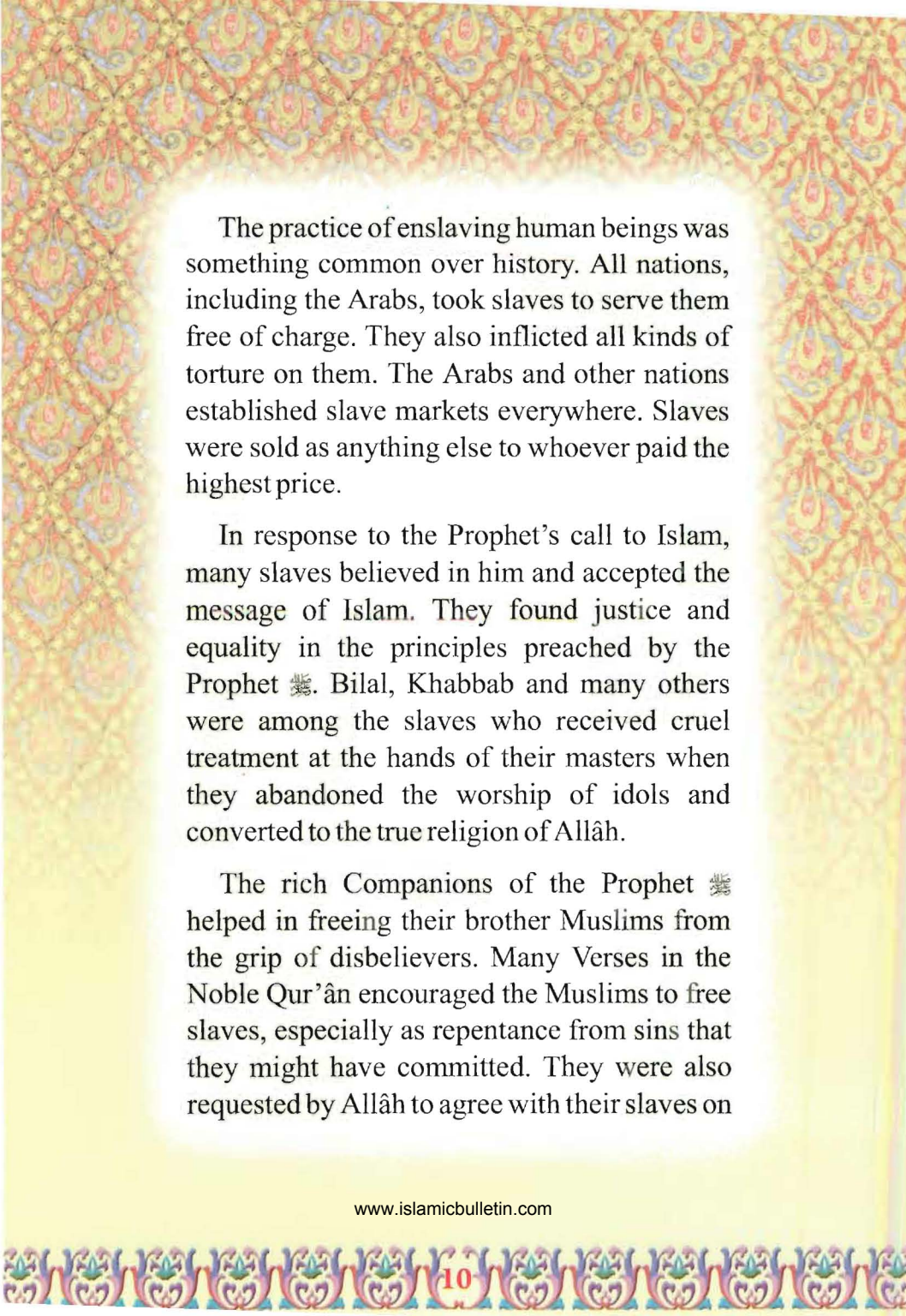
In this introduction, I would like to shed some light on the life of the Arabs before the advent of Islam in order that our readers may know the differences between the society of the Muslims and the way Arabs used to live before Islam.

Illiterate Nation

Arabs were mostly illiterate. A few numbers of Arabs knew how to read and write. The Prophet ﷺ was even illiterate. Therefore, they knew nothing of the teachings of Christianity and Judaism and had no knowledge of any sciences. They were mainly Bedouins following their flocks in the desert in quest of water and food.

Slaves before the rise of Islam

Allâh created human beings as free men and women. However, these same human beings abused each other in violation of divine teachings. The number of slaves increased with every new war waged among nations, tribes and clans.



The practice of enslaving human beings was something common over history. All nations, including the Arabs, took slaves to serve them free of charge. They also inflicted all kinds of torture on them. The Arabs and other nations established slave markets everywhere. Slaves were sold as anything else to whoever paid the highest price.

In response to the Prophet's call to Islam, many slaves believed in him and accepted the message of Islam. They found justice and equality in the principles preached by the Prophet ﷺ. Bilal, Khabbab and many others were among the slaves who received cruel treatment at the hands of their masters when they abandoned the worship of idols and converted to the true religion of Allâh.

The rich Companions of the Prophet ﷺ helped in freeing their brother Muslims from the grip of disbelievers. Many Verses in the Noble Qur'ân encouraged the Muslims to free slaves, especially as repentance from sins that they might have committed. They were also requested by Allâh to agree with their slaves on

a certain compensation for their freedom.

Women before and after Islam

Before the rise of Islam, women were treated very badly. Some Arabs considered them as part of the inheritance left by their dead husbands. They were not given any share of the inheritance of their dead fathers, mothers or husbands. Moreover, many people feared that the newborn girls would bring shame to their names and families. Hence, fathers tried their best to get rid of daughters born to them. The cruelest way was to bury these girls alive. In addition, a man could marry an unlimited number of women. When Islam established firm roots in the Arabian Peninsula, it gave women due dignity and rights. The Qur'ân always mentioned male and female believers together as related to rights and duties and as related to reward in this life and the Hereafter. It gave women the right to inherit their dead husbands, fathers, mothers and even sons and daughters. Several Muslim women shared in building the state of Islam. They were prominent among the Companions of the

Prophet ﷺ.

Clashes among Tribes

Arabs kept in constant wars with each other. Every tribe invaded and was invaded by other tribes. These wars sometimes erupted for unimportant reasons. For example, if a tribe killed a camel belonging to another tribe, war might snatch hundreds of lives and might last for years for that silly reason. In addition, wars added to the number of enslaved boys, girls, women and men. The main thing was that Islam called the tribes of Arabia to stop fighting each other and to unite under the banner of Islam. The trend of fighting for the glory of the tribe was condemned by Islam.

Differences between the Rich and the Poor

Before the rise of Islam discrimination on financial basis prevailed in the societies of Arabia. A poor man was not given any chance to express his point of view on matters of importance to the tribe. Only chiefs of the tribe who were well-off had the right to decide on any matter related to the tribe. Some of the

Quraish chiefs considered it unacceptable for a Messenger from Allâh to be poor. They said that Prophethood should be given to a chief or a rich man.

Vicious Practices

Before Islam, Arabs found no shame in taking usury or abusing those who faced financial problems. If a man was indebted to another one, he could take him, his wife, his daughter or his son as a slave until he paid the debt. Moreover, Makkah itself had a special place for adultery known to all people where they could satisfy their bestial desires without fearing punishment or shame. Drinking wine was a habit that all Arabs, except a few, were indulged in. It was hard for them to live without it. Therefore, Islam eliminated abuse of wine gradually.

It was not easy for a trade caravan to cross the desert without being guarded by several strong men, for robbers were spreading here and there waiting for anyone to come across. when Islam established strong foundations in

the Arab society, any woman could travel to remote areas without being threatened of being robbed or even touched. The Prophet ﷺ foretold that when Islam would spread throughout Arabia, a traveler could make his journey without being afraid from anything except from the wolf to attack his sheep.

The Need for Divine Guidance

With the spread of all these atrocities, it was time to bring down divine guidance to the Arabs. Worship of idols and elements of nature made people deviate from the right path of worshipping their real Creator and Sustainer. As Islam was a message to all human beings, it came to reform Arabs and other nations as well. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was commissioned by Allâh to take people out of gloom to light and from the worship of idols to the worship of Allâh. When this principle was achieved, all other following principles would follow based on true Faith. Many wise Arabs realized the need for some kind of reform. Therefore, when they knew that Muhammad ﷺ was entrusted with the message of Islam, they

believed in him without any hesitation. Even the Christians and Jews were aware of the fact that it was time for a new Prophet to appear in the Arabian Peninsula. Some of them believed in the message of Islam but most of them set themselves as foes for the message of Islam due to grudge. They wanted the Prophet ﷺ to be one of them. Hence, they played a dirty role in fighting against Islam. However, Islam was destined to go forward and bring many parts of the world under its control.



The Slave

Background

In the desert of Arabia and under the glaring sun, the people of the Arab tribes led miserable lives. Their whole lives were shrouded with gloom and ignorance. They moved with their camels and tents from one place to another searching for food and water to survive. They had no fixed place to live at and they had to struggle to find a place where they could graze their animals. This was the type of life many Arabs used to lead.

Lack of Respect to Humanity

Children of both sexes were taught nothing but to care for camels, invade other tribes, or defend their own tribes against invaders. Sometimes the children themselves were taken as slaves by those who could snatch them away from their people. This was exactly how Khabbab bin Al-Aratt spent most of his childhood. He was a child who spent most of his life suffering because of the harsh and cruel ways of life the people lived.

None of the historians who recorded the biographies of the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ mentioned anything about the place Khabbab was from. However, it was reported that he was taken as a slave while he was a young child and sold in Makkah to a woman named Umm Anmar Al-Khuza'iyah who mainly worked as a midwife.

The Professional

This woman bought Khabbab so that he would earn for her a living during the day, and serve her during the night. When Khabbab grew up a young man, she built a shop for him so that he could make swords and spears, for these were the main weapons used during those days.

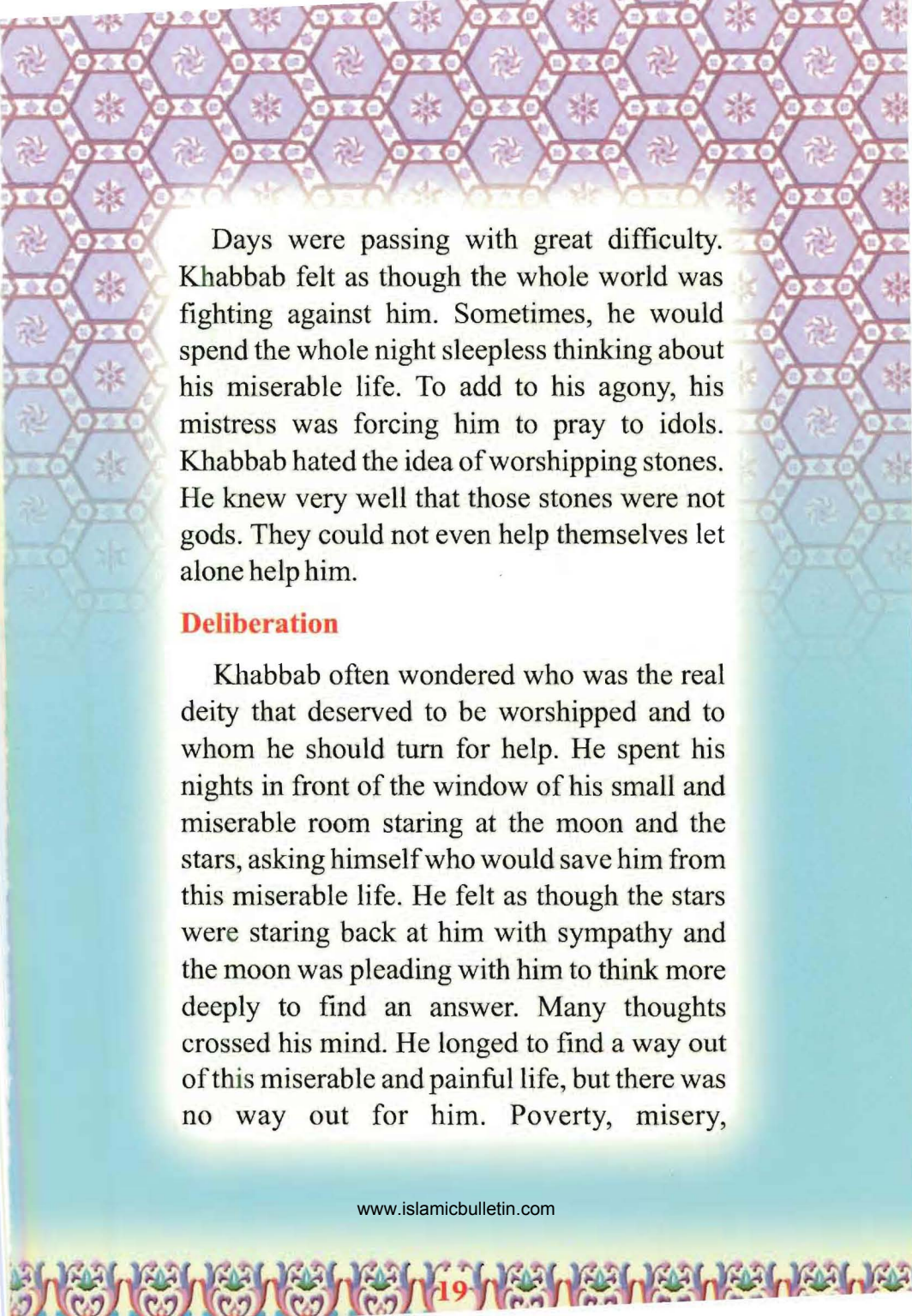
Khabbab had a weak body and skinny face. He spent most of his day in front of the furnace melting iron over red blocks of coal, moving them to the anvil and shaping them into sharp swords and spears. The flames of the fire in the furnace were very uncomfortable for his eyes and face. Unfortunately, this was the life the

poor young man had to live.

Between the Hammer and the Anvil

After a very hard day's work, instead of taking some rest, young Khabbab kept busy serving his mistress at her house. He was always asked to clean the house, make food and even care for the camels. So, his life was a sad series of humiliation, oppression and starvation. He was not even allowed to take rest after a hard day's work in front of the furnace.

Khabbab spent years facing the glowing pieces of iron and coal until he became a professional sword maker. Before long he became very famous for his excellent craftsmanship. The chiefs of Makkah were all proud to have their swords made by him. He earned a lot of money from this craft, but only to pour in Umm Anmar's pocket. The woman was taking full advantage of his talents. Indeed it was a miserable life that he led where no one cared for him or felt any sympathy towards him.



Days were passing with great difficulty. Khabbab felt as though the whole world was fighting against him. Sometimes, he would spend the whole night sleepless thinking about his miserable life. To add to his agony, his mistress was forcing him to pray to idols. Khabbab hated the idea of worshipping stones. He knew very well that those stones were not gods. They could not even help themselves let alone help him.

Deliberation

Khabbab often wondered who was the real deity that deserved to be worshipped and to whom he should turn for help. He spent his nights in front of the window of his small and miserable room staring at the moon and the stars, asking himself who would save him from this miserable life. He felt as though the stars were staring back at him with sympathy and the moon was pleading with him to think more deeply to find an answer. Many thoughts crossed his mind. He longed to find a way out of this miserable and painful life, but there was no way out for him. Poverty, misery,

humiliation and lonely nights added to his sadness.

A man with such a creative mind and expertise was having to live as a slave to human beings. Not only this, but he was also forced to be a slave of false gods made of stone.

Khabbab was disgusted with the injustices and oppression that was going on in Makkah. Deep down in his heart, he felt that although there seemed to be no way out, one day all this corruption would end.



On the Way to Guidance

Khabbab did not have to wait long for this great change to come about. Allâh chose Muhammad bin Abdullah as a Messenger to humanity to take them out of gloom and bring them to light. His message was to call the people to abandon the worship of false idols, to worship the One True Allâh and to put an end to oppression and injustices.

The people of Makkah received the message of Muhammad ﷺ with indifference. A few of them believed in it but most of them did not. Those who wanted to stay in power and oppress the weak and poor, did not want to believe in the message that Muhammad ﷺ came with, because they did not want to lose their power. They did their best to stop the message of Islam and tried to put an end to the life of the Prophet ﷺ.

By time, the number of believers increased. It added to their strength of belief. Those early believers bravely faced every type of torture and oppression they had to suffer at the hands

of the enemies of Islam.

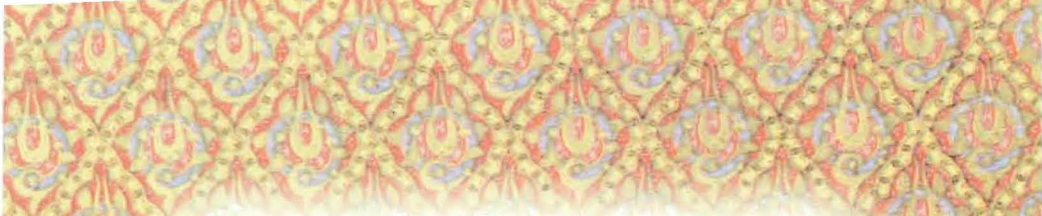
Heresies about the Prophet ﷺ

Khabbab learnt from the people passing by his shop that Muhammad ﷺ was claiming to have received revelation from Allâh. The people of Makkah were saying different things about him. Some falsely claimed he was a lunatic and others alleged he was a magician. A few people believed that he was indeed a Messenger sent by Allâh to save mankind from the miserable and false lives they were leading.

Introduction to Islam

Khabbab thought deeply regarding what he was hearing about the Prophet ﷺ and Islam. Being unsatisfied with the things he heard from people, he decided to hear the message of Islam directly from the man who was preaching it. He felt that change was near, and that the teachings of Muhammad ﷺ were like a powerful light paving the way for him in utter darkness.

His mind was full of different thoughts.



Sometimes, he would think of his miserable condition and the light the new religion could bring to his life. Yet other times he would think that his mistress would make his life more difficult if he would follow the new religion.

Khabbab spent the whole night haunted by such thoughts. Dawn was about to break. Khabbab was still awake. He had not slept a wink. As he made his way to his shop, he passed by some slaves who were chained to rocks. Their lips were dry and desperate for a drop of water. The disbelievers had beaten them severely for abandoning the worship of idols and following the religion that Muhammad ﷺ had been sent with. For a moment he thought he could help them, but then he immediately turned back with tears rolling down his cheeks. He opened the door of his shop with his shivering hand and supported his body against the wall. He let out a sigh full of sorrow. He felt that the people who were passing outside his shop were shadows. It seemed to him as though he was in an unreal world. He closed his eyes for a moment, and

the stream of his life passed swiftly through his mind. Suddenly he stood up, and told himself that he had to make his mind up either way.

Khabbab was finally determined to meet the Prophet ﷺ. However, it was very dangerous to openly meet him during the day. He waited until it became dark again and set off to meet the Prophet ﷺ.

Something unusual was indeed waiting Khabbab. In the depth of his heart he knew that meeting the Prophet ﷺ would change his life, because he knew that the religion of Islam was the true religion of Allâh. The message of Islam touched his soul and mind very powerfully.

He spent the whole day in his shop; sometimes looking at the furnace and then looking towards the road that led to the Ka'bah. He did not get much work done that day. His mind was preoccupied with thinking whether this would be his last day of physical and mental misery or would it make things worse for him.

The Change

The sun began moving towards the west. Khabbab closed his shop and left to his house. When he got home it was already dark. He went into his room, threw himself on his bed and closed his eyes. He slept, and paid no attention to the calls of his mistress. A few hours later he woke up. Everything around him was quiet. He peeped through the cracks of the door to make sure his mistress was asleep. He opened the door and went out into the dark. Everything around him was so quiet. The stars were shining with joy and the moon was gazing from behind the eastern mountains of Makkah.

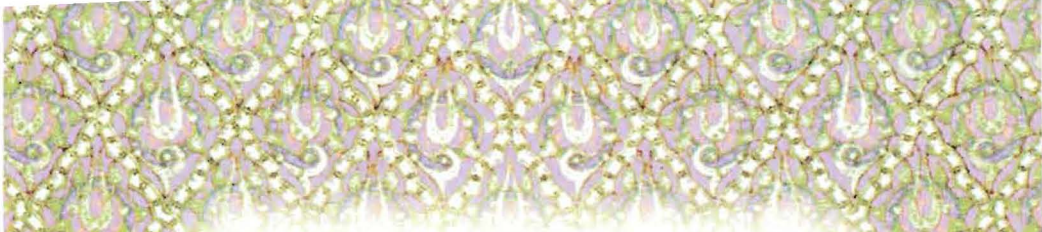
Khabbab was told that the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions were secretly gathering in a house near the Ka'bah. When he got to the house, he went inside and there he was face to face with the Prophet ﷺ. Khabbab listened to the Word of Allāh; it was like sparks of light coming out of the mouth of the Prophet ﷺ. The words filled his heart with guidance and conviction. Minutes later, the young man was

melting like a piece of ice under the sun. He immediately declared his belief in Islam. He knew that by accepting Islam he would face a lot of oppression and torture, because he was poor and weak. However, he happily welcomed whatever hardships he might have to face for the sake of his new faith and belief.

The test

The Quraish heard that Khabbab has accepted Islam, and had announced his acceptance loud and clear.

A man who was known to be very vicious and arrogant had bought some swords and spears from Khabbab. He asked Khabbab to give him some time to arrange for the payment. At the set date, he asked the man to pay the money that he owed him. The man told Khabbab ﷺ that he would not pay him unless he abandoned his new faith. Khabbab ﷺ strongly refused to abandon his faith. The man told Khabbab ﷺ that he would wait until the Day of Judgment to pay him. When Umm Anmar, Khabbab's mistress, found out that

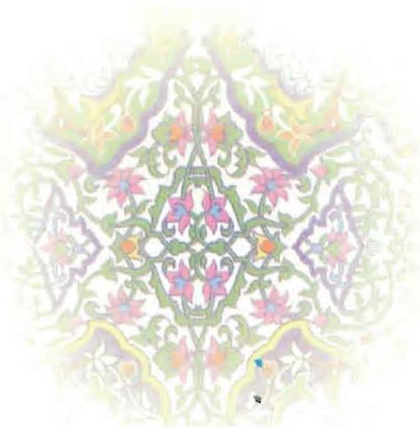


Khabbab ؓ had become a Muslim, she became very angry and vicious. Her heart burned with hatred. She asked her slaves to bring Khabbab to her. Khabbab was brought to her chained and was thrown down at her feet. The nasty woman stripped his shirt off, brought a piece of glowing iron, and placed it on his back. Khabbab ؓ was in so much pain that he lost consciousness. Umm Anmar was very evil. She felt no shame of what she was doing. She in fact enjoyed the smell of poor Khabbab's burnt skin.

In spite of all the torture and agonies, Khabbab ؓ kept steadfast and firm to his faith. His mistress tried her best to make him abandon Islam but she could not even get him to utter a single word against Islam. He did not despair a bit, nor did he lose patience in the face of his sufferings. He was as strong as the high mountains that surrounded Makkah.

Khabbab ؓ suffered like this for months, but he remained steadfast. He even began to call other people to Islam. Once he and the

other Muslims who had suffered like him, went to the Prophet ﷺ to ask him to pray to Allâh to help them against the pagans. The Prophet ﷺ told them that the people who lived before them had suffered all kinds of torture, they were even killed, yet they never abandoned their faith.



The Teacher

Khabbab ؓ was one of the few Muslims or Arabs in general, who knew how to read and write the Arabic language. So, he played a great role in teaching other Muslims how to read the Qur'ân.

The pagan Arabs were torturing the Muslims in many ways, so the Muslims had to meet secretly to learn the Qur'ân.

The Teacher and Preacher

Once Khabbab ؓ was at the house of Sa'id bin Zaid ؓ, teaching both him and his wife, Fâtimah bint Al-Khattab رضي الله عنها, how to read the Qur'ân. 'Umar bin Al-Khattab, Fâtimah's brother, who was an idol worshipper at the time, was very much against Islam. He even took an oath to kill Prophet ﷺ and put an end to Islam.

One day 'Umar took his sword and set off on his mission to kill the Prophet ﷺ. On the way he met a man named Na'eem. He had already accepted Islam and kept it secret. When he saw

that 'Umar was in a very bad mood storming his way through the streets of Makkah, he asked 'Umar where he was going. 'Umar replied that he was going to kill Muhammad ﷺ and put an end to the message of Islam. Na'eem wanted to divert 'Umar's bad intentions. He told him that he should see to his sister before killing the Prophet ﷺ, for even she had become a Muslim.

'Umar became very angry when he heard that his sister had become a Muslim. He immediately made his way towards his sister's house and banged on her door. Inside he could hear Khabbab رضي الله عنها teaching Fâtimah and her husband the Qur'ân. Khabbab was reading some Verses from *Sûrat Tâ-Hâ* of the Qur'ân. Fâtimah peeped through the cracks of the door. She saw her brother with a sword in his hand and signs of anger on his face. She asked Khabbab to hide, and she opened the door for her brother.

The Power of the Noble Qur'ân

'Umar stepped inside and shouted:

“What were you reading?” Fâtimah رضي الله عنها answered that they were reading nothing.

He told her that he knew they were reading the Qur’ân. Fâtimah denied that they were reading the Qur’ân. ‘Umar told her that he knew they had become Muslims. Fâtimah رضي الله عنها admitted that they had become Muslims. Upon hearing this, ‘Umar slapped Fatimah رضي الله عنها violently on her face so much so that she began bleeding from her nose. When ‘Umar saw blood streaming out of his sister’s nose, he felt very ashamed of what he had done. He asked his sister to show him what they were reading. Fâtimah allowed ‘Umar to see the written pages. ‘Umar began reading the Verses from *Sûrat Tâ-Hâ* in which Allâh says:

“We have not sent down the Qur’ân unto you (O Muhammad ﷺ) to cause you distress, but only as a Reminder to those who fear (Allâh). A revelation from Him (Allâh) Who has created the earth and high heavens.” (20:2-4)

The Slave attracts the Free Man

As soon as Khabbab heard 'Umar reciting the Qur'ân, he came out of his hiding place. When 'Umar read these Verses his heart melted. He knew that the Qur'ân was from the true Allâh. Tears rolled down his cheeks. Khabbab told 'Umar that he heard the Prophet ﷺ praying to Allâh to strengthen Islam by guiding 'Umar to accept Islam. 'Umar immediately left to meet the Prophet ﷺ and to accept Islam.

'Umar was a tall and a very powerful young man. He was well known for his temper. He knocked on the door of the house where the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions were gathering and waited for someone to open the door. The Prophet ﷺ asked one of his Companions to see who was at the door. The man came back full of horror. He told the Prophet ﷺ that 'Umar was at the door. Hamza, the Prophet's uncle who had accepted Islam, asked the Prophet ﷺ to allow him to kill 'Umar. However, the Prophet ﷺ told his Companions to be patient and to open the door for 'Umar. As soon as 'Umar stepped in,

the Prophet ﷺ asked him:

“What do you want? I fear for you lest Allâh sends down His punishment on you.”

‘Umar gently told the Prophet ﷺ that he came to embrace Islam. The Muslims who were with the Prophet ﷺ at that time were very happy. They felt that ‘Umar added to their strength.

So Khabbab ؓ was able to attract ‘Umar to Islam. ‘Umar later became one of the most prominent supporters of Islam. He was also the second Caliph of Islam after the Prophet ﷺ.



Migration to Abyssinia

The pagans of Makkah had made life very difficult for the Muslims. The Muslims eventually had to leave their hometown and settle in another place to escape the Quraish's oppression and to be able to worship Allâh in peace.

Khabbab ؓ and some other Muslims had no choice but to leave the land of oppression and agonies. They asked the Prophet ﷺ to allow them to move to another place where they would be safe to worship Allâh.

The Prophet ﷺ allowed some of his Companions to migrate to Abyssinia (now Ethiopia). He told them that the king of Abyssinia was a just Christian ruler. He did not allow any injustice in his land. The Prophet ﷺ told his Companions that the king would treat them with justice and would never allow anyone to harm them.

Escaping the Torture

Khabbab ؓ and some other Muslims left

Makkah while it was dark. When the pagans found out that some of the Muslims had left Makkah and gone to settle in Abyssinia where they would be safe from their oppression, they became very angry. They tried their best to stop them, but it was too late. The Muslims had already gone too far.

The Quraish on their Heels

The Quraish then decided to send a delegation to Najâshi, king of Abyssinia, asking him to send the Muslims back to Makkah. ‘Amr bin Al-‘Aas, who was the king’s friend, was sent to Abyssinia to undertake this mission. The Quraish sent some very expensive presents for the king, hoping that he would expel the Muslims from his land.

‘Amr bin Al-‘Aas went to Abyssinia and met the king. He told him that some rebels had sought shelter in his land and that these rebels had left the religion of their people for a strange religion.

After hearing what ‘Amr bin Al-‘Aas had to say, the king being a very fair judge, said that

he wanted to hear what the Muslims had to say before he could make a decision.

Ja'far bin Abi Tâlib ؑ was chosen as the spokesperson for the Muslims. The king asked them about the new religion. Ja'far ؑ told the king that they used to be ignorant people, worshipping stones, robbing each other and treating the poor and weak very badly. Allâh sent a messenger from among themselves, well known to them with good morals that none of them ever doubted him in any respect. Ja'far went on saying that the Messenger taught them to worship Allâh Alone, the Creator of the universe, without joining any partners to Him. He taught them to treat the weak and poor with kindness and to be good to each other.

The Quraish's Plans Failed

The king asked them what Islam said about Jesus Christ and his mother. Ja'far ؑ recited the opening Verses of *Sûrat Maryam*. As soon as the king heard the Verses, tears began to flow from his eyes. When the meeting came to an end, the king told the migrants that they

were free to live in his kingdom.

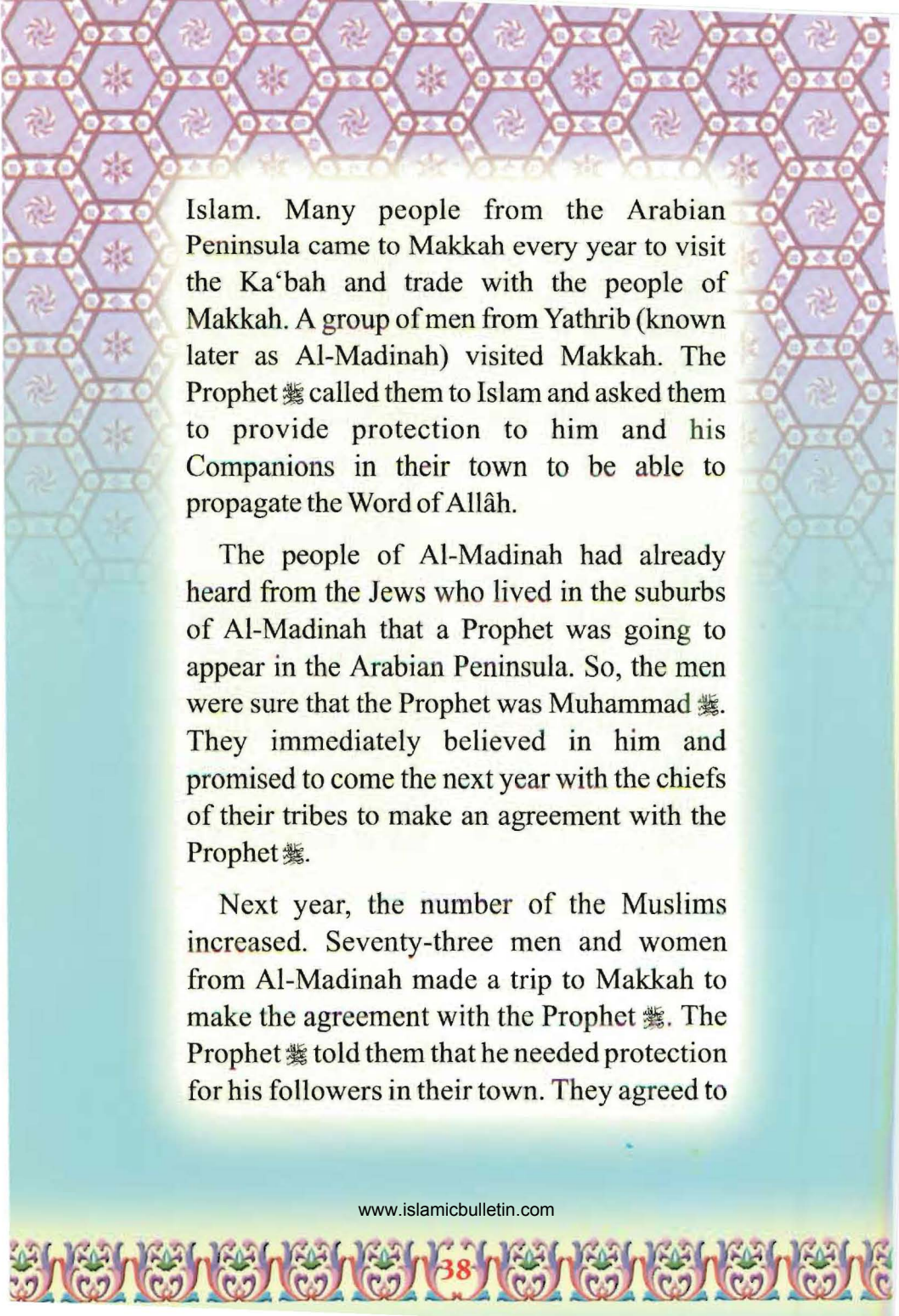
The Muslims stayed in Abyssinia under the care and protection of the king until they left to Al-Madinah to join the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions in building the new Islamic State.

Khabbab in the New Islamic State

Some spies from the Quraish had spread rumors that the situation in Makkah was better. They said that the Prophet ﷺ reached an agreement with the Quraish. Some of the Muslims believed the rumors to be true and happily returned back to Makkah. However, this was an attempt on the part of the Quraish to bring the Muslims back to Makkah so that they could torture them again. Khabbab ؓ and his Companions were able to escape the oppression once more and migrate to Al-Madinah.

Migration to Al-Madinah

As the Prophet ﷺ lost any hope for his tribesmen to believe in Islam and stop their aggression against the Muslims, he began calling tribesmen from outside of Makkah to



Islam. Many people from the Arabian Peninsula came to Makkah every year to visit the Ka'bah and trade with the people of Makkah. A group of men from Yathrib (known later as Al-Madinah) visited Makkah. The Prophet ﷺ called them to Islam and asked them to provide protection to him and his Companions in their town to be able to propagate the Word of Allâh.

The people of Al-Madinah had already heard from the Jews who lived in the suburbs of Al-Madinah that a Prophet was going to appear in the Arabian Peninsula. So, the men were sure that the Prophet was Muhammad ﷺ. They immediately believed in him and promised to come the next year with the chiefs of their tribes to make an agreement with the Prophet ﷺ.

Next year, the number of the Muslims increased. Seventy-three men and women from Al-Madinah made a trip to Makkah to make the agreement with the Prophet ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ told them that he needed protection for his followers in their town. They agreed to

his request and vowed to provide everything they could to support the message of Islam. The Prophet ﷺ asked his Companions to migrate to Al-Madinah. Khabbab ؓ set off to Al-Madinah under the cover of darkness. He arrived there and found much support and help from his brothers in Islam in Al-Madinah.

Building the New Islamic State

In Al-Madinah, Khabbab ؓ along with other Muslims, began building a new Islamic State. After a while, the Prophet ﷺ accompanied by Abu Bakr ؓ left Makkah to Al-Madinah. In Al-Madinah, the Prophet ﷺ was very warmly welcomed by the migrants and the supporters.

The Challenge

Khabbab was a courageous warrior and was ready to sacrifice his soul and everything else he had for the sake of Islam. At the same time he waited for the day to take revenge on those who had tortured him and treated him unfairly.

In the second year after the Muslims had

settled in Al-Madinah, they began patrolling outside Al-Madinah for security purposes. They received the news of a Quraish caravan nearby they went towards it to check it. Abu Sufyan, the caravan leader, quickly took a different route. At the same time, however, Abu Sufyan sent a message to Makkah warning the rest of the Quraish that their caravan was in danger.

The Quraish chiefs were very angry that the Muslims were threatening their economical interests. Therefore, they organized a heavily armed army of about one thousand fighters and headed toward Al-Madinah to put an end to Islam and its followers.

The First Battle of Islam

The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions heard of the Quraish's plan and decided to protect their city against the overwhelming attack. The Prophet ﷺ consulted his Companions and finally they decided to fight for their faith. The Muslims prepared a barely armed army of three hundred and thirteen men.

Both armies met at a place called Badr near Al-Madinah. Khabbab ﷺ felt very happy for this occasion and was well prepared to sacrifice himself for the Cause of Allâh. Full of devotion and self-denial, Khabbab fought an honorable battle that ended in a great victory for the Muslims. This battle is known as the battle of Badr.

Another Challenge

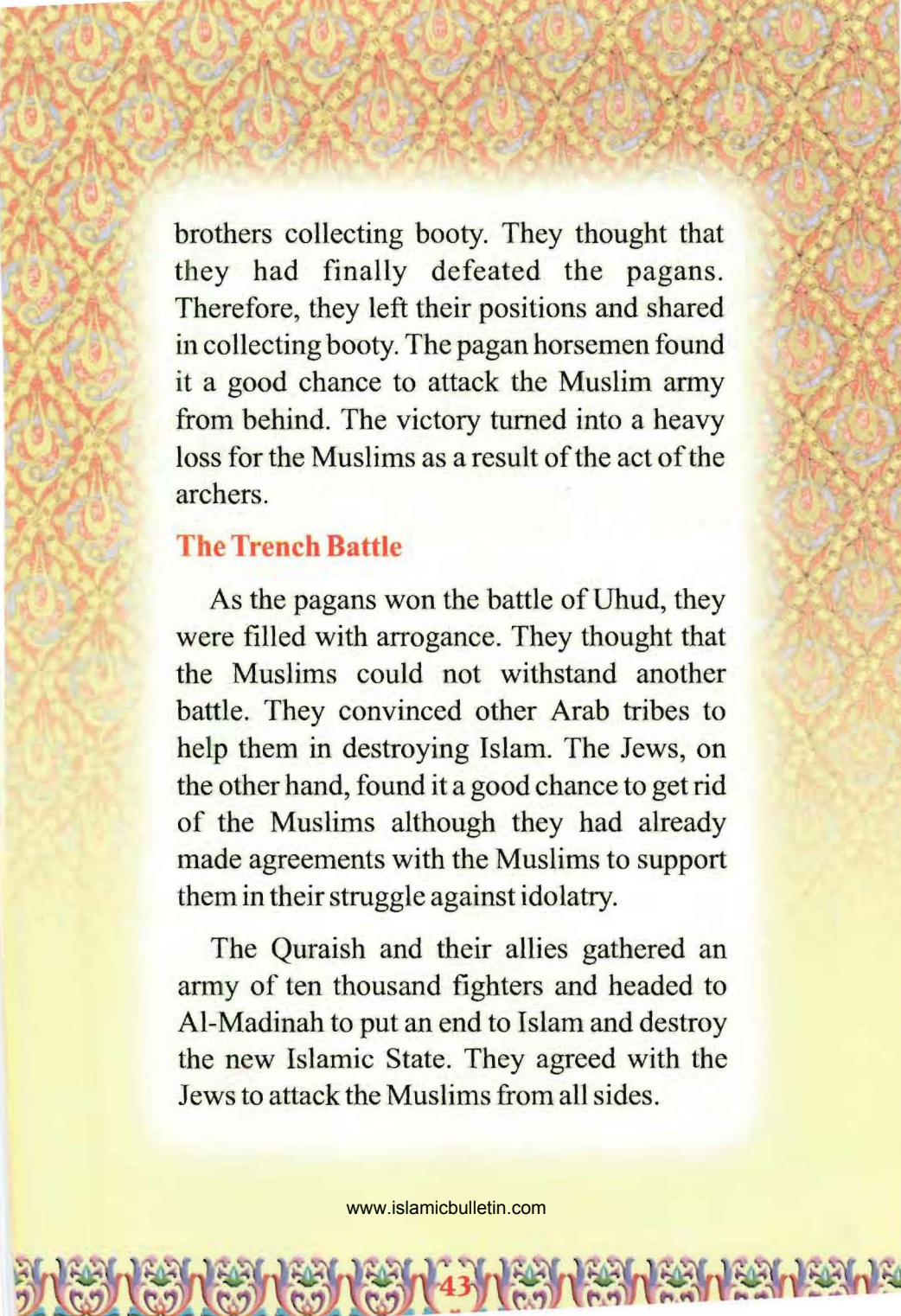
The Quraish did not accept the fact that they had lost their battle against the Muslims. They wanted to revenge themselves against the Muslims. So they prepared themselves for another battle. They gathered an army of three thousand heavily armed men and headed to Al-Madinah the following year, hoping to destroy it and put an end to Islam and the Muslims.

The Muslims received news about the big army the Quraish had gathered to destroy them. The Prophet ﷺ discussed the situation with his Companions. Some of them preferred to keep inside Al-Madinah and defend it against the attackers. However, the young

zealous men of the Muslims urged the Prophet ﷺ to fight an open battle. The Prophet ﷺ agreed to the opinion of the young men and prepared an army of one thousand men. Some of the inhabitants of Al-Madinah apparently accepted Islam but they hid their hypocrisy. Their leader was a man named Abdullah bin Ubai. This man claimed that the Prophet ﷺ was not wise in taking the side of the young men. So, he left the army and went back to Al-Madinah. He was followed by about three hundred other men. The Muslim army was now seven hundred fighters only.

Both the Muslim army and the Quraish army met at Uhud, a mount near Al-Madinah. The Muslims arrived at the site before the army of the Quraish. The Prophet ﷺ chose fifty archers and positioned them on a small hill behind the Muslim army to protect the backs of the Muslims against any attack by the pagan army from behind.

Khabbab and his Muslim brothers fought very bravely in the battle. They were defeating the pagan army. The archers saw their Muslim



brothers collecting booty. They thought that they had finally defeated the pagans. Therefore, they left their positions and shared in collecting booty. The pagan horsemen found it a good chance to attack the Muslim army from behind. The victory turned into a heavy loss for the Muslims as a result of the act of the archers.

The Trench Battle

As the pagans won the battle of Uhud, they were filled with arrogance. They thought that the Muslims could not withstand another battle. They convinced other Arab tribes to help them in destroying Islam. The Jews, on the other hand, found it a good chance to get rid of the Muslims although they had already made agreements with the Muslims to support them in their struggle against idolatry.

The Quraish and their allies gathered an army of ten thousand fighters and headed to Al-Madinah to put an end to Islam and destroy the new Islamic State. They agreed with the Jews to attack the Muslims from all sides.

The Muslims received news of the huge pagan army. The Prophet ﷺ discussed the situation with his Companions. Some of them suggested that they should fight an open battle while others thought it would be better to keep inside Al-Madinah and defend the city against the aggressors. The Prophet ﷺ was not satisfied with either of these suggestions. A Muslim from Persia, named Salman Al-Farisi, told the Prophet ﷺ that the best solution was to dig a wide trench at the weak points of the city and deploy the Muslim army at the inner side of the trench so as to defend the city against any trespassers. He told the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions that his people in Persia used to do so when they were attacked by huge armies. The Prophet ﷺ found it a good idea. He instructed his Companions to immediately start digging the trench.

Khabbab did all he could to help his fellow Muslims in completing the trench before the arrival of the pagan army. He saw the Prophet ﷺ moving soil and stones on his shoulder and encouraging the Muslims to work hard.

Upon the arrival of the pagan army, Khabbab ؓ and his fellow Muslims stood on the other side of the trench daring anyone of the pagans to cross over. The siege continued for about one month. The pagans with their huge army were trying their best to cross over the trench and the Jews were waiting for the chance to see the Muslims surrender to have them as an easy prey. However, Khabbab ؓ and the other Muslims kept steadfast in the face of this huge dilemma. Finally, the pagans withdrew their army and went back to Makkah with humiliation. As for the treacherous Jews, the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions overcame them and killed their men and took their women and children as slaves. This was a punishment, which they well deserved.

The Devoted Muslim

Afterwards, Khabbab ؓ took part in all battles fought in defense of Islam. He shared with the Prophet ﷺ and his fellow Muslims in conquering Makkah and putting an end to idolatry in the Arabian Peninsula. He also joined the Prophet ﷺ in the Farewell Pilgrimage and

listened carefully to the last commandments given by the Prophet ﷺ at Mina.

The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions returned to Al-Madinah after completing the pilgrimage. The Prophet ﷺ passed away and left the Muslims to continue their struggle to spread the light of Islam all over the world. Khabbab ؓ fought the apostates who rebelled against the Muslims and brought them back to Islam. He also continued his efforts to spread the light of Islam under the rule of Abu Bakr, 'Umar and 'Uthman bin 'Affan ؓ.

The Last Days

Khabbab ؓ spent his life fully devoted to the cause of Islam. He did whatever he could to support Islam, and he wished he could spread Islam all over the world. He had never cared about the pleasures of this short life. He wanted to have the pleasures of the Hereafter. Even though he was leading a life of poverty and hardship, he was always afraid that he might have lived a life of pleasure.

Khabbab ؓ was very sad when he saw the Prophet ﷺ and some of his Companions leave this world. He always prayed to Allâh to be with them in Paradise.

Khabbab ؓ continued his way of life as he used to during the life of the Prophet ﷺ. He did not change one little bit, even though the Islamic State was much wealthier during the rule of Abu Bakr, 'Umar bin Al-Khattab and 'Uthman bin 'Affan ؓ.

During the rule of 'Ali bin Abi Talib ؓ, Khabbab left to Kufah in Iraq. In Kufah he stood by the Caliph and supported him against

those who tried to seize power. As time went on, old age made him ill. He stayed in his house remembering the days when he shared in the building of the Islamic State. He looked forward to the next life, where he longed to be with the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions.

A group of his friends visited him while he was dying on his bed. They told him that his dream to meet the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions would at last come true. Khabbab ؓ cried, not because he was afraid to die, but because he was afraid that he might not be with the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions in the Hereafter.

Khabbab ؓ died but he left behind an excellent example of sacrifice and self-denial for the coming generations of Muslims to follow. Once ‘Ali bin Abi Tâlib ؓ, the fourth Caliph of Islam, said:

“May Allâh bestow his mercy on Khabbab. He willingly embraced Islam, voluntarily migrated and lived like a martyr. For sure, he will not be a loser with Allâh.”