

# Life of Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>

BY

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MAHMUD AHMAD<sup>ra</sup>

# THE FIRST REVELATION

Waraqa evidently referred to the prophecy in Deuteronomy 18:18.



King James Bible (Cambridge Ed.)

I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him

# FIRST CONVERTS

When the news reached Zaid<sup>ra</sup>, the Prophet's<sup>sa</sup> freed slave, now about thirty years of age, and his cousin 'Ali<sup>ra</sup>, about eleven, they both declared their faith in him

Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup>, friend of his childhood, was out of town. As he returned he began to hear of this new experience which the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> had. Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup> trusted the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> completely.

He knocked at the Prophet's<sup>sa</sup> door and on admission into his company asked him what had happened. The Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, fearing lest Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup> should misunderstand, began a long explanation. Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup> stopped the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> from doing so, and insisted that all he wanted to know was whether an angel had really descended upon him from God and had given him a Message. The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> wanted to explain again, but Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup> said he wanted to hear no explanation. He wanted only an answer to the question whether he had a Message from God. The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> said, "Yes" and Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup> at once declared his faith.

# FIRST CONVERTS

This small group of the Faithful then were the first believers of Islam

a woman full of years, an eleven-year-old boy, a freed slave living among strangers, a young friend and the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> himself



This was the party which made the silent resolve to spread the light of God all over the world

# FIRST CONVERTS

But as time went on, the truth began to dawn and as the Prophet Isaiah<sup>as</sup> (28:13) said long ago, precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; began to descend upon the Prophet<sup>sa</sup>.



When the people and their leaders heard of this, they laughed and declared that these men had gone mad

# THE FAITHFUL PERSECUTED

God began to talk to Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> in "another tongue"

The youth of the country began to wonder

Those in search of truth became excited

Slaves, young men, and halpless women began to collect around the Prophet<sup>sa</sup>

The chiefs of Mecca and the officials began to take fright

They assembled and took counsel

It was decided that persecution and some form of boycott must be instituted

Practical steps were soon taken, and Mecca was pitched against Islam in a serious conflict

# THE FAITHFUL PERSECUTED

The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and his small following were no longer considered mad, but a growing influence

Islam threatened to pull down and rebuild the old structure of Meccan society

Islam was a challenge and Mecca accepted the challenge, as enemies of Prophets had always accepted the challenge of their Prophets

Once again in the world a conflict started between belief and disbelief; the forces of Satan declared war on the angels

# THE FAITHFUL PERSECUTED

A most cruel campaign began



Women were  
butchered  
shamelessly



Men were  
slaughtered



The slaves  
who had  
declared their  
faith in the  
Prophet<sup>sa</sup>  
were dragged  
over burning  
sands and  
stones.



Their skins  
became  
hardened like  
those of  
animals

# THE FAITHFUL PERSECUTED

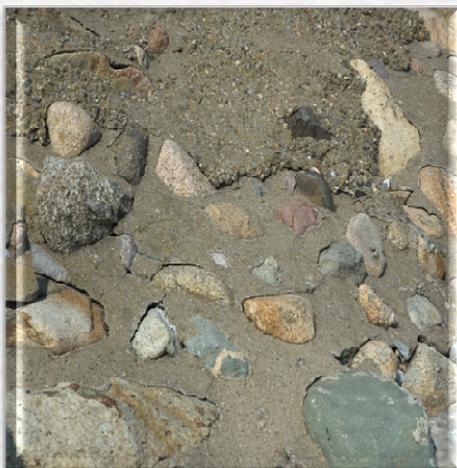
Bilal<sup>ra</sup> was a negro, Suhaib<sup>ra</sup> a Greek. They belonged to different faiths. Jabr<sup>ra</sup> and Suhaib<sup>ra</sup> were Christians, Bilal<sup>ra</sup> and 'Ammar<sup>ra</sup>, idol-worshippers.

A long time after, when Islam had become established far and near, one of these early converts named Khabbab bin Al-Arat<sup>ra</sup> had his body exposed. His friends saw his skin hardened like an animal's and asked him why it was so.

Khabbab<sup>ra</sup> laughed and said it was nothing; only a memory of those early days when slaves converted to Islam were dragged through the streets of Mecca over hard and hot sands and stones



# THE FAITHFUL PERSECUTED



Bilal<sup>ra</sup> was made to lie on hot sand, loaded with stones, and boys were made to dance on his chest, and his master, Umayya bin Khalf, tortured him thus and then asked him to renounce Allah and the Prophet <sup>sa</sup> and sing the praises of the Meccan gods, Lat and 'Uzza.

Bilal<sup>ra</sup> only said, *Ahad, Ahad* ... (God is One). Exasperated, Umayya handed Bilal<sup>ra</sup> over to street boys, asking them to put a cord round his neck and drag him through the town over sharp stones. Bilal's<sup>ra</sup> body bled, but he went on muttering, *Ahad, Ahad*... Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup> paid ransom for Bilal<sup>ra</sup> and many other slaves and secured their release.

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# THE FAITHFUL PERSECUTED

Once the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> found 'Ammar<sup>ra</sup> groaning with pain and drying his tears. Approached by the Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, 'Ammar<sup>ra</sup> said he had been beaten and compelled to recant. The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> asked him, "But did you believe at heart?" 'Ammar<sup>ra</sup> declared that he did, and the Prophet said that God would forgive his weakness.

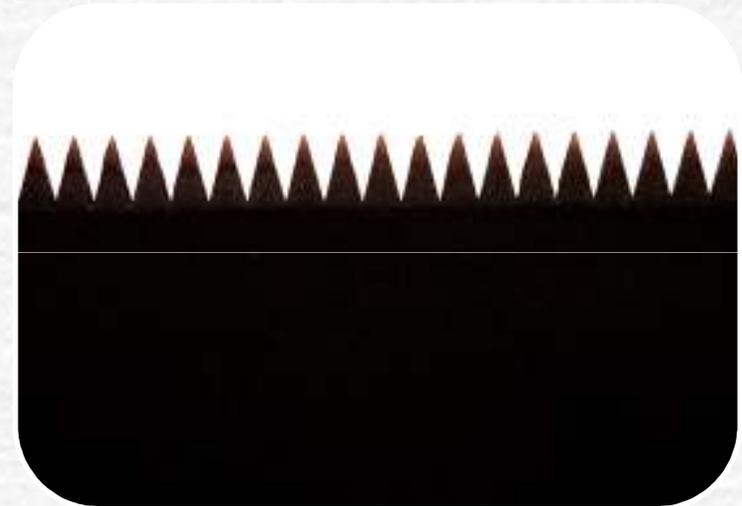


'Ammar's<sup>ra</sup> father, Yasir<sup>ra</sup>, and his mother, Samiyya<sup>ra</sup>, also were tormented by disbelievers. On one such occasion the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> happened to pass by. Filled with emotion, he said, "Family of Yasir<sup>ra</sup>, bear up patiently, for God has prepared for you a Paradise." The prophetic words were soon fulfilled. Yasir<sup>ra</sup> succumbed to the tortures, and a little later Abu Jahl murdered his aged wife, Samiyya<sup>ra</sup>, with a spear.

# THE FAITHFUL PERSECUTED



Abu Fukaih<sup>ra</sup>, Safwan bin Umayya's slave, was laid on hot sand while over his chest were placed heavy and hot stones, under pain of which his tongue dropped out.



Zinbira<sup>ra</sup>, a woman slave, lost her eyes under the cruel treatment of disbelievers.

# THE FAITHFUL PERSECUTED



Abu Dharr<sup>ra</sup>, ..went to the Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, heard the Message of Islam straight from him and was converted. Abu Dharr<sup>ra</sup> asked if he could keep his faith secret from his tribe. The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> said he could do so for a few days. But as he passed through the streets of Mecca he heard a party of Meccan chiefs abuse the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and make vile attacks. No longer could he keep his faith secret, and he declared at once: "I bear witness that there is no God but Allah, and that there is no one like Allah; and Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> is His Servant and Prophet<sup>sa</sup>." This cry raised in an assembly of disbelievers seemed to them an effrontery. They rose in wrath and belaboured him until he fell down senseless.

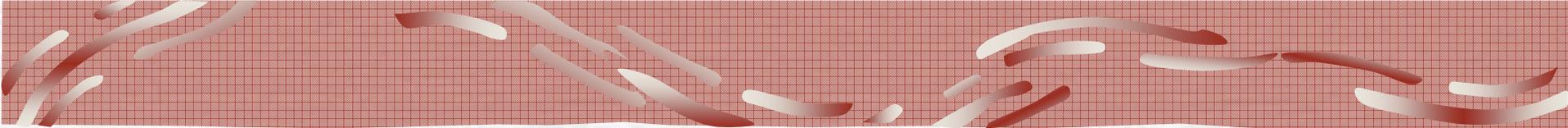
# THE FAITHFUL PERSECUTED



Uthman<sup>ra</sup> was a man of forty, and prosperous. Yet when the Quraish resolved upon general persecution of Muslims, his uncle, Hakam, tied him up and beat him.



Zubair bin al-'Awwam<sup>ra</sup>, a brave young lad who later became a great Muslim general, was wrapped up in a mat by his uncle, smoked from underneath and tortured by suffocation.



# THE FAITHFUL PERSECUTED

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The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> himself was no exception to the cruel treatment meted out to the Faithful.

On one occasion he was in prayer. A party of disbelievers put a mantle round his neck and dragged him; his eyes seemed protruded. Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup> happened to come and rescued him, saying, "You seek to kill him, because he says, God is his Master?"

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On another occasion he lay prostrate in prayer and they laid the entrails of a camel on his back. He could not rise until the weight was removed.

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On yet another occasion he was passing through a street and a group of street boys followed him. They went on slapping his neck and telling the people that he called himself a Prophet<sup>sa</sup>.

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# THE FAITHFUL PERSECUTED

The Prophet's<sup>sa</sup> house was stoned from surrounding houses.

Garbage and the remains of slaughtered animals were thrown into his kitchen.

On many occasions dust was thrown on him while he was praying so that he had to retire to a safe spot for his public prayers.

# THE FAITHFUL PERSECUTED



The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> was once resting on Safa, a hill near the Ka'ba. The Meccan chief Abu Jahl, the Prophet's<sup>sa</sup> archenemy, passed by and began to pour vile abuse on him. The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> said nothing and went home.

A woman-slave of his household was a witness to this distressing scene. Hamza<sup>ra</sup>, the Prophet's<sup>sa</sup> uncle, a brave man feared by all his townsmen, returned home from a hunt in the jungle and entered the house proudly, his bow hung on his shoulder.

The woman-slave had not forgotten the morning scene. She was disgusted to see Hamza<sup>ra</sup> walk home thus. She taunted him, saying that he thought himself brave and went about armed but knew not what Abu Jahl had done to his innocent nephew in the morning...

# THE FAITHFUL PERSECUTED



When he heard of this wanton attack by Abu Jahl, he ..made straight for the Ka'ba,



He took his bow and struck Abu Jahl hard. "Count me from today a follower of Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>," he said.



If you are brave, come out and fight me." Abu Jahl was dumbfounded.



His friends rose to help but, afraid of Hamza<sup>ra</sup> and his tribe, Abu Jahl stopped them