

Treaty of Hudabiyah and Bait-i Ridwan (6th year of Hijrah)

Dr. Ghulam Nabi

Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, IUST, Awantipora

Well known treaty of Hudabiya between Quraish and the Prophet marks a change in Muslim power in Arabia¹. On one hand Muslims were longing for return to Makkah as it was their beloved home and they always remember it;² Secondly to establish a stronghold of the sacred place Makkah, the Kabah, which is a Qiblah direction also; and third is that now almost all kinds of uprisings against Islam and Muslims were suppressed and Muslims are now in a position of to take Makkah in their custody.

The enthusiasm of the Muslims for pilgrimage to Makkah started when the Prophet in a dream saw that he along with the companions entered into the sacred mosque of Makkah and doing circumambulation of Kaba and also doing Umrah. Prophet told the companions about the dream he was shown and also told that this year you will also perform Umrah. So the companions started preparing for the same. Now Prophet announced in Madinah to get ready for Umrah, on 1ST Zi al- Qadah Prophet along with 1400 / 1500 of his companions set out for Makkah. To avoid misconception of the visit companions were not allowed to carry arms except sword which was their customary part of carrying swords when they were on journey, that too was to be sheathed. At Dhul Halifa Prophet made preliminary preparations needed for Umrah³

As a precautionary measure a person from Khuza'a tribe, whose Islam was not known to Quraish, was sent in advance to bring the news from Quraish. He came up with the news that Quraish along with other tribes were at war and they are adamant of not to allow Muslims to enter Makkah. Anyway Quraish prepared under the command of Khalid and were waiting on the way. Prophet changed the course and move forward and halted at Hudabiyah. From here he deputed Budail b. Warqa, cheif of Khuza'a, with the message of peace to Quraish. Exchange of ambassadors from both sides made the process of peace easier,⁴ but some disgruntled persons among Quraish tried to disrupt peace and during night they were about to attack Muslim camp but the warrior of Islam, Muhammad b. Muslimah caught them and Prophet set them free only to establish peace for both sides.⁵ Quran has illustrated it as:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي كَفَّ أَيْدِيَهُمْ عَنْكُمْ وَأَيْدِيَكُمْ عَنْهُمْ بِبَطْنِ مَكَّةَ مِنْ بَعْدِ أَنْ أَظْفَرَكُمْ عَلَيْهِمْ ۚ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرًا

And it is He who has restrained their hands from you and your hand from them in the midst of Mecca after that He gave you the victory over them. And Allah sees well all that ye do. (48:24) ⁶

Hadhrat Uthman as Ambassador

When the things started to go in a wrong direction Prophet now thought of sending a person from his companions who will convey the utmost message of the mission, after a due consultation choice of ambassadorship fell upon Hadhrat Uthman as:

1. Hadhrat Uthman was popular among all the companions as he was wealthiest
2. He was having almost all his kins living in Makkah as they had not yet accepted Islam
3. It was not possible for Makkans to harm him as his clan was holding all the affairs at that time

Hadhrat Uthman carried the message of the Prophet that they had come to perform Umrah. It has taken time to deliberate on the message and to convenience them, and finally they refused to allow the entry of the Muslims as they had vowed not to allow the entry at this time, hence started to develop peace relation. Rumors of Hadhrat Uthman killing by Quraish were spread in a Muslim camp as he got delay in return. He was on a peace mission and hence it took some days to return to complete the peace process.

Hadhrat Uthman as Ambassador

This biah has special significance of maintainig unity among Muslims, It was carried in view of the rumour of the killing of an ambassador, Hadhrat Uthman, spread in Muslim camp. Actually he could not return immediately only after conveying message but the mission he was commissioned upon was to be carried in letter and sprit, that is why he stayed there for some days until Quraish got convinced of maintaining peace treaty and they deputed Suhail b. Aamir as an intermediary. He was known as orator of the Quraish (*Khatib – i Quraish*). Before Hadhrat Uthmans coming back from Quraish biah was concluded at the hands of the Prophet by all the 1400 companions for the revenge from the Makkans..The Quran has mentioned it as:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُبَايِعُونَكَ إِنَّمَا يُبَايِعُونَ اللَّهَ يَدُ اللَّهِ فَوْقَ أَيْدِيهِمْ ۚ فَمَنْ نَكَثَ فَإِنَّمَا يَنْكُثُ عَلَىٰ نَفْسِهِ ۖ وَمَنْ أَوْفَىٰ بِمَا عَاهَدَ عَلَيْهِ اللَّهُ فَمِيسُوتِيهِ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا

Surely those who pledge allegiance to you 'O Prophet' are actually pledging allegiance to Allah. Allah's Hand is over theirs. Whoever breaks their pledge, it will only be to their own loss. And whoever fulfils their pledge to Allah, He will grant them a great reward.(48:10)

In the same surah, Almighty Allah mentions about the great ceremony of the Fealty of Allah's Good Pleasure which took place under a tree while the holy Prophet sat their in the plain of Hudaibiya.

لَقَدْ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ يُبَايِعُونَكَ تَحْتَ الشَّجَرَةِ فَعَلِمَ مَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ فَأَنْزَلَ السَّكِينَةَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَثَبَهُمْ فَتْحًا قَرِيبًا

Allah's Good Pleasure was on the believers when they swore Fealty to thee under the Tree: He knew what was in their hearts and He sent down tranquility to them and He rewarded them with a speedy Victory. (48:18)⁷

The verse mentions that Allah is pleased with the companions who were with him under the tree. The pleasure of Allah rewarded to the companions signifies the importance of biah as they were to sacrifice everything for the cause when they were giving their hands in the hand of the Prophet. The importance of Biah at the hand of the Prophet by the companions was fully construed by the Quraish, they immediately deputed Suhail b. Aamir to conclude peace treaty.

Treaty of Peace

Truce between the parties started after a long discussion of Suhail b. Amr with the Prophet of Islam. After a meaningful discussion Prophet called Hadhrat Ali to writye points of negotiation with the Quraish. Historians and Sirah writers mentioned the following:

- 1) The Muslims shall go back this year without performing Umrah
- 2) The Muslims shall visit next year and can stay only for three days in Makkah
- 3) That they shall come without arms except the sword and that too in scabbards
- 4) The peace treaty is for 10 years
- 5) Any tribe is free to ally with any party they like
- 6) If any person from Makkah will join Muslims, they have to return him back to Makkah but if any person from Muslims will come to Makkah he will not be returned back

7) None of the Muslims residing in Makkah will be allowed to go with the Muslims

Truce was concluded with some witnesses from both sides. Then after animals were sacrificed and Prophet along with all his companions stayed for 3 days more and then set out for Madinah. On way back to Madinah a revelation was revealed:

إِنَّا فَتَحْنَا لَكَ فَتْحًا مُبِينًا

Verily We have granted thee a manifest Victory (48:1)

The Treaty of Hudaibiyah is described as a clear victory as it established peace, temporarily diffused the tension between the Muslims and the pagan Makkans, and gave the Muslims enough time to spread the message of Islam and understanding of their faith. It enabled Muslims to make thousands from different tribes to come in the fold of Islam, thus within two years on coming back to Makkah 10000 companions were with the Prophet and at Hudaibiyah there were only 1400 in number.

After the truce was over a man Abu Jindal b. Suhail who was under chains joined the Muslims, but Prophet could not hold him as per the treaty, thus he was returned back and was asked for patience by the Prophet. Treaty of Hudaibiyah has far reaching effects on the growth of Islam as it has provided a comfort and peace in the minds of Muslims and the tension they had from Makkah side was now waded off. Further it has provided a kind of solace on the minds of Muslims that the only emerging power in whole of Arabia is Islam. And now there is free entry of Madinians to Makkah and vice –versa, this provided an opportunity of understanding the new faith which resulted in mass transformation from their old religion to new faith, Islam. Moreover the Prophet now started to think on the foreign nations to invite them to Islam and letters were sent to different kings inviting them to Allah's religion Islam as internal tension was suppressed and almost eliminated by the peaceful treaty of Hudaibiyah.

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

The Religion before Allah is Islam (submission to His will) (3:19)

History is witness to the fact that after the treaty great warriors of Makkah such as Khalid b. Walid, Amr b. A'as and Uthman b. Talha accepted Islam without being coerced by any one, this is the benevolence of Prophets foresightedness when he invited Hadhrat Ali to scribe the document for Makkans.⁸

Case of Muslim Women Emigrants

Many men have left Makkah after Hudaibiyah but they were sent back as per the treaty but women emigrants were not sent back as treaty mentioned only men, though Makkans persuaded the case before the Prophet but were denied to send them back. One such case is that immediately after treaty Umi Kulthum daughter of Uqbah b. Abi Mu'it escaped from Makkah to Madinah. Her two brothers demanded her back from the Prophet but they were denied to take her back from Madinah as treaty did not apply to women, and because when a woman became Muslim then she is no more legally tied to her unbeliever husband. This is strictly according to Quranic verse no. 10 of Surah Mumtahinah.....

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا جَاءَكُمْ الْمُؤْمِنَاتُ مَهْجُرَاتٍ فَامْتَحِنُوهُنَّ ۚ إِنَّهُنَّ لَكُنَّ بِمَا يَمْنُنُهُنَّ اللَّهُ أَغْلَمُ بِأَيْمَانِهِنَّ ۚ فَإِنْ عَلِمْتُمُوهُنَّ مُؤْمِنَاتٍ فَلَا تَرْجِعُوهُنَّ إِلَى الْكُفَّارِ ۚ لَا هُنَّ حِلٌّ لَّهُمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحِلُّونَ لَهُنَّ ۚ وَءَاثُهُمْ مَا أَنْفَقُوا ۚ وَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ أَنْ تَنْكِحُوهُنَّ إِذَا آتَيْنَهُنَّ أَجُورَهُنَّ ۚ وَلَا تُمَسِّكُوا بِعَصَمِ الْكُفَّارِ ۚ وَاسْتَلُوا مَا أَنْفَقْتُمْ وَلَيْسَتْ لَكُمْ عَلَيْهِمْ جُنَاحٌ ۚ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ

O ye who believe! when there come to you believing women refugees examine (and test) them: Allah knows best as to their Faith: if ye ascertain that they are Believers then send them not back to the Unbelievers. They are not lawful (wives) for the Unbelievers nor are the (Unbelievers) lawful (husbands) for them. But pay the Unbelievers what they have spent (on their dower). And there will be no blame on you if ye marry them on payment of their dower to them. But hold not to the guardianship of unbelieving women: ask for what ye have spent on their dowers and let the (Unbelievers) ask for what they have spent (on the dowers of women who come over to you). Such is the command of Allah: He judges (with justice) between you: and Allah is Full of Knowledge and Wisdom.(60:10)

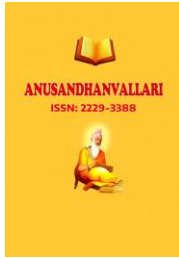
The verse also points at the belief of emigrant women and hence their belief was tested with certain condition which is further explained by another verse no. 12 of the same Surah.....

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِذَا جَاءَكَ الْمُؤْمِنَاتُ يُبَايِعْنَكَ عَلَى أَنْ لَا يُشْرِكْنَ بِاللَّهِ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَسْرِقْنَ وَلَا يَزْنِينَ وَلَا يَقْتُلْنَ أَوْلَادَهُنَّ وَلَا يَأْتِينَ بِبُهْتَانٍ يَفْتَرِينَهُ بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِنَّ وَأَرْجُلِهِنَّ وَلَا يَعْصِينَكَ فِي مَعْرُوفٍ فَبَايِعْهُنَّ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُنَّ اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

O Prophet! when believing women come to thee to take the oath of fealty to thee that they will not associate in worship any other thing whatever with Allah that they will not steal that they will not commit adultery (or fornication) that they will not kill their children that they will not utter slander intentionally forging falsehood and that they will not disobey thee in any just matter then do thou receive their fealty and pray to Allah for the forgiveness (of their sins):for Allah is Oft-Forgiving Most Merciful (60:12)

Notes and References

- [1] Before this the events like Badr, Ahzaab and Quraidha proved that Islam will be dominant force and only religion acceptable to Arab. Treaty is actually the peaceful resolution to abide by all which has later paved a way for self consciousness and freedom to exert in full the minds of hardcore pagans in accepting the true message propagated by the Prophet and hence people like Khalid and Amr b. A's accepted Islam
- [2] A tradition of Bukhari has mentioned that the companions were longing for Makkah and always mentioned among themselves for example Hadhrat Bilal used to recite , 'can their be day when I spent a night in the valley of Makkah' with *Adakhir*, a kind of grass.(Chapter, *Muqadamun Nabi wa Ashab al Madinah*)
- [3] Preparations needed for Umrah were duly taken into consideration such as iron rings were put round the necks of camels which signify that they are for sacrifice
- [4] Exchange of ambassadors from both sides bridged the gap. From Quraish side Urwah b. Masud Thaqafi said to the Quraish on coming back from the Muslim camp as an envoy that, 'I visited many kings such as Qaisar and Harqal but the love for the Prophet by his companions was not witnessed anywhere'
- [5] Muhammad Asad in a translation note number 28 to the verse 24 of surah no. 48 writes, "Shortly before the Truce of Hudaibiyyah was concluded, a detachment of Quraysh warriors - variously estimated at between thirty and eighty men - attacked the Prophet's camp, but his practically unarmed followers overcame them and took them prisoner; after the signing of the treaty the Prophet released them unharmed (Muslim, Nasa'i, Tabari)".
- [6] Abdullah Yusuf Ali on explaining the said verse writes, "Little incidents had taken place that might have plunged the Quraish and the Muslims from Madinah into a fight. On the one hand, the Quraish were determined to keep out the Muslims, which they had no right to do: and on the other hand, the Muslims, though unarmed, had sworn to stand together, and if they had counter-attacked they could have forced their entrance to the Ka'ba, the centre of Makkah. But Allah restrained both sides from anything that would have violated the Peace of the Sanctuary, and after the Treaty was signed, all danger was past."



-
- [7] The Treaty of Hudaibiya itself was a "speedy Victory" says Abullah yousf Ali in his translation note to the verse, as it followed immediately after the Bai'at.
- [8] That time Muslims thought that whole treaty is going against them as almost all the articles of the treaty apparently seems against Muslims but Prophet's foresightedness was looking at the effects. It was also said by Abu Bakr to his friend Umar no need to worry, we are being commanded by the Prophet of Allah when the later said that 'are we not on truth, why to accept such a harsh treaty'.