

Circle: Lessons from the battle of Tabuk (Surah Tawba)

Brief

- As Rajab approaches, we remember that around now in 9H, Muhammad (saw) was ordered to lead an army to confront the Romans at Tabuk. Many verses of Sura Tawba were revealed in relation to this event, and the response of the Muslims to Allah's commandments.
- Today, Allah commands us the difficult task of resuming the Islamic way of life. We must therefore learn the lessons of Tabuk so as not earn Allah's anger as some before us did.

Reality

- News reached Muhammad (saw) of the Romans preparations to raid the Islamic state's. Unlike today's leaders, He (saw) decided to counter this threat and lead the army himself.

Lessons then

- 1) **Allah orders** that the Khalifah defends the Ummah and propagates the deen.
- 2) **Many obstacles** in the way of victory at Tabuk; few resources, long journey (about 350 miles), intense heat, and scheming of the hypocrites. The army was called 'army of Al-Usrah (hardship)'.

3) **Response of the Muslims.** Muslims fell into different categories in terms of their response to Allah's orders. Some responded eagerly seeking Jannah, whilst others went looking for excuses.

Muhammad (saw) said to Jadd ibn Qays "*Would you not like to face Banu Asfar, Jadd ?*" Jadd replied "*Will you allow me to stay behind and not tempt me, for everyone knows that I am addicted to women and I am afraid that if I see the Roman women I shall not be able to control myself ?*" On hearing this, the Rasul (saw) turned away from him, and Allah revealed the following ayah.

"There are some who say give me leave and do not tempt me. Surely they have fallen into temptation already and hell encompasses the disbelievers [TMQ Tawba 9:49]

Some urged others not to go to a far off land in the burning heat. Allah (swt) revealed

"And they said, go not forth in the heat. Say: The fire of hell is fiercer in heat. If only they could understand." [TMQ Tawba 9:49]

- 4) **Victory.** Hearing that Rasul(saw) was leading the army and remembering the bravery of Muslims at Mutah, the Romans fled with little fighting. After much hardship, Allah granted victory in a short time.

▪ **Lessons today**

- 1) **Allah orders** us to live an Islamic way of life implemented in a Khilafah. (e.g. unify our lands, use oil resources for Ummah, not tolerate poison of Olympics and nationalism etc)
- 2) **Many obstacles** in the way of living by Islam today: rulers who implement kuffur and are agents of the west, US bases overlooking our every move, our love for the duniya.
- 3) **Response of the Muslims.** Inshah Allah, we must respond and strive with our wealth/energy hoping for reward in the hereafter like those Allah praised regarding Tabuk. We are only accountable for trying our best. May we not be like the Munafiqeen of Tabuk, whose followers today say living by Islam is an impractical dream.
- 4) **Victory.** Belief in, and the desire to please Allah (swt) should drive us on until the victory comes. Inshah Allah, like at Tabuk, the victory will come from places one does not expect.