# STORY OF HUDAYBIYYA

1) Prophet Mohammad ﷺ lived in Makkah, a city in present day Saudi Arabia. Muslims believe that starting from the age of 40, and for the next 23 years, Prophet Mohammad ﷺ received revelations from Allah (God). These revelations were compiled together in a book called the Qur’an, ordered as advised by Prophet Mohammad ﷺ. Qur’an is the holy book for Muslims.

2) Prophet Mohammad ﷺ and his followers, called Muslims, were persecuted by the other Makkans, mainly by a powerful tribe called the Quraish. The persecution was so severe that Prophet Mohammad ﷺ and his followers were eventually forced to leave Makkah and migrate to the city of Madinah, around 280 miles (450 kilometres) north of Makkah. Makkans continued with armed hostilities even after Prophet Mohammad ﷺ and his followers migrated to Madinah, at events such as the Battle of Badr, Battle of Uhud, Battle of the Trench.

3) A few years after the Muslims had migrated from Makkah to Madinah, in the month of Ramadan, Prophet Mohammad ﷺ had a surprising dream both perplexing and gratifying. He dreamt that he entered the Ka’bah, a building very important to Muslims in Makkah. The vision was powerful and Prophet Mohammad ﷺ interpreted it as a sign and a message. The next day, he told his companions about the dream and invited them to get ready for the lesser pilgrimage called the Umrah (the greater pilgrimage is called the Hajj and is the fifth pillar of Islam).

4) Between twelve hundred and fourteen hundred companions undertook the journey. The danger was considerable because the people of Makkah were bitter enemies of Muslims. Despite this danger Prophet Mohammad ﷺ did not allow the pilgrims to carry weapons.

5) When the Makkans heard that Muslims were heading towards Makkah to perform the pilgrimage, they sent two hundred men under the leadership of a man called Khalid ibn al-Walid to stop the Muslims reaching Makkah. On hearing this, Prophet Mohammad ﷺ changed his route and relied on the knowledge of a companion who knew the area well and arrived south of Makkah in the plain of Al-Hudaibiyyah. After arriving here Prophet Mohammad ﷺ immediately sent Uthman ibn Affan, to Makkah, to assure the Makkans that the Muslims have come in peace, only to perform the pilgrimage.

6) Three days passed and Uthman ibn Affan did not return. A rumour spread that Uthman ibn Affan had been killed by the Makkans. Prophet Mohammad ﷺ sat under an acacia tree and called all the Muslims who had come with him for the pilgrimage. He explained that if the rumour was true and they were attacked by the Makkans, they would have to defend themselves without any weapons. He asked each Muslim to pledge allegiance, this is famously called Bait-ul-Ridwan, that they would stand firm whatever the outcome. However, just as the last Companions had finished giving their pledge Uthman ibn Affan suddenly appeared. He too took the pledge. Prophet Mohammad ﷺ was happy to see him. The courageﷺ of the Muslims was tested to the extreme and Muslims passed this test by taking the allegiance. Allah acknowledges this in the Qur’an in chapter 48 verse 18; ‘Allah’s good pleasure was on the believers when they swore freely to you under the tree’ (Qur’an, 48:18).

7) Uthman ibn Affan informed Prophet Mohammad ﷺ that the people of Makkah were sending a person called Suhayl ibn Amr with another two men to seal a formal agreement with the Muslims. When Suhayl ibn Amr arrived, after a lot of discussion, the terms of the agreement were at last settled. Prophet Mohammad ﷺ asked Ali ibn Abu Talib to write them down. Ali ibn Abu Talib started the agreement with ‘In the name of Allah the Most Merciful the Most Kind’. Suhayl stopped him and said ‘I do not like that phrase just write ‘In your name, O God’. The companions of the Prophet objected but the Prophet instructed Ali to write as Suhayl ibn Amr says. The terms of the agreement were written.

8) Prophet Mohammad ﷺ signed the agreement ‘Mohammad ﷺ, Allah’s messenger’. Suhayl refused to accept the signature. He said ‘If we had known you to be Allah’s messenger we would not have fought you, sign Mohammad ﷺ ibn Abdullah for the agreement to be finalised’. Prophet Mohammad ﷺ agreed to this condition. The agreement was finalized and signed in March 628 AD. The Muslims were both upset and shocked at this as well as the terms of the agreement which they thought to be unfai

9) The four points of the agreement worth mentioning here are;

A) Muslims could not complete their pilgrimage, Umrah, this year but could come for three days next year.

B) A ten year peace was to be observed by both sides.

C) Any person who went from Makkah to Madinah was to be returned immediately to Makkah.

D) Any person who went from Madinah to Makkah was never to be allowed to return to Madinah.

10) The companions of the Prophet were really upset. They could not understand Prophet Mohammad’s ﷺ attitude. He had always taught them courage and dignity and now he was accepting an unfair agreement. On the way home Allah revealed His words to Prophet Mohammad ﷺ, through Angel Jibrail (Gabriel) recorded in Qur’an chapter 48 verse 1and 27;

‘Verily We have granted you a manifest victory’ .. ……‘Truly did Allah fulfill the vision of His Prophet: you shall enter the Ka’bah, if Allah wills. He knows what you do not know, and he has granted you, besides this, a victory near at hand.’ (Qur’an 48:1,27)

11) The Muslims were soon to realise the benefits of the agreement. For the first time ever they were not being attacked. They could live in relative peace and concentrate on education and building the community. Though they were sad about point (C) of the agreement and point (D) of the agreement because they strongly felt people should have the right to choose where they lived and move around freely. Over the next few years the peaceful conditions helped the spread of Islam in Arabia and the landscape of Arabia was changed forever.