

PERSECUTION OF THE MUSLIMS

The Arabs had now fully realised that they could not beat Muhammad (pbuh). There was no way they could withstand the power and eloquence of this message he brought. The message of truth stood clear in the midst of falsehood. Anyone who heard the message and met with Muhammad (pbuh) knew that it was the truth. Even the Makkans knew that it was the truth but they stubbornly wanted to hold onto the religion of their forefathers.

They had tried many times to stop the prophet (pbuh) from preaching this message but had failed. They had already used many under-hand tactics to try and discredit Islam. They tried to defame the Muslims and their beloved Prophet (pbuh); they mocked the Muslim religious scripture and its teachings. Everything they tried so far had proven to be a failure. They were desperate to come up with something more decisive that would rid them of this religion.

They would try and discredit the Muslims and Islam. The Muslims became the main target for their mockery and lies. They would attack the Prophet (pbuh) by calling him a liar or saying he was possessed by a Jinn! Sometimes they would say Muhammad (pbuh) had gone insane! They would ridicule the Qu'ran saying that someone taught Muhammad (pbuh) this Qu'ran; or that the Qu'ran was just sorcery and magic; or that Muhammad (pbuh) was just telling old stories. They would distort his teachings to make Islam look nonsensical or ambiguous. They would even try to harm our beloved Muhammad (pbuh) by pushing him and tripping him whenever he passed by.

The Makkans now looked at Muhammad (pbuh) with hatred and with evil intentions. They would meet together to plan new ways they could attack the Prophet (pbuh) and the Muslims. They would look for opportunities where they could attack the Muhammad (pbuh), whether verbally or physically.

They knew that the Qu'ran was the message of truth that no human could ever write such a masterpiece of perfection, wisdom and beauty. They also knew that the Qu'ran taught truth and its message was pure and could only be from Allah. The truth stands clear from falsehood. They knew the character of the prophet (pbuh), his good manners and trustworthiness. They knew that he was an example to them all even before he became a prophet (pbuh). They were sometimes ashamed at making up these lies about the prophet (pbuh) and ridiculing him, his

character and mission.

The early converts also suffered greatly at the hands of the Makkans but were always true to their faith. They remained steadfast against this hardship and persecution. They remained faithful to the messenger and Allah's Deen, always testifying to the Oneness of Allah and rejecting the idols. The Makkans wanted the Muslims to stop worshipping Allah and to return to idol worship. They would try and force the Muslims to leave Islam but the Muslims continued to follow the Truth.

Many of the early converts were poor and without any great status amongst the Arabs. Many did not have a powerful tribe to offer them protection so were an easy target for the Arabs to attack. In many cases, they were tortured and shamefully treated through which some Muslims died!

The Makkans realised that their attacks on the prophet (pbuh) were ineffective especially since he was guaranteed protection from his uncle Abu Talib. However, many of the converts did not have any protection from anyone so were vulnerable. They exploited this with a new wave of violence and barbarism against these Muslims. Abu Lahab was leading this committee of prominent Makkans who formed a resistance against the Muslims. They wanted to dissuade as many Muslims from following Islam, by any means possible. They were intent on destroying Islam and to cause so much misery to the Muslims that they would abandon their faith! The persecutions worsened, so much so that the prophet (pbuh) asked some of the new converts to keep their conversion secret.

Bilal was the slave of Omayyah bin Khalaf. When Omayyah found out about Bilal's acceptance of Islam, he began to beat and torture him severely. Often a rope was put around Bilal's neck and they would drag him through the streets and hills of Makkah. At times they would starve him and he became very weak. At others he was bound up, made to lie down on the burning sand, under the crushing weight of heavy stones.

They tried their hardest to force Bilal to leave Islam but they were unsuccessful. Bilal was strong in his belief in the Oneness of Allah. Even under the severest persecutions, the words Ahad, Ahad were repeated by Bilal. On one such occasion, Abu Bakr came across the suffering and ill-treatment of Bilal. Abu Bakr immediately purchased Bilal and freed him from slavery.

Ammar bin Yasir, a freed slave of Bani Makhzum, along with his mother and father, embraced Islam in its early stages. They were repeatedly made to lie on the burning sand and were beaten very badly. Ammar was at times tossed up on hot embers. The Prophet (pbuh) was saddened greatly by this harsh treatment and always comforted them and raised his hand in prayer and said: "Be patient, you will verily find your abode in the Paradise." His father, Yasir, died because of repeated tortures. His Mother, Sumaiyah, was bayoneted to death by Abu Jahl himself. Sumaiyah was the first woman martyred in Islam.

Ammar himself was subjected to torture and was always threatened to sustain severe suffering unless he abused Muhammad (pbuh) and accepted their idols. In a weak moment, he said some word but his heart never wavered. He came once to the Prophet (pbuh), who consoled him for his pain and confirmed his faith. Some verses from the Qu'ran came down saying that if a person has faith in his heart but is forced to denounce Islam, his Iman is still safe.

Abu Fakeeh, Aflah, a freed slave of Bani 'Abd Ad-Dar was the third of those helpless victims. The oppressors used to fasten his feet with a rope and drag him in the streets of Makkah.

Khabbab bin Al-Aritt was also an easy victim to similar outrages on every possible occasion. He experienced extreme torture and maltreatment. The Makkans used to pull his hair and twist his neck, and made him lie on burning coal with a big rock on his chest to prevent him from escaping. Many Muslims were tortured in the same way causing much harm and sadness within the community. For some, their lives became so unbearable that they were commanded later to do Hijra to safety in Abyssinia

Not even the prophet (pbuh) was spared from their evil. The prophet's daughters Ruqaiya and Umm Kulthum were both married to the sons of Abu Lahab. Abu Lahab ordered both of his sons to divorce their wives and sent them back to the prophet (pbuh). The Prophet (pbuh) was very sad when this happened. His uncle had been so happy when the marriage of his sons had taken place to the daughters of Muhammad. Hatred and spite had caused Abu Lahab to force his son's to leave their wives. Abu Lahab was also happy when the prophet's son died even though the prophet's household was so sad.

The prophet (pbuh) was abused even in Makkah, in the Sanctuary - the area in and

around the Ka'bah. Even when the prophet (pbuh) was praying he was attacked or mocked. There are many records of the verbal and physical abuse against the prophet (pbuh) but the prophet still remained faithful to his mission and deen.

The wife of Abu Lahab, Umm Jameel bint Harb, the sister of Abu Sufyan, used to tie bundles of thorns and would throw them in the paths which the Prophet (pbuh) would take. She wanted the prophet (pbuh) to get injured by this. She was an enemy of the Prophet (pbuh) and had great hatred for him. Once she took a handful of pebbles to the sanctuary where the prophet (pbuh) and Abu Bakr were sitting. She had the intention of hurting the prophet (pbuh) but Allah took away her sight so that she could not see the prophet (pbuh). She only saw Abu Bakr, who happened to be sitting next to the prophet (pbuh). She went over to him and said some abusive things before going.

In amongst all this hatred and persecution, there was one individual who's heart was in turmoil. Umar, the son of Khattab, had a great hatred for this new religion and used to attack and persecute the Muslims. At the same time he was also greatly impressed and intrigued with these Muslims who were so greatly devoted to their beliefs and prophet (pbuh). He could not tolerate anyone who went against their ancestors and their way of life so was a great and much feared enemy of Islam. Nevertheless, he continued to be an enemy of the Muslims

In the Oasis of Yathrib, the events were looked at in much intrigue. The Jews and the Arabs were constantly squabbling amongst each other. There were many battles fought which would last for years. The Arabs considered the Jews to be gypsies who travelled around without any ancestry and deep-seated roots. The Jews, on the other hand, considered themselves to be superior and look down on these idol worshipping Arabs, especially since the Jews were the chosen people.

The Jews use to warn the Arabs that a prophet would come with the message of truth and he will destroy the idol worshippers. He will confirm the oneness of Allah and the Day of Judgment when man will be brought back to life. Many of the Jews had moved near Yathrib waiting for this prophet that had been foretold in their books. as the events in Makkah unfolded, there was keen interest on both sides - especially because this prophet preaching the oneness of Allah was an Arab!

As things were getting worse for the Muslims but something was about to happen which would make the Arabs more determined to wipe out Islam from the face of this Earth.

HIJRA TO ABYSSINIA (ETHIOPIA)

The Makkans were relentless in their persecution of the Muslims and in the persecution of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). They left no stone unturned in slandering, defaming and injuring the Prophet (pbuh). They tried their best to harm him and to destroy his mission. Abu Lahab, their leader, encouraged others to carry out these evil actions and stood against the prophet (pbuh) throughout the prophet's mission in Makkah. He was against Islam and did his best to eradicate it from Makkah.

The slaves that had accepted Islam and the Muslims that were poor suffered the most at the hands of the Makkans. Many had been martyred whilst others were subject to different forms of abuse and mistreatment. Some of the Muslim's lives became miserable and they suffered terribly but they continued to observe patience and follow Islam wholeheartedly. Nothing was going to cause them to turn their backs to the truth.

After so much suffering at the hands of the Makkans, the prophet (pbuh) commanded a small group of Muslims to make the Hijra to a safe place in the country of Abyssinia. It was a Christian county, which was ruled by a just and fair king, whose title was Negus. They were sure to receive protection and peace there. The Muslims only wanted to get away from this persecution and to worship and live in peace. All the planning was kept secret because the Makkans kept a close eye on the activities of the Muslims.

The group of Muslims, who were going to leave for Abyssinia, consisted of sixteen people, which included twelve men and four women. Uthman bin Affan was also part of this group along with his wife Ruqaiyah (the prophet's daughter). When the Makkans found out, they tried to chase the small group of Muslims who had left Makkah the night before. On arrival at the port of Shu'aibah, the Muslims had seen that a ship was ready to leave the port and they managed to get on it. The Makkans were too late and became very angry that these Muslims had managed to escape from their evil grasp. They remained more vigilant in the future.

Their anger at the Muslims escaping was turned against the remaining Muslims and many hardships came upon the Muslims. The Makkans increased their barbaric treatment of the believers, especially the weak and the helpless Muslims. They were further enraged when they found out that that the escaped Muslims were

getting well treated in Abyssinia and hadn't been expelled as the Makkans had hoped.

The Prophet (pbuh) commanded another group of Muslims to make Hijra to Abyssinia but this time the group was much larger consisting of one hundred and two (or so) Muslims. This time there were two additional factors the Muslims had to deal with. Firstly, the Makkans were watching the Muslims very carefully and they would notice if something unusual was happening. Secondly, this group was a lot bigger so it would be more difficult for them to move quickly from one place to another.

However, by the will of Allah, the Muslims managed to escape from the watchful eyes of the Makkans and made it safely to Abyssinia. The Makkans were mad with anger and decided that they would send a small group of negotiators to bring back these Muslims. They would go to the Negus and explain to him that the Muslims had forsaken the religion of their forefathers. They would demand that the Muslims be returned to Arabia and the Makkans be allowed to deal with them.

The Makkans sent two of their top people, Amr bin Al-as and Abdullah bin Abi Rabia, who took expensive gifts with them. They wanted to dazzle and bribe the Negus so that he would release these Muslims. The two Makkan envoys travelled to Abyssinia and spoke to the Negus. They explained that these Muslims had left the religion of their forefathers and they asked Negus to return them to the Makkans.

The king summoned the Muslims to the court and asked them to explain the teachings of their religion. The Muslims were not scared of anything, they had the truth and they would stand by the truth. Ja'far bin Abi Talib stood up and explained to the Negus about the situation of the Arabs before the divine guidance came from Allah. He said that in the past, they had been acting out of ignorance by worshipping Idols and carrying out many bad actions. They had neglected their responsibilities to their fellow man, neighbour and orphans. They had completely forsaken justice, compassion and charity. They had forgotten all the good characteristics of a human being such as truth, honesty and piety. They had neglected all forms of justice and the strongest oppressed and ruled over the weak.

Ja'far then explained to the Negus about the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and his pure message which invited mankind to worship only Allah and to leave all forms of

idol worship. The Prophet (PBUH) had encouraged them to always speak the truth; to be faithful to their trusts and promises; to be merciful and just in their dealings with others and to respect the rights of their fellow human beings. The Prophet (pbuh) had also forbade them to speak evil of women and ordered them to look after the welfare of the orphans. He further explained that the prophet (pbuh) had ordered them to keep away from all evil acts and instead offer prayers, give charity, and to observe fasting.

Jafar told the Negus they had accepted this noble person as the Prophet of Allah and had followed his teachings. It was for this reason the Makkans had attacked and persecuted them and it was for this reason the Muslims had left Makkah. The Negus was satisfied with their answers.

The two envoys decided on a new plan. They went to the Negus saying that Muslims spoke ill of Jesus. The Negus called the Muslims and questioned them regarding what their religion said about Jesus. Jafar recited some verses of the Qu'ran from Surah Maryam, which teaches us about the miraculous birth of Jesus and the status of Jesus in Islam. The Negus was again impressed and was moved to tears that rolled down his cheeks. He knew in his heart that this was indeed the truth and was moved by the beautiful verses of the Qu'ran

The Negus exclaimed: "It seems as if these words and those which were revealed to Jesus are the rays of light which have radiated from the same source." He then turned to the two envoys from Makkah and told them to leave; the Muslims could stay in Abyssinia as long as they wished. The gifts were returned to the two envoys and they were told to return to Makkah.

The Makkans were shocked at the developments in Abyssinia - they had expected their envoys to be more successful but instead the Negus became more tolerant and respectful to the Muslims. There are some sources that say that Negus actually accepted Islam. History tell us that he kept his conversion to Islam a secret because some of his bishops would oppose him.

The Makkans had seen so much unfold before their very eyes but still many of them remained stubbornly against Islam. They made attempts to pressurize Abu Talib, the Prophet's uncle, by asking him to withdraw his support for Muhammad (pbuh). Abu Talib refused their requests and continued to support Muhammad (pbuh), even though Abu Talib did not accept Islam. Abu Talib loved and respected Muhammad (pbuh) very much and never withdrew his support for Muhammad (pbuh)

during his lifetime.

There had been numerous incidences where Abu Lahab and the Makkans had mocked and spoke ill of the prophet (pbuh). There are still more incidences where Abu Lahab himself created a nuisance to the prophet (pbuh). These shameful acts include throwing things at the prophet (pbuh) when he was praying. They would also throw rubbish inside the food they were preparing or had already prepared. However, Muhammad (pbuh) did not resort to violence or acted in the same disrespectful way.

One such incident that took place was when the Prophet (pbuh) was praying at the Ka'bah. A group of Makkans got together and put the intestines of a camel on the Prophet's back when he was doing sajdah. The prophet (pbuh) could not move and remained like this whilst the Makkans celebrated and laughed at this incident. Fatima, the beloved daughter of our Prophet (pbuh) came and removed it from his back. The prophet (pbuh) then made a dua against these seven people, saying that may Allah punish them for this evil action. In the battle of Badr, all seven of them were killed in the battlefield and their bodies were seen after the battle.

In another incident, Abu Lahab tried to injure the prophet (pbuh) in the sanctuary of the Ka'bah. Abu Lahab swore that he would rub the prophet's face in the dust when the prophet (pbuh) came to pray. He intended to put his foot on the neck of our beloved prophet (pbuh) and force it into the sand as he performed the sajdah. Just then the prophet (pbuh) came into the sanctuary and began to pray. With his friends watching Abu Lahab went forward to attack the prophet (pbuh). Suddenly Abu Lahab turned back, as if running from something. His colleagues were puzzled and asked him what happened. Abu Lahab said that there was a ditch of fire between the prophet (pbuh) and him and there was something after him so he ran away!

A third incident worth mentioning is when the prophet (pbuh) was at the sanctuary. It was in the fifth year of prophethood and the Muslims at this point were suffering many hardships. The Makkans were getting bolder with their attacks against the Muslims. This particular attack was by Abu Jahl who hurled abuse at the prophet (pbuh) and then attacked him with a stone. The prophet (pbuh) did not retaliate against him and instead returned from the sanctuary. However, much to the dismay of the Makkans, they paid very heavily for this assault upon the Prophet (pbuh).

HAMZAH AND UMAR ACCEPT ISLAM

The Muslims had been made to suffer by the Makkans. The prophet (pbuh) had made the decision to let some of the Muslims make a Hijra to Abyssinia. These Muslims had suffered terribly and at least in Abyssinia they would be safe from harm and trouble. Some of the Muslims had kept their acceptance of Islam a secret so that they would not suffer any abuse from the Makkans.

The prophet Muhammad (pbuh) himself had been defamed and injured by the Makkans. They had even tried to kill him. They had tried to bribe him so that he would leave his mission. They offered to make him the king or the richest man in Arabia if he left his mission. Muhammad (pbuh) refused all their offers, continued his mission and remained dedicated to Islam. Throughout all this turmoil, the Muslims also remained patient and were steadfast on the path of truth.

Muhammad (pbuh) himself continued to preach the message of Islam to the people, whether openly or in secret. He kept inviting people to the worship of the one God and to worship nothing besides Allah. Muhammad (pbuh) would often pray openly at the Ka'bah and hence was a target for the Makkans. Even here they would attack the prophet (pbuh) or try to abuse and ridicule him.

They had even approached the Prophet's uncle Abu Talib and offered to do a trade with him. They had offered him a youth, who would look after him and whom he could adopt as his own son. They wanted to exchange him for Muhammad (pbuh) so that they could kill him. Abu Talib was furious with them. He said, "It is really an unfair bargain. You give me your son to bring him up and I give you my son to be murdered! By Allah, it is something incredible!" The Makkans explained to Abu Talib that they were doing him a favour by getting rid of Muhammad (pbuh) who was becoming a problem for the community. Abu Talib sent them away in disgust and told them to do what they want.

Once they tried to kill the prophet (pbuh) at the Ka'bah. Muhammad (pbuh) was at the Ka'bah when Uqbah bin Al-Mu'ait came forward towards the prophet (pbuh). When Muhammad (pbuh) was engaged in prayer, Uqbah took his cloak and tried to strangle the prophet (pbuh). It was only when Abu Bakr intervened by pushing Uqbah away from the prophet that the strangling stopped. Abu Bakr then exclaimed, "Do you wish to kill someone because he is asking you to worship Allah!" Abu Bakr was immediately attacked and sustained terrible injuries in this incident.

Another incident, as mentioned in the last seerah, was when Abu Jahl attacked and abused the prophet (pbuh). The prophet (pbuh) was sitting on one of the hillocks of Safa when Abu Jahl approached him and started shouting and using bad language towards him. Muhammad (pbuh) remained quiet and did not retaliate. Abu Jahl took a rock and started attacking Muhammad (pbuh), causing him to bleed. Muhammad (pbuh) again did not retaliate and Abu Jahl proceeded to the Ka'bah to his waiting friends. Unknown to them the whole incident was witnessed by the slave girl of Abdullah bin Jada'an.

As it so happened Hamzah, the prophet's uncle, was returning from a hunting trip and it was his habit that on return he would go straight to the Ka'bah and offer prayers. He was moving towards the Ka'bah, with his bow still strung on his shoulder, when the slave girl approached him and told him the whole incident. She told him how Abu Jahl had abused his nephew with vile language and then attacked him with a rock.

Hamzah had grown up near Muhammad (pbuh) and knew his kind and generous nature. He was angry that someone should speak and attack him in such an unjust and vicious manner. He strode to the Ka'bah where Abu Jahl was sitting with his friends. He went up to them and struck his bow across Abu Jahl's head. The people around him were astonished that Hamzah would do such a thing. Hamzah then said ""You have been abusing Muhammad (pbuh); I too follow his religion and profess what he preaches."

Abu Jahl's companions were ready to come to his rescue and fight with Hamzah but Abu Jahl stopped them. Abu Jahl said "I indeed did speak shamelessly to Muhammad (pbuh)." Even Abu Jahl knew that he was being unjust towards Muhammad (pbuh) and that this type of behaviour towards a fellow human being was unacceptable. He knew he was in the wrong and that Hamzah was justified in defending Muhammad (pbuh).

The Makkans were especially upset because Hamzah had become a Muslim. Hamzah had always been respected by the Makkans and was considered by everyone as a brave and honourable person. Although Hamzah did not know much about Islam, very soon he learned about Islam and wholeheartedly accepted Islam. He became a very pious and dedicated Muslim. He was a greatly loved companion of the prophet (pbuh).

It was also about this same time that Umar bin Khattab was in turmoil. He was one of the stern opposition to the Muslims, in fact he used to harm the Muslims and cause them much suffering. Umar was intelligent and wise as well as being considered very brave and strong amongst all the Arabs. People would tremble at the name of Umar. Umar hated the Muslims because they brought something different to what their forefathers worshipped. He thought that their forefathers could not be wrong and that the Muslims were creating annoyance as well as division within the Makkkan community.

At the same time, Umar was impressed how the Muslims were steadfast and dedicated to their beliefs. He alone had metered out much punishment and pain to the Muslims but they would never leave their religion. They would always cling onto this belief in the one god as well as love and respect for their beloved prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He was torn between the two worlds but continued to be an open enemy of the Muslims and a very active enemy at that.

Umar one day was very upset. In fact he was angry, he saw what was happening to the community with the divisions caused by the new religion. He decided to end it here and the quickest way, he thought, was by killing the prophet (pbuh). He got his sword and started heading out to find the prophet (pbuh). When the people saw Umar with his sword out, they knew that someone was in for trouble and everyone avoided Umar.

On the way, Umar met a friend of his; by the name Nu'aim bin Abdullah. Nu'aim asked him where he was going with this unsheathed sword. Umar said furiously, "I am going to kill that man Muhammad (pbuh)." Umar was furious at the divisions that the new religion had caused within his community and was in no mood to talk. Nu'aim reasoned with him that why are you going to kill Muhammad (pbuh), which will cause more problems within the community. Banu 'Abd Munaf would attack you and this will lead to further bloodshed. Why don't you sort your own family out first? Both your sister and brother in law have accepted Islam and left the religion of your forefathers!

When Umar heard this, he headed straight for his sister's house. Nu'aim was actually defending Muhammad (pbuh) from this enraged Umar by sending him elsewhere. as it so happened, Umar's sister Fatima and her husband were studying the Qu'ran from Khabab.

When they heard someone approaching, Khabab hid and Fatima hid the pages of the Qu'ran they were reading from. Umar had overheard something being read and pounded on the door. Fatima answered the door and Umar immediately asked her what she was reading. He then continued to relay the information that Nu'aim had given them that they had both accepted Islam. Fatima denied everything and Umar became angry and started beating his sister and brother in law. Umar was maddened with rage at both of them and caused them both to be injured.

Both Fatima and her husband then said, "Yes, we are Muslims, we believe in Allah and His Messenger Muhammad (pbuh) so do what you will." When Umar saw the state of his bleeding sister, he was touched with remorse and his anger went away. He said, "I was only wanting to know what you were reading." His sister then explained to Umar that this was the Qu'ran, the message that Muhammad was sent with. Umar wanted to read these verses but his sister refused him saying that he could not touch them because he was not clean.

Umar went and had a bath then read the verses from the Qu'ran. He immediately was touched by the beauty, elegance and wisdom of these verses. He knew that these verses were far superior to anything he had heard and this could only be from Allah, no man could write this. At this point he knew that Islam was the truth and that his forefathers had indeed been misguided.

Khabab could not contain himself with the changed Umar and came out of hiding. He told them that he had heard the prophet do a dua that may Allah strengthen Islam either with Abu Jahl or Umar bin Khattab. It seemed that the prayer was going to be answered.

Umar then left his sister's house and set off to find Muhammad (pbuh). The prophet (pbuh) was in a religious meeting in a house in Safa. Here the prophet (pbuh) was teaching the Muslims when they heard a knock on the door. The Muslims went over to the door and looked through the cracks. They noticed Umar with his sword unsheathed and dreaded what could happen. Hamzah was also there and he said: "Let him in, as a friend he is welcome. as an enemy, he will have his head cut off with his own sword."

Muhammad (pbuh) then commanded his companions to open the door and let him in. When Umar entered, Muhammad (pbuh) grabbed him by his garments and shook him, asking him why he had come. Umar explained: "O Messenger of Allah (pbuh), I come to you in order to believe in Allah and his Messenger and that which he has

brought from his Lord." All the Muslims rejoiced at this good news and cried aloud: 'Allahu Akbar' (Allah is Great), which could be heard at the Ka'bah.

One of the main effects of Umar accepting Islam was that the Muslims could now worship in the open. Umar insisted that since Islam is the right way then surely they should not hide and worship Allah. Instead, they should be allowed to worship in the open without any hindrance from the Makkans. From that day onwards the Muslims were able to pray in the open.

When the Makkans found out that Umar too had accepted Islam, just three days after Hamzah, they were very upset. When the Muslims began to worship Allah in the open there was an uneasy atmosphere and the Makkans knew that things were a bit more serious. The Makkans took things a lot more serious now and they were intending to get rid of the Prophet (pbuh) and his followers once and for all.

The Makkans got together for a meeting in which to decide how best they could irradiate Islam; they would not take things lightly anymore. They had tried everything and had very little success. They wanted to give one final, decisive blow that would finish off the Muslims. In this meeting they formulated a new plan that only the worst of humans could carry out, especially since it was against their own family and tribesmen.

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