

## LESSONS FROM THE BATTLE OF MU'TAH

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ  
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ  
وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَآيَايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and avoiding all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Him in this world and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Let us reminisce the events of the Mu'tah (مؤتة) battle that occurred during the lifetime of the Prophet (pbuh) which was after the opening of the city of Mecca. The Prophet (pbuh) wanted to continue spreading Islam beyond the Arab Peninsula.

The Prophet (pbuh) wished to send his companions to meet foreign leaders. The Prophet (pbuh) said as narrated by Imam Ibn Kathir in the book of al-Bidayah wa al-Nihayah:

فَإِنِّي أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَبْعَثَ بَعْضَكُمْ إِلَى مُلُوكِ الْأَعَاجِمِ ، فَلَا تَحْتَلِفُوا عَلَيَّ

Which means: *Indeed I wish to send some of you to the kings, may none of you oppose my decision.*

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 2 (surah al-Baqarah) verse 190 that clarifies the role of Muslims to wage jihad (holy war) in order to expand Islam. It does not intend to make islam as extremists or invaders like the history of the arrival of islam in the Malay Peninsula.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَقَاتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ الَّذِينَ يُقْتَلُونَكُمْ وَلَا تَعْتَدُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُعْتَدِينَ ﴿١٩٠﴾

Which means: *Fight in the way of Allah those who fight you but do not transgress. Indeed. Allah does not like transgressors.*

The battle of Mu'tah was not intended to invade and seize properties, but to instill faith and love and to deny that Islam is enforced by the sword. al-Harith bin Umair RA was among the prophet's companion who brought a letter to the Roman Emperor calling him to Islam, but al-Harith was killed. The slaying of al-Harith bin Umair RA by the romans incited the Mu'tah battle. The prophet's army were

made up of his companions who went to fight the Roman army in the territory of Syria. The number of Muslim soldiers who went to Mu'tah were only three thousand compared with the Roman army of a hundred thousand people.

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Mu'tah battle shows us the pure faith of the Prophet's companions who love the religion of Allah the Almighty. They believed in His promise and were willing to sacrifice their lives to defend Islam.

They were not afraid and did not feel threatened in the slightest. One of the Muslim army commander named Abdullah ibn Rawahah issued words of encouragement to the Muslim army, who were confronted with a huge Roman army with his speech; "In the name of Allah! Surely you set out to seek martyrdom. We fight not because of the number or the strength of their army. We fight solely for this religion with which we are honored by Allah the Almighty. Onward to the field of jihad; win or fall (martyrdom)." Allah the Almighty said in chapter 2 (surah al-Baqarah) verse 249:

قَالَ الَّذِينَ يَظُنُّونَ أَنَّهُمْ مُلْقُوا اللَّهَ كَم مِّن فِئَةٍ قَلِيلَةٍ غَلَبَتْ فِئَةً كَثِيرَةً بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ

وَاللَّهُ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ

Which means: *But those who were certain that they would meet Allah said, "How many a small company has overcome a large company by permission of Allah . And Allah is with the patient."*

The prophet (pbuh) had envisioned that some of his companions will die as martyrs in that war. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

إِنْ قُتِلَ زَيْدٌ فَجَعْفَرٌ ، فَإِنْ قُتِلَ جَعْفَرٌ فَعَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنِ رَوَاحَةَ

Which means: *If Zayd is wounded or killed, Ja'far ibn Abu Talib will take over the command. If Ja'far is killed or wounded, Abdullah ibn Rawahah will take his place.*

Imam al Bukhari narrated a hadith of Ibnu Umar ra when he stood in front of the body of Jaafar ibn Abu Talib who died a martyr, “I found more than fifty stab wounds on his body till his back had no place free of stab wounds”. Such is the story of their courage to face battle in order to establish the religion of Allah the Almighty. Their ambition is to see Islam spread to all corners of the earth, even if they have to sacrifice their wealth and soul.

Let us reflect upon ourselves by learning from the events of the battle of Mu'tah by giving undivided love for our religion. The time has come for us to increase our efforts in spreading islam so as to uphold the words of Allah the Almighty. Thus, we should distance ourselves from unbeneficial and excessive entertainment that will only lead us to disgrace. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 33(surah al-Ahzab) verse 23:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

مِّنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ رِجَالٌ صَدَقُوا مَا عَاهَدُوا اللَّهَ عَلَيْهِ فَمِنْهُمْ مَّن قَضَىٰ نَحْبَهُ وَمِنْهُمْ مَّن

يَنْظُرُ وَمَا بَدَّلُوا تَبْدِيلًا ﴿٢٣﴾

Which means: Among the believers are men true to what they promised Allah . Among them is he who has fulfilled his vow [to the death], and among them is he who awaits [his chance]. And they did not alter [the terms of their commitment] by any alteration

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلِكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ  
وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي  
هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلِكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ  
وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.