

The Prophetic Biography

صَلَّى اللّٰهُ
عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

**Temptations
and Challenges
on the Path!**

مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُوْلُ اللّٰهِ

**The Incident of the Splitting
of the Moon!**

Temptations and Challenges on the Path!



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Temptations on the Path of Da'wah!

After the failed attempts of Al-Walid bin Al-Mughirah to influence the Prophet,

Quraysh decided to send to him Utbah bin Rabee'ah, the leader of the Abd Shams tribe, to offer him



an enticing proposition that had never been offered to any Arab before!

He went to the Prophet and spoke kindly, saying: "O my nephew, I have seen what you have done to your people, you have caused division among them, criticized their religion and gods, and disbelieved in their forefathers, and you have done what you have done. Would you allow me to present an offer to you?"

The Prophet, peace be upon him, replied: "Say, O Abu Al-Walid."

Utbah said: "O Muhammad, if you have come with this message seeking wealth, we will gather for you from our wealth so that you become the richest among us. If you seek honor in us, we




will make you our leader and master. If you seek kingship, we will make you our king. And if what is happening to you is a form of possession by jinn, we will treat you until you are cured."

The Prophet remained silent, and then he asked Utbah: "Have you finished, O Abu Al-Walid?"

Utbah replied: "Yes."

Then, the Prophet, peace be upon him, responded to him with verses from the Qur'an:

 **Ha. Mim. ◉ This is a revelation from the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate. ◉ A Book whose verses are made clear, an Arabic Qur'an for a people who know. ◉ A bearer of good tidings and a warner,**



but most of them turn away so they do not hear. ❀ And they say, 'Our hearts are in coverings from what you invite us to, and in our ears is deafness, and between us and you is a veil, so work, indeed, we are working.❀

(Translation of Quran 41:1–5)

Utbah listened to the Qur'an and his heart nearly flew from its sweetness, for he was a fluent Arab who understood the language of the Qur'an and knew it was not from human beings.

The Prophet continued reciting until he reached the verse:

❀ But if they turn away, then say, 'I have warned you of a strike like the strike of 'Aad and Thamud.❀

(Translation of Quran 41:13)



At this point, Utbah shuddered and froze in place, feeling panic. He then said to the Prophet Muhammad: "O Muhammad... O Muhammad, I ask you by Allah to stop."

He knew the punishment that befell 'Aad and Thamud.

Utbah then left the Prophet. When the idolaters saw him coming out, they noticed that his face had turned pale and changed.

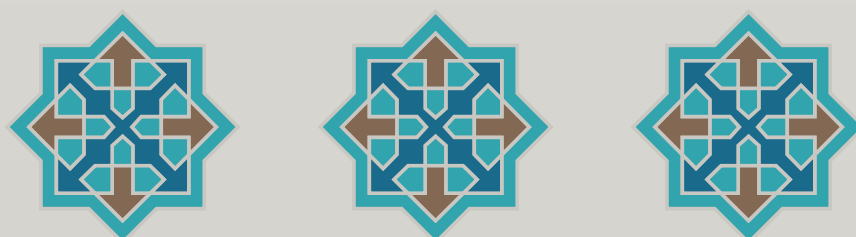
They approached him and asked, "What happened, O Abu Al-Walid?"

He replied: "O people of Quraysh, by Allah, I have never heard anything like this. By Allah, it is neither poetry, nor sorcery, nor divination. O people of Quraysh, listen to me and take my



advice. Leave this man and distance yourselves from him. If the Arabs turn away from him, you will have spared him. But if he prevails over the Arabs, his kingdom will be your kingdom, and his honor will be your honor, and you will be the happiest of people with him."

The idolaters turned away from Utbah, leaving him, saying: "**Utbah has been bewitched, Muhammad has bewitched him, Muhammad has bewitched him.**" ⁽¹⁾





Childish proposals!

All the attempts of the disbelievers of Quraysh ended in failure, to the point where they decided to give up some of their pride and presented two proposals to him: **The first:** "Worship our gods for one year, and we will worship your God for one year."




The second: "You worship Hubal, Al-Lat, and Al-Uzza, and we will also worship your God at the same time. If the one you worship is better than the ones we worship, we would have gained a share from it. And if the ones we worship are better than the one you worship, you would have gained a share from ours."

Imagine...!! These ridiculous proposals came from the minds of the wisest people in Quraysh! All of this was due to their denial of accepting the truth and submitting to it.

So, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) waited for the revelation to respond to them, and Allah responded to



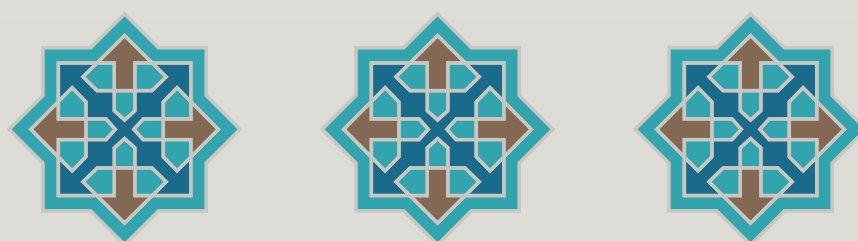
them with a strong, decisive reply, cutting off their childish and futile negotiations. The Surah of Al-Kafirun was revealed:

 Say, 'O disbelievers, ﴿1﴾ I do not worship what you worship, ﴿2﴾ nor do you worship what I worship, ﴿3﴾ and I will not worship what you have worshiped, ﴿4﴾ nor will you worship what I worship, ﴿5﴾ for you is your religion, and for me is my religion.' ﴿6﴾

Allah and His Messenger refused to allow pure monotheism to be tainted by any of the ties of ignorance and idol worship, even if the entire world stood against the call of Islam.



Thus, the religion was passed down to us pure and untainted, allowing us to taste the sweetness of faith.



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Miraculous Challenges!

Utbah and Shaybah, the sons of Rabi'ah, Abu Sufyan ibn Harb, Abu al-Bakhtari, al-Walid ibn al-Mughira, Abu Jahl ibn Hisham, Abdullah ibn Abi Umayyah, Umayyah ibn Khalaf, and al-As ibn Wa'il.



These leaders of the disbelievers gathered after sunset at the vicinity of the Ka'bah.

Some of them said to one another: "Send to Muhammad and tell him to come to us." So they sent to him, saying, "The leaders of your people have gathered to speak with you."

Muhammad (pbuh) came to them, thinking that they had softened, for he cared for their guidance and was grieved by their rejection. He approached them and sat among them.

He asked them, **"What is your matter?"**

They said, "O Muhammad, we have seen what you have done to us and our people. If you are not accepting what



we previously offered you and insist on your call, then we want to ask you to do something that might make us believe in you."

Then the disbelievers began to make their requests.



They said to Muhammad: **﴿We will not believe in you until you cause a spring to gush forth for us from the earth.﴾**

They were surrounded by mountains in Mecca, and they asked him to pray to his Lord to remove the mountains and make rivers flow like the rivers of Syria and Iraq, so that they might benefit from them in this world, for they had no water other than the water of Zamzam. They wanted fountains and rivers.



Muhammad replied to them: "I was not sent for this purpose. I have come to you with what I was sent with. I have delivered to you the message I was entrusted with. If you accept it, it is your share in this world and the Hereafter. If you reject it, I will be patient for the command of Allah to come, and He will judge between me and you."

Then they said to Muhammad:

 **Or you will have a garden of date palms, and you will cause rivers to flow through it abundantly.** 



They saw him walking among them in the markets, doing as they did, and they argued that if he were truly a prophet as he claimed, why wouldn't his Lord



provide him with gardens and blessings instead of having him work like them?

Muhammad (PBUH) responded to them: "O my people, I swear I was not sent for this. I was sent to deliver the messages of your Lord, and I am a trustworthy advisor to you. If you accept it, well and good, otherwise, I will be patient until Allah judges between us."

They then asked Muhammad:

 **Or you will bring down the sky upon us in pieces, as you have claimed, or bring your Lord and the angels face to face with us.** 



They said: "Look at the sky, O Muhammad, and bring down parts of it upon us as a punishment, or bring



your Lord and the angels so we may believe in you."

Muhammad (PBUH) replied: "As for this, it is not for me to do. If Allah wills, He will do it, and if He does not, He will not."

Then they continued:

 **Or you will have a house made of gold.** 

They said: "O Muhammad, we want you to have a house made of gold, for you live in simple rooms. We want you to have a house made of gold, adorned and beautiful."

They even went as far as to say:

 **Or you will ascend to the sky. And we will never believe in your ascent**



until you bring us a book we can read.❦

They challenged him, saying: "How about you ascend to the sky? And if you do so, and you return with a book, we will believe in you."

Muhammad responded:

❦ **Say, 'Glory is to my Lord. Am I anything but a human messenger?'**❦

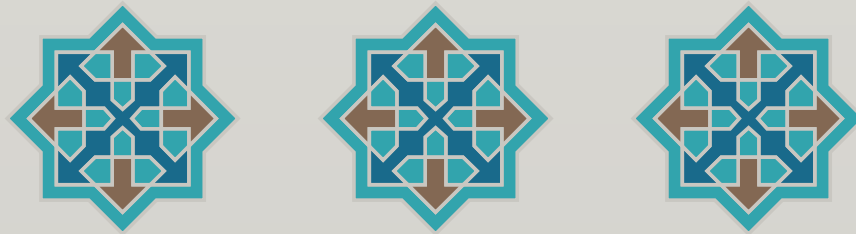
You are asking for something that is not mine. I am just a human messenger, commissioned to deliver the message. Allah has revealed it to me, and I am conveying it to you.

It was very clear that the goal of the disbelievers of Quraysh in their requests was not to verify the truthfulness of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon

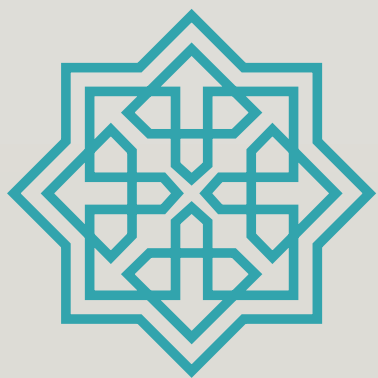


him) through miracles or signs. Rather, it was simply obstinacy and an attempt to make it more difficult for him.

The issue was not a lack of evidence. The signs of the truthfulness of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)—from his character and life to the verses and miracles—are clearer than the sun. For the truthful, one proof is enough, but for the denier, even a thousand proofs will not suffice.



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(The Moon Split)

On one of the nights in Mecca, when the moon's light illuminated the entire region, the disbelievers came to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and demanded that he split the moon in two, as a way to prove his inability to meet their demands.



The Prophet, in response, raised his hands to the sky and made a prayer to Allah. And then, the moon split in two, with one half resting on Mount Abu Qubais and the other on Mount Qa'iqi'an, with Mount Hira' appearing between them, visible to everyone present.

The disbelievers, in astonishment, loudly exclaimed to the people: "Muhammad has cast a spell on you!"



But this time, their claim of magic was of no use, as there were many witnesses—both Muslims and disbelievers—who saw the event with their own eyes.

Despite this clear sign, they persisted in their disbelief, saying: "This is just



a continuous magic," and refused to believe. They did not seek these signs with the intention of believing and following, but rather just to argue and debate.

Then Allah revealed the verse:

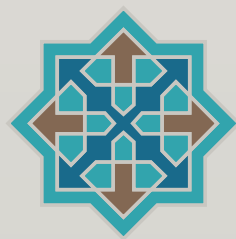
 **The Hour has drawn near, and the moon has split. And if they see a sign, they turn away and say, 'This is continuous magic.' And they denied and followed their inclinations. But every matter is settled.** 

(Al-Qamar 54:1-3)

They were warned with knowledge and wisdom, but their hearts were hardened, and the warnings did not benefit them.



This is the case with many people: when truth and clear evidence are brought to them, they do not believe, and instead, they follow their desires. Therefore, we always pray to Allah: "O Allah, show us the truth as truth and grant us the ability to follow it, and show us falsehood as falsehood and grant us the ability to avoid it."



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