

Disallowing Celebrating the Prophet's Hijrah



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All thanks are to Allâh, Lord of all that exists, Who legislated *Hijrah* (migration from the land of disbelief to the land of Islam) and promised those who perform it with great rewards:

﴿وَمَنْ يَخْرُجْ مِنْ بَيْتِهِ مُهَاجِرًا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ يُدْرِكُهُ الْمَوْتُ فَقَدْ وَقَعَ أَجْرُهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا﴾

“And whosoever leaves his home as an emigrant unto Allâh and His Messenger, and death overtakes him, his reward is then surely, incumbent upon Allâh. And Allâh is Ever Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.” (4:100)

I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allâh Alone without partners and that Muhammad ﷺ is His slave and Messenger, who said:

﴿لَا تَنْقَطِعُ الْهِجْرَةُ حَتَّى تَنْقَطِعَ التَّوْبَةُ، وَلَا تَنْقَطِعُ التَّوْبَةُ حَتَّى تَطْلُعَ الشَّمْسُ مِنْ مَغْرِبِهَا﴾.

“Performing *Hijrah* will not end until the chance to repent ends, and the chance to repent will not end until the sun rises from where it sets.”

May Allâh's peace and blessings be on Muhammad, his progeny and Companions.

﴿الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَهَاجَرُوا وَجَاهَدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ آءَاوَأُوا وَنَصَرُوا﴾

“...who believed, and emigrated and strove hard and fought with their property and their lives in the Cause of Allâh as well as those who gave (them) asylum and help.” (8:72)

O people! Fear Allâh the Exalted and study the life story of your Prophet ﷺ so that you imitate him, just as Allâh commanded you in His statement:

﴿لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ﴾

كَبِيرًا ﴿

“Indeed in the Messenger of Allâh (Muhammad ﷺ) you have a good example to follow for him who hopes for Allâh and the Last Day, and remembers Allâh much.” (33:21)

The *Hijrah* (of the Prophet ﷺ from Makkah to Al-Madinah around 623 CE) is certainly among the greatest incidents that occurred in the Prophet's lifetime. When the *Mushrikeen* of Makkah increased their opposition and harm to the Messenger ﷺ, he started calling the various tribes, during *Hajj* season, to protect and aid him until he delivered the Message of his Lord. The Prophet ﷺ did not receive a positive response, until some people from the tribe of Khazraj went to *Hajj* from Al-Madinah. The Jews of Al-Madinah used to relate to its Arab residents that a new Messenger was about to be sent. The Jews threatened them that they would follow that Prophet ﷺ and fight them under his leadership, just as Allâh described of them:

﴿ وَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ كِتَابٌ مِّنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ مُصَدِّقٌ لِّمَا مَعَهُمْ وَكَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ يَسْتَفْتِحُونَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ مَا عَرَفُوا كَفَرُوا بِهِ فَلَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿

“And when there came to them (the Jews), a Book (this Qur'ân) from Allâh confirming what is with them, although aforesime they had invoked Allâh (for coming of Muhammad ﷺ) in order to gain victory over those who disbelieved, then when there came to them that which they had recognized, they disbelieved in it. So let the Curse of Allâh be on the disbelievers.” (2:89)

Hence, before the Prophet ﷺ was sent, the Jews used to invoke Allâh for his coming so that they gain victory against their enemies, saying:

“O Allâh! Aid us with the Prophet who will be sent just before the end of time and whose description we find in the Torah.”

When the Prophet ﷺ came to the camp area of the various tribes, as he usually did during the *Hajj* season, he met some pilgrims from the tribe of Khazraj, who were delighted and said that this is the Prophet ﷺ

whom the Jews threatened them with. Therefore, they said, “Do not allow the Jews to follow him before you.” They believed in the Prophet ﷺ, gave their pledge of allegiance to him, then went back to their people in Al-Madinah and conveyed the good news to them. Many people in Al-Madinah believed in the Prophet ﷺ and came the following year during the *Hajj* season, gave their pledge of allegiance, in Al-‘Aqabah area, to believe in him and support him if he emigrates to them in Al-Madinah. The Prophet ﷺ gave permission to his Companions to start emigrating to Al-Madinah. When he intended to emigrate himself, *Mushrik* feared that he might become more powerful and that his religion might gain strength and thus be difficult to defeat. They gathered and plotted against the Prophet ﷺ, deciding to assassinate him and waited by his door, so that they would kill him when he left his house. Allâh told His Prophet ﷺ about their plot and he commanded Ali to sleep in his bed that night. Meanwhile, the Prophet ﷺ left his house, walking between the people who were waiting to kill him, but they did not see him departing!

The Prophet ﷺ then headed towards Abu Bakr’s house and found that he had prepared two camels to travel on and hired a guide to show them the way. They left Makkah unnoticed and went to Thaur Cave, where they hid, giving the two camels to the guide so that he brings them at a certain time later on. When the *Mushrikeen* realized that the Messenger ﷺ had left Makkah, they became furious and gathered their forces to search for the Prophet ﷺ, offering a hefty reward for those who captured him. Allâh said:

﴿ وَإِذْ يَمْكُرُ بِكَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِيُبْسِتُوا أَوْ يُسْقِطُوا أَوْ يُخْرِجُوا أَوْ يَمْكُرُوا وَيَمْكُرُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ خَبِيرٌ الْمَكْرِينِ ﴾

“And (remember) when the disbelievers plotted against you (O Muhammad ﷺ) to imprison you, or to kill you, or to get you out (from your home, i.e., Makkah); they were plotting and Allâh too was plotting; and Allâh is the Best of those who plot.” (8:30)

When the *Mushrikeen* arrived at the cave’s entrance, Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه said:

“O Allâh’s Messenger ﷺ! If any of them looked down at his feet, he would see us.” The Prophet ﷺ replied, “O Abu Bakr! What do you think about two persons, who have Allâh as their third?” Allâh said about this incident:

﴿إِلَّا نَضْرُوهُ فَقَدْ نَصَرَهُ اللَّهُ إِذْ أَخْرَجَهُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا ثَانِيَ اثْنَيْنِ إِذْ هُمَا فِي الْغَارِ إِذْ يَقُولُ لِصَاحِبِهِ لَا تَحْزَنْ إِنَّا بِاللهِ مَعِينَا﴾

“If you help him (Muhammad ﷺ) not (it does not matter), for Allâh did indeed help him when the disbelievers drove him out, the second of the two; when they were in the cave, he (ﷺ) said to his Companion: “Be not sad, surely, Allâh is with us.” (9:40)

By the leave of Allâh the *Mushrik* did not notice them and they went back with failure and humiliation. The Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه remained in the cave for a few days, while Abdullah bin Abu Bakr رضي الله عنهما brought them the news of the *Mushrik* from Makkah. Meanwhile, ‘Amir bin Fahirah, Abu Bakr’s servant, used to tend a flock of sheep and pass by them so they could drink from the sheep’s milk. Asmâ’ bint Abu Bakr رضي الله عنها used to bring food to them during the night. They remained in the cave for three days, until the *Mushrikeen* were no longer looking for them. Then, the guide brought back the two camels as they agreed before, and the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه rode the camels headed towards Al-Madinah.

In Al-Madinah, the *Muhajirin* (Migrants) and *Ansar* (residents of Al-Madinah who aided the Prophet ﷺ) were impatiently awaiting the Prophet’s arrival every day, until Allâh brought the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion safely to them. Ever since then, the Islamic State was established and soon after, Allâh ordained *Jihâd* on His Prophet ﷺ to raise Allâh’s Word high and to make His religion prominent. The Messenger ﷺ performed continuous *Jihâd*, and Allâh aided him with victory and made his religion dominant, until he entered Makkah victorious surrounded by the *Muhajirin* and *Ansar*. The Prophet ﷺ smashed all the idols in and around the Ka‘bah, entered it and pronounced Allâh’s Greatness in it. He then went out to the Qurasih pagans who were gathered around Al-Mosque Al-Haram awaiting their

just punishment. He asked them, "O people of Quraish! What do you think I will do to you?" They said, "Only that which is good, for verily, you are an honorable brother and an honorable nephew." He replied, "I say to you what (Prophet) Joseph عليه السلام said to his brothers:

﴿ لَا تَنْرِيبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْيَوْمَ يَغْفِرُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَهُوَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ ﴾

"No reproach on you this day; may Allâh forgive you, and He is the Most Merciful of those who show mercy!" (12:92)

Go you way, for you are *At-Tulaqaa*," meaning, 'Those set free.'

This is how the Prophet ﷺ migrated for the purpose of raising Allâh's religion and His Word high. It was not meant for comfort and luxury of the body. This is how *Hijrah* will remain until the sun rises from where it sets. It is for those who are unable to practice Islam in the area of *Kufr*, including the ability to call to Islam and explaining the error of the disbelieving religions. It is not enough (not to perform *Hijrah*) to just be able to pray and fast while refraining calling to Allâh and criticizing and admonishing *Shirk* and *Kufr*. Otherwise, the Prophet ﷺ would have remained in Makkah, since the *Mushrik* did not prevent him from praying and worshipping his Lord. However, they prevented him from calling to Allâh and exposing the evil beliefs that the pagans and disbelievers had.

O Allâh's slaves, some people in the present time do not have the least knowledge about the Prophet's *Hijrah*, except that it is an anniversary that comes every year and for which lectures and celebrations are conducted for days. Then, this occasion passes by and its memory does not show any effect on people's conduct and behavior. This is why so many among them do not migrate from the area of *Kufr* to the area of Islam, as the Prophet ﷺ did. Rather, they migrate from Muslim areas to *Kufr* countries to live free.

The *Hijrah* should be always in the thoughts of Muslims all year long, not only for a few days every year. Surely, it is a *Bid'ah* to designate certain days to celebrate the *Hijrah*:

«وَكُلَّ بَدْعَةٍ ضَالَّةٌ» .

“...And every *Bid'ah* is a heresy.”

The Prophet ﷺ, his Companions after him and the best generations of Islam never celebrated this occasion. Rather, the *Salaf*, (our righteous predecessors) and those who followed their righteous lead, studied the Prophet's life story, so that they imitated his practices all year long.

Know that there are two types of *Hijrah*. One is performed by the heart to Allâh by worshipping Him Alone without partners, and to His Messenger ﷺ by obeying him, fulfilling his orders and avoiding his prohibitions. The Prophet ﷺ said:

«وَالْمُهَاجِرُ مَنْ هَجَرَ مَا نَهَى اللَّهُ عَنْهُ» .

“The *Muhajir* is he who performs *Hijrah* from what Allâh has prohibited.”

This *Hijrah* is required from every Muslim throughout his or her life and none among them can or is allowed to abandon it.

The second type of *Hijrah* pertains to migrating from the area of *Shirk* to the area of Islam, when necessity arises and when Muslims are unable to announce Islam in *Kafir* dominated areas.

Fear Allâh, O Allâh's slaves, and study the *Sunnah* of your Prophet ﷺ, so that you earn benefit from it.

﴿وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ﴾

“And obey Allâh and the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) that you may obtain mercy.” (3:132)

May Allâh direct us all to the blessings of the Glorious Qur'ân and benefit us all in whatever is in it of the *Āyat* and Wise *Dhikr*. I say this and ask Allâh the Great, Most Honored for forgiveness for me, you and all Muslims for every. Invoke Him for forgiveness, for He is the Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.¹

¹ *Al-Khutab Al-Minbariyyah*, by Shaikh Salih Al-Fozan, vol. 1, p. 268