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#### Headquarters:

P.O. Box: 22743, Riyadh 11416, KSA

Tel: 00966-1-4033962/4043432

Fax: 00966-1- 4021659

E-mail: darussalam@naseej.com.sa

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• Houston: P.O. Box: 79194 Tx 77279

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Talhah bin 'Ubaidullah

# The Alive Martyr

By

Abdul Basit Ahmad

Edited by

Aqeel Walker

Muhammad Ayub Sapra



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allâh,  
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

“Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allâh [i.e., they have gone out for *Jihâd* (holy fighting), and showed not their backs to the disbelievers]; of them some have fulfilled their obligations (i.e., have been martyred); and some of them are still waiting, but they have never changed (i.e., they never proved treacherous to their covenant which they concluded with Allâh) in the least.” (33:23)

## Publishers Note

All praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists. May Allâh's peace and blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, his family and his Companions.

Darussalam is pleased to present this valuable series, '*The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions*', to the Muslim youth. The purpose of these books is to enlighten our youth about the lives of the greatest heroes of Islam, the Prophet's Companions. Also, we wish to increase the enthusiasm of the Muslim youth for following and adhering to their religion. In this way, these books achieve two very important tasks: educating our youth and encouraging them to be good Muslims.

In this book, '*Talhah bin 'Ubaidullah* ﷺ – *The Alive Martyr*', is the life story of one of the greatest heroes of Islam, He was an example of high morals and spiritual integrity. Most historians confirmed that he was a believer even before the advent of Islam as the names of



his sons: Muhammad, Imran, Jesus, Moses, Ishmail and Isaac denote.

We hope that these books are beneficial to our Muslim youth, as they are the future of Islam. We, at Darussalam realize the importance of good Islamic literature for Muslim youth, especially in the West where non-Islamic influences are so strong. For this reason, we feel that the availability of this series will be a valuable aid in instilling a genuine love for Islam in our youth. We would like to thank the author, Mr. Abdul Basit Ahmad, the editors, Mr. Aqeel Walker and Mr. Muhammad Ayub Sapra for their diligent work in preparing this series. As Allâh says:

“Is there any reward for good other than good?” (55:60)

And our final invocation is that all praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists.

**Abdul Malik Mujahid**  
General Manager

## Foreword

Before the advent of Islam, Makkah was the capital of Arabia. On certain days of the year, poets from all Arab tribes used to come to the city to recite their best poems. The city was also the place to where Arabs used to make pilgrimage every year. Therefore, the city was privileged with good resources. It provided its inhabitants with a relatively easy life.

The youth of the high class Makkan families had all means to enjoy different types of wicked pleasures, especially in the absence of any heavenly guidance, or belief in a day when everyone would account for his deeds. It was also very easy for them to get the resources they wanted to satisfy their worldly desires.

Amidst this corrupted environment, our hero, Talhah bin ‘Ubaidullah, was brought up in a rich family. He did not have to worry about any obstacles that might prevent him from enjoying himself. However, unlike other wealthy youth, he took an opposite direction.



## Introduction

Muhammad ﷺ was born in Makkah from two parents from the noblest families of the Quraish tribe. His father is Abdullah bin Abdul Muttalib. Abdul Muttalib was the chief of Bani Hashim clan. His mother is Aminah bint Wahb from Bani Zuhrah clan.

Abdul Muttalib saw a dream telling him to uncover the well of Zamzam (a blessed well which sprung from under the feet of Ishma'īl عليه السلام when his father Ibrahim عليه السلام left him with his mother, Hajar, in the valley of Makkah). The location of the well was lost until Abdul Muttalib saw this dream. The man who came to him in the dream showed him the location. Abdul Muttalib uncovered the well. The other chiefs of the Quraish wanted to have their share of honour of providing water to pilgrims. They were stronger than Abdul Muttalib because he had no sons to support him. Abdul Muttalib made an oath that if he was given ten sons by Allāh, he would give one of them as a sacrifice. Abdul

Muttalib got ten sons as he wished. He wanted to fulfill his promise. He took his sons to the Ka'bah and cast the lot on them. For ten times, the lot fell on Abdullah. Abdul Muttalib took Abdullah to sacrifice him. All the chiefs of the Quraish objected to Abdul Muttalib sacrificing his son. They asked him to have another option. Abdul Muttalib elected to exchange a number of camels for the life of his son. The lot was cast on Abdullah and the camels. Every lot was cast on ten camels in exchange of Abdullah's life until the number of camels reached one hundred.

Abdul Muttalib sacrificed one hundred camels for his son's life. All the people of Makkah and neighbouring tribes shared in the ceremony.

Abdullah became a young man. His father loved him dearly because he was the youngest among his brothers. He wanted to find him a wife of a noble origin. He selected Aminah as a wife for his son. The couple led a happy life, but unfortunately for a short period of time.



Muhammad ﷺ kept away from all the pleasures that his people were indulging themselves in. He also abhorred standing before idols asking for help. He knew that these stones would not be able to help or harm him. He never shared his peers in drinking wine or spending nights in fun.

A wealthy woman knew about the honesty of Muhammad ﷺ. She asked him to trade for her. Muhammad ﷺ visited Damascus again. He sold his goods there and realized good profits.

Muhammad ﷺ was now twenty-five years old. Khadijah proposed to him to get married to her. She preferred him to the chiefs of the Quraish.



## On The Way to Truth

The sun was about to set behind the high mountains of Makkah and the whole universe was shrouded with serenity. Darkness soon covered the city and no more sounds were heard on those high mountains surrounding the city.

A group of young men walked along the side of the road outside of Makkah and began chatting. Their voices sometimes became louder and with every word, they were warning each other of the spies of the Board of Governors of Makkah. They were sure that any word heard by those chiefs would mean a harsh punishment.

They kept silent for a while to listen to the far songs of trade caravans heading to Makkah. There, under the scarf of darkness, a caravan was slowly coming closer on the way back from Syria. To their surprise, a young man stepped down from his camel and ran toward the group.



he had for the sake of Islam and did his best to spread the message of Islam.

### **The first battle of Islam**

When the Muslims emigrated from Makkah, they left behind their wealth and houses which the pagans robbed in day light.

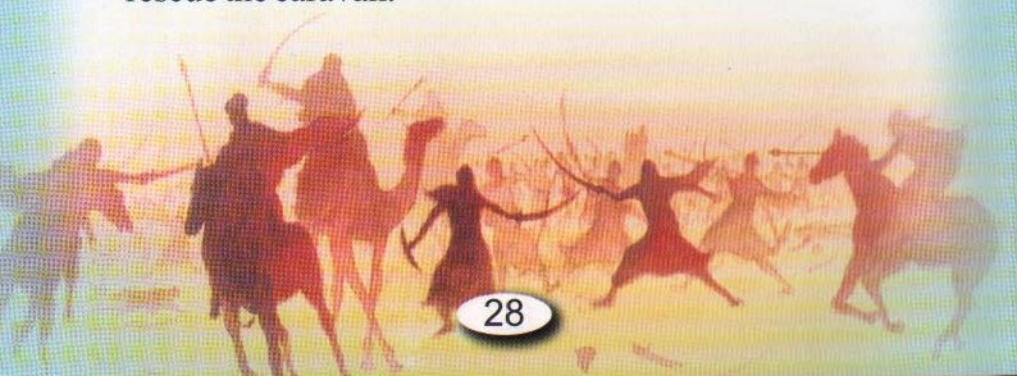
As Talhah ؓ had good experience of roads that trade caravans follow to Syria and Yemen, he was instructed by the Prophet ﷺ to look for the Quraish caravan bound to Makkah from Syria. Both Talhah ؓ and Saeed bin Zaid رضي الله عنهما were prepared to carry out the mission. They kept waiting until they saw the caravan coming from Syria.

However, the Prophet ﷺ had already received news about the caravan and went on to capture it. Talhah ؓ arrived in Al-Madinah to discover that the Prophet ﷺ had left Al-Madinah. The Quraish knew of the Muslims' plan to catch the caravan. Therefore, they gathered an army of one thousand fighters to rescue the caravan.

In spite of the fact that Abu Sufyan, the caravan leader, changed his way and escaped the capture of the Muslims, the Quraish army insisted on fighting the Muslims to eradicate the message of Islam and the threat of Muslims forever. They marched with arrogance to Badr to meet the Muslim army.

Both armies fought a big battle. Although the Muslim army was only one third of the pagan army, they, by the Help of Allâh and their sincere devotion, defeated the pagan army. Seventy pagan soldiers, including several chiefs, were killed and another seventy soldiers were taken as prisoners of war by the Muslims.

Talhah ؓ felt very sad to lose the chance of fighting the powers of evil. He could not share in this battle. Even though he kept waiting at Al-Madinah, the Prophet ﷺ, after coming back victorious, gave him a share of the booty and considered him as if he had participated in the battle.





but they were killed by the Muslim soldiers who were positioned at the other side of the trench.

### **Back to Makkah with Humiliation**

The weather was very cold. Talhah ؓ spent several nights guarding one point of the trench to prevent the enemy from breaking through his side. He killed several enemy soldiers who tried to cross over the trench.

After one month of hard siege around the city, the pagans felt that they would not be able to overcome the Muslims. A high cold wind, sent by Allâh, blew through their tents and disrupted their positions.

### **Punishment of the Traitors**

The Jews, who had promised the pagans to help them in their fighting against the Muslims, were warned by a Muslim that the Quraish were leaving their positions and retreating back to their home. They would leave them alone with the Muslims who would kill all of them for their treachery against the Muslims. They were suggested that they

should ask the pagans to surrender some of their chiefs to them to be sure that they would not leave them at the mercy of the Muslims. However, the pagans refused this request and left back to Makkah.

The Jews broke all the promises they gave to the Muslims to support them in their battles against their enemies. Talhah ؓ and the other Muslims were very eager to punish the traitors. They marched with the Prophet ﷺ to the place of Bani Quraitha and surrounded their homes.

The Jews surrendered to the Muslims. Their men were killed and their children and women were taken as slaves. It was a just punishment for the traitors who plotted to destroy Islam.





## The Conquest of Makkah

### The Muslims' Attempt to Perform 'Umrah

The Prophet ﷺ instructed his Companions that he wished to visit Makkah to perform a 'Umrah. He asked them to prepare for the trip. He also told them that they should march unarmed, for the trip was peaceful. He did not like any confrontation with the pagans.

Upon arriving at a place called Hudaibiyah, the Muslims found that the pagans had sent some horsemen to prevent the Muslims from entering Makkah. The horsemen tried several times to provoke the Muslims; however, the Muslims did not react.

The chiefs of the Quraish requested the Prophet ﷺ to enter into negotiations to settle the differences between the two parties. The Prophet ﷺ responded positively. Hence, both parties agreed to have a truce for ten years and the Muslims to go back to Al-Madinah and to come back to visit the Ka'bah the following year.

Some of the Muslims were not satisfied with the agreement. However, they knew later on that it was in favour of the Muslims. The Prophet ﷺ now had time to call other tribes of Arabia to Islam without any objection by the Quraish. Many tribes accepted Islam which added to the strength of the Muslims.

As usual, the pagans did not respect the agreement. Some allies of the Quraish attacked the allies of the Muslims and killed some of them. The chiefs of the Quraish were aware of the big mistake they had committed. Hence, they sent Abu Sufyan to Al-Madinah to negotiate another agreement with the Prophet ﷺ. However, the Prophet ﷺ did not accept Abu Sufyan's excuses. It was a good chance for the Muslims, who had become very strong, to continue their message and destroy the center of idolatry forever.

The Prophet ﷺ gave instructions to his Companions to march to conquer Makkah.

All Muslims, both emigrants and supporters, were keen to put an end to the continued threats by



## High Morals

Talhah ؓ was looked at by all the Prophet's Companions as the example of high morals and virtue. He proved eminent in all respects.

Abdur-Rahman bin 'Awf ؓ, his partner, once asked him to allow him to irrigate his land from a well that Talhah ؓ had in his land. Talhah ؓ, for one reason or another, refused to do so. Abdur-Rahman ؓ complained against Talhah ؓ to the Prophet ﷺ. He said to Abdur-Rahman:

"How could you complain against a man whom I had told he would be in Paradise?"

Abdur-Rahman ؓ immediately brought this good news to Talhah ؓ. He, in return, said to Abdur-Rahman ؓ:

"Is it worth quarreling over this unimportant property? For this news, you may have all my money, if you wish."

Talhah ؓ was well known for his

generosity. He put all his money in the service of Islam and the Muslims. One day, his wife saw that he was very upset. She asked:

"Why are you so sad?"

He said to her:

"I am upset to have all this money around me."

She immediately proposed him to spend it in charity. He, without hesitation, called poor people and gave up all the money he had to the poor and needy.

A friend of Talhah ؓ described him saying:

"I accompanied Talhah ؓ for a long time. I have never seen any like him. He was always spending his money in charity."

