

Hijrah, The migration of the Messenger (PPBU)

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Dear Muslims,

In a few days we shall be saying farewell to a year and we shall welcome a new Islamic year. We will see the new moon and we'll say: "Allah is the greatest, Allah make this coming year a year of peace, security, a year of faith and Islam. Allah, right through this year guide us to what you love what attains your satisfaction".

At the new Islamic year; the Islamic nation celebrates the immigration of the messenger (ppbu). This event that changed the face of the earth for ever; is celebrated by a nation that has strayed from Allah's path and from the Islamic way of life. Hijrah or migration is remembered as a mere tale from the past, rather than being commanded to take example of it and implement it into our lives. For Allah says in His book: {You have a beautiful example in the Messenger of Allah; that is for whoever is hoping for Allah and for the day after, and who engages much in the praise and remembrance of Allah} 33:21

The reason why the messenger (ppbu) migrated from Mecca to Madina was the constant hurt and ill treatment Muslims were exposed to in Mecca. This developed to murder of Muslims and got to the stage of attempts to assassinate the Messenger himself (ppbu). Many Muslims wanted to immigrate but the messenger (ppbu) kept postponing it until given the order by Allah.

The migration event was accuracy in planning and precision in control and execution, where nothing was left to chance. The

messenger (ppbu) was ordered to migrate when he was fifty three years old, in such difficult and dangerous circumstances such that he had to slip away and exit Mecca at night. He and his companion (Aba-Bakr) had to move under cover not to be recognized by those tracing them. A bounty was put for catching the messenger (ppbu) dead or alive. The messenger (ppbu) put the complete plan, which involved the following:

1. He previously gave permission for Muslims to immigrate while he commanded Abo-Bakr, Ali and himself to remain.
2. Madina is to the north of Mecca, But as he migrated; he went south in the direction of Yeman to mislead those chasing them.
3. The trip required an unrelenting means of transport, so Aba-Bakr came up with two strong camels.
4. A very knowledgeable guide who was expert in the area was given this task of leading them through the journey. He was entrusted with this task despite the fact that he was not a Muslim.
5. Knowing that the search for the messenger and his companion will be intensified in the first few days, so it was vital that they had to stay put and hide for three days inside a cave.
6. Updates for news and events and the plans of Quraish were vitally important. Abdullah the son of Aba-Bakr was given the task of coming out at night to give all the news and return by dawn so he will not be missed in Mecca.
7. As the people of Mecca were experts at tracing and at reading signs and clues, the task of covering up the footsteps, traces and clues was given to Amer ebn-Fuhaira (عامر ابن فهيرة) the servant of Abu-Bakr working as a shepherd. He used to take care of the cheap in the mountains, while he was covering and removing all evidence and clues. He supplied the Messenger (ppbu) and Abu-Bakr with milk and food.

8. At the messenger's home, Ali was given the task of sleeping in the messenger's bed and rapping himself in the messenger's cover.

Abo-Bakr is a nation in a man. He put his money, his home, his brain and his blood into the service of Allah's religion. He offered love and protection for the messenger (ppbu). He wouldn't let the messenger walk into the cave until he went in first to check it out. As the infidel came close to the cave, and Abo-Bakr could see their feet and their swords from where he was below, he said to the messenger (ppbu): "O Messenger of Allah, if one of them looks down at his feet, then he will surely see us". The messenger (ppbu) replies: {Aba-Bakr, what do you think of two, Allah is their third. Do not be saddend, Allah is with us}.

The youth had played their part in the migration like Ali ebn Abi-Talif, and Amer ebn-Fuhaira (عامر ابن فهيرة). Women also played their part. Asmaa the daughter of Abo-Bakr gave the best example in sacrifice and wisdom. She became to be called the Duel-Belt lady. When her non-Muslim and blind grandfather was not happy about Aba-Bakr leaving and donating all his money for Allah, she tricked him into thinking that her father left them a lot of money. In fact he left them nothing but she wanted to keep the grandfather quite. She used to go to the mountains carrying and hiding food to her father and the messenger (ppbu). She needed two belts to support and hide the food hence became to be called the duel-belt lady.

Dear Muslim, this year is over. Now you are one year nearer to your death, and one year further away from this life. Have you thought about this, and have you asked yourself: what have you done that will be of benefit to you in the next life. Do not let living your presence make you forget about the past and the future. Work for Allah and

the religion of Allah. Each and every one of you can attain the reward of the *hijra* (immigration). Yes, for the messenger (ppbu) said: {doing your worship in patience and perseverance when temptations and luring is widespread; will earn you the reward of migrating to me and to Allah}. Yes, migration is not given the status because of changing one location for another, but it is given the high status because it is a transformation at the spiritual, mental and psychological levels towards Allah and His messenger.

I ask Allah with His greatness, the Lord of the great throne, to spare us and protect us from all recognized and hidden temptations. Dear god, bless us before death with a repentance, and at the time of death with a *shahada* or testimony, and after death with paradise and satisfaction and contentment from you. Allah, guide us, and make us the reasons for others to be guided. *Wa Assalamo Alaikum wa rahmatul Allah.*