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Religion was classified into one of the most important parts in human lives. Without it, human will face a hard time maintaining their lives and pursuing their objectives. Absolutely, every religion must have a leader bringing the message from God to human or spreading his belief toward clans. Islam is on the second list of religion people worship the most in the world.¹ Disseminating the message from the God, the supreme deity for our belief, Muhammad was praised by many followers. He was a leader of Islam and one of the most influent people who succeeded both in religion and secular level in human history. Muhammad spent several decades completing his mission which was to distribute God's message throughout the world. It started with the revelation, followed by the Hijra and armed conflict ending with truce of Hdaybiyyah.² There are various interesting things about Muhammad, but the most interesting thing is that he was the prophet sending the messages of the God to warn mankind.

Initially, a revelation began in order to warn people who did not believe in God, also persuaded people to trust in divine oneness and converted themselves to Muslims serving the God. Otherwise, they would be punished by some severe disasters. Before the first revelation, according to the Islamic tradition holding that in 610 CE while Muhammad was practicing praying in the cave of mount Hira near Mecca, the angel Gabriel appeared to him and forced him to repeat the verse, which was the genesis of the things. He was so nervous when he

¹ Adherent contributors. "Major Religions of the World Ranked by Number of Adherent." *Adherent*. 28 Jan. 2013.<http://www.adherents.com/Religions_By_Adherents.html>

² Wikipedia contributors. "Muhammad." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 28 Jan. 2013. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad>>

firstly started providing the God's message and almost committed to suicide himself because he was afraid of being ignored by others. Then, it was ceased by three years. During that period he was practicing spiritual praying. As time went by, the revelation was resumed. This time he had more concentration and earnestly began his public preaching in Mecca. The result turned out that most people still ignored and mocked him as if he was a madman.³

There were few followers who believed his revelation, but the number of his followers gradually increased later on. Although this movement affected his tribe, the Quraysh, he still went through it. Thus, the opposition occurred after public preaching with a reason that Muhammad was cited to be offensive to Mecca's faith as Mecca's people believed in the way of polytheism while the verse engaged in monotheism. That was contradiction. Looking at the situation, a number of potent merchants decided to convince Muhammad to stop preaching and offered him some agreement; nevertheless, he denied. Eventually, the violence happened to his followers as they refused to convert their belief. This led to an emigration of his followers to another city in order to avoid violence and find safer place, whereas Muhammad was protected from physical harm under the Banu Hashim clan as his uncle, Abu Talib was a leader of the clan at that time.⁴ Until 617 CE the clan was boycotted by its main commercial rival. The goal of this was to go against and pressure the clan to withdraw the protection for Muhammad. The boycott lasted about three years, then collapsed and failed to achieve its goal. He could do nothing during these three years, but only preached in pilgrimage months.

Later on, in 619 CE, his uncle died. This meant that the Banu Hashim had to find a new leader for the clan to carry on, and it turned out to be Abu Lahab, his formidable enemy.⁵

³ Arthur J. Arberry. *The Koran Interpreted*. 1964. p.326-327.

⁴ Malise Ruthven. *Islam in the world*. 2000. p.33-34.

⁵ Inter-islam contributors. "Abu Lahab, who was he?" *Inter-islam*. 29 Jan. 2013.

< <http://www.inter-islam.org/Miscellaneous/abulahab.htm> >

As a result, the protection for Muhammad was suddenly withdrawn. At this point, Muhammad had to seek some other places for his own safety. Therefore, he left Mecca and moved toward to Ta'if, a city in Arabia.⁶ However, his effort did not pay off, he was unable to find either a new safer place or protector. Forced to return to Mecca, Muhammad felt desperately. It seemed like there was no way for him to be safe, but luckily he met Mut'im b. Adi, a Mecca man who could give him protection to stay in the native city. He lived in Mecca for three years and once again, there was a warning of assassination of him, this let him and his clan to elude again. He confidentially headed toward Yathrib,⁷ a city familiar with monotheism which is known as Medina nowadays, so that he could avoid the risk of assassination. Actually, this migration is so-called Hijra, another important point in the whole matter. The reason why Medina was chosen to be a destination because at that time people in Medina thought that there would be one man who came to solve chronic problems related to war between inhabitants of the city. Hence, a group of representatives and their citizens in Medina created an oath to accept Muhammad to be a leading prophet. They also promised to protect and treated him properly as one of their citizens.

Since there were a large number of Muslims emigrated from Mecca to Medina, the number of professions were not available for all of them. So Muslims started to raid Mecca caravans, marked as the beginning of the armed conflicts. In March 624 CE, the battle was fully begun. Though the Meccas had a group of forces to protect them, it lost the battle.⁸ The Muslims' victory became a focal point to support Muhammad's position in Medina and the opposition against him automatically decreased. The defeat of Meccas caused extreme rancor. As a result, the Meccas set an ambush to Muslims in Medina whereas Muhammad

⁶ Erich W. Bethmann. *Bridge To Islam*. 1953. p.27-28.

⁷ Sayyid Mujtaba Musavi Lari. *The Seal of the prophets and his message*. 2000. p.95-96.

⁸ Al-Islam contributors. "The Battle of Badr." *Al-Islam*. 1 Feb. 2013.
< <http://www.al-islam.org/history/history/badr.html> >

also gathered his warriors to fight back the Meccas. A few days later, there was a Muslims' conference concerning the battle. Muhammad finally sent his warriors to fight outside Medina as he considered that enemies could not destroy his prosperity or crop, the prestige of Muslims in Medina. This time, the winner was the Meccas. It was believed that between the battle Muhammad was wounded and thought to be dead, but in fact it was not. Ever since this battle, there were still lots of following fights until the negotiation known as Truce of Hdaybiyyah. This truce stopped all the battles between two sides and was scheduled to last for ten years.⁹ After signing the truce, Muhammad sent so many letters to rulers around the world and also messengers to some countries. The content on the letter was about asking the rulers to convert to Muslims.

To summarize, Muhammad was selected by God to treat humankind in the right way. Despite taking so much risk, he devoted and exerted himself so much through his life persuading people to trust in him and believe in God.¹⁰ The things began with the revelation which aimed to communicate the message of the god with all men, followed by the Hijra, the migration of Muhammad and his clan from Mecca to Medina and armed conflict, which seemed like a complete war. However, eventually, the truce of Hdaybiyyah has stopped the incessant war. Since then, it has been a turning point to extend the message in peace track. That was a wisdom he has learned from past experience. Needless to say, there are many people acknowledging him as a person who was one of the most successful and influential people in the world because of his loyalty to the God and leadership of religion to spread God's word.

⁹ Meccamotelsandusky contributors. "Truce of Hdaybiyyah." *Mecca Motel*. 2 Feb. 2013. <http://meccamotelsandusky.com/Truce_of_Hdaybiyyah.html>

¹⁰ Colin Turner. *Islam The Basics*. 2006. p.84-85.