

WINTER SEERAH INTENSIVE



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DAY 1 | INTRODUCTION

|| — Virtues of Seeking Knowledge — ||

مفتا

- One of the first verses revealed in the Quran is related to knowledge.
- There is nowhere in the Quran where Allah SWT told the Prophet SAW to ask for more, except when it came to knowledge.
 - Allah SWT ordered the Prophet SAW to ask for an abundance of knowledge.

فَتَعَلَى اللَّهِ الْمَلِكُ الْحَقُّ وَلَا تَعْجَلْ بِالْقُرْآنِ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يُقْضَى إِلَيْكَ وَحْيُهُ
وَقُلْ رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا ﴿20:114﴾

Exalted is Allah, the True King! Hasten not with reciting the Qur'an before its revelation to you is finished, and pray: "Lord! Increase me in knowledge."
(20:114)

- The Prophet SAW said: *Anyone that treads the path of knowledge, Allah SWT makes their path to paradise easy.*
- An old man once came to the Prophet SAW and said: "My bones are weak and I have come to you". The Prophet SAW asked him why he came. The man said: I have come to you in my old age to learn from you. The Prophet SAW said: *"Welcome to the student of knowledge. Verily the angels spread their wings beneath your feet".*
- The Prophet SAW said: *Anyone that treads the path of knowledge, Allah SWT makes their path to paradise easy.*

INTRODUCTION

|| — Virtues of Seeking Knowledge — ||

- An old man once came to the Prophet SAW and said: “My bones are weak and I have come to you”. The Prophet SAW asked him why he came. The man said: I have come to you in my old age to learn from you. The Prophet SAW said: *“Welcome to the student of knowledge. Verily the angels spread their wings beneath your feet”*.
- The Prophet SAW said to Abu Dharr RA: *Oh Abu Dharr! If you go to the masjid to learn one verse of Quran, it is better for you than if you pray 100 rakah of nafl (additional) prayers and if you go to the masjid to learn one chapter of knowledge, it is better for you than if you pray 1000 rakah of additional prayers.*
- On the Day of Judgment, Allah SWT will weigh the ink of a scholar and the blood of a martyr and the ink of a scholar will be heavier than the blood of a martyr.
- On the Day of Judgement, Allah SWT will resurrect scholars with the Prophets.

|| — What is Seerah? — ||

- The root word of **سيرة** is **سار** which means to travel.
- Ali RA said: We used to study and teach the seerah like we taught the Quran.
- As we study seerah we are studying several things including:
 - Tafseer of the Quran
 - Traditions of the Prophet SAW (hadith)
 - Those who were around the Prophet SAW (Sahabah)
 - Shamail: The characteristics of the Prophet SAW

- We can not love someone who we do not know.
- The Prophet SAW said: *You will be with those whom you love (on the Day of Judgment).*
- Once a person loses reverence for the Prophet SAW, their Iman will be affected.
- The Prophet SAW said: *The closest to me on the Day of Judgment are those who send salawat upon me.*
- Virtues of saying salwat - **صلى الله عليه وسلم**
 - You will be raised 10 ranks
 - 10 good deeds are written
 - 10 bad deeds are erased
 - You will receive peace and blessings from Allah SWT and the angels
- A man came to the Prophet SAW and asked how much time he should spend remembering the Prophet SAW. The Prophet SAW told him that he may spend however much time he wants. The man responded: I will dedicate $\frac{1}{4}$ of my prayers for you. The Prophet SAW said: This is good, but if you do more it is better. The man said he would dedicate $\frac{1}{3}$ of his prayers and the Prophet SAW said that more is better. The man said he would dedicate $\frac{1}{2}$ of his prayers and the Prophet SAW said more would be better. The man eventually said he would dedicate his entire dhikr for his (SAW) remembrance.

- He is the great great grandfather of many prophets.
- Mecca was founded by Ibrahim AS.
 - He migrated with his wife Hajar and his son Ismail AS to a city called Becca, now known as Mecca.
- The Prophet SAW said: *I am the accepted supplication of my father Ibrahim AS and the glad tidings of Isa AS.*
- Ibrahim's AS dua for the Prophet SAW:

رَبَّنَا وَابْعَثْ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُمْ يَتْلُوا عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِكَ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿2:129﴾

Our Lord! Raise up in the midst of our offspring a Messenger from among them who shall recite to them Your verses, and instruct them in the Book and in Wisdom, and purify their lives.128 Verily, You are the Most Mighty, the Most Wise.” (2:129)

- There are 3 duties of the Prophet SAW:
 - To convey the message - يَتْلُوا عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِكَ
 - To purify/sprituually rehabilitate the people - يُزَكِّيهِمْ
 - To educate the people - وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ
- Similarities between Ibrahim AS and the Prophet SAW:
 - Salutations are sent on both prophets
 - Both sent to idol worshipping nations
 - Their relatives were their first opposing threat
 - Ibrahim's AS father was his biggest threat and enemy
 - He was not only an idol worshipper, but he was a man whose livelihood was built around selling idols.
 - When Ibrahim AS would go against his father it would also affect his financial state since his main income was from carving idols.
 - In Surah Maryam, Aazar is criticized.

- The Prophet's SAW uncle, Abu Lahab, was his biggest threat.
 - Abu Lahab was the brother of the Prophet's SAW father.
 - In Surah Al-Masad Abu Lahab is criticized.
- Both were orphans
- Both climbed mountains in search of Allah SWT
- Both persecuted and forced to migrate
 - Hijrah is to leave any opposition which threatens your religion.
- Their wives were the first to convert and their nephews were second
- Both had 2 harams
 - Ibrahim AS had Mecca and Palestine
 - The Prophet SAW had Mecca and Madinah
- When the Prophet SAW came back from the journey of Israa and Miraaj, he said that he saw Ibrahim AS and he looked very similar to him.
- Ibrahim AS had 2 sons who were great prophets:
 - Ishaq AS
 - He had Yacoub AS
 - Yacoub AS had Yousuf AS
 - One of Yousuf's AS brothers was the father of Dawud AS
 - Dawud AS had Sulaiman AS
 - Ismail AS
- All the prophets which came after Ibrahim AS were from his lineage.
- When the Prophet SAW met Ibrahim AS in the heavens he said: Give all of your followers my salam and tell them that the land of Jennah is fertile and the water is fresh and the gardens of Jennah will only grow if you say subhanallah wa bihamdihi subhanallahil atheem.

Ibrahim's AS Migration

- Ibrahim AS migrated from Palestine to Mecca with his son and wife.
 - He was not told what his final destination would be.
 - He was sent with the guidance of Jibreel AS.
 - Every time he saw a civilization he would ask if they should settle there and Jibreel would tell him to keep going.
 - This happened until they reached an area which had no water and no fertile soil (Mecca).
 - He was in a valley which was surrounded by dark mountains.
 - He was told that when he drops his family off he can not talk to them.
- When Hajar was left alone with Ismail AS, she began to run between Safa and Marwa to search for water until the water of Zam Zam began to gush from beneath the heels of Ismail AS.
 - Although no one was there to witness Hajar's movements, Allah SWT accepted her actions.
 - Now, until the Day of Judgement, every Muslim will mimic her.
 - This is the definition of acceptance.
 - From this we learn that in order to have guidance, we must sacrifice.
 - The word Zam Zam is a Hebrew word which means "stop, stop".
 - When the Prophet SAW would recognize that something could have been done better, he would not criticise the person, but he SAW would say, "May Allah have mercy on so and so people"
 - He SAW would first make dua for them and then correct them.
 - The Prophet SAW would say: *May Allah SWT have mercy on the mother of Ismail. Had she not said Zam Zam, there would have been rivers flowing in Mecca.*

- When people came and settled in Mecca, Hajar still had custody over that well.
 - People would have to ask her permission to take from it.
 - As more tribes came later on they fought over the well of Zam Zam.

Construction of the Ka'bah

- Ibrahim AS and Ismail AS built the Ka'bah together.
- Those who are alive are facing the qiblah and those who have passed away are faced towards this qiblah.
 - This is evidence that Ibrahim and Ismail's AS actions have been accepted.
 - When Allah SWT preserves an action, it is a great sign of it's acceptance.

The Sacrifice of Ismail AS

- The Jews claim that Ishaq AS was the one who was supposed to be sacrificed, but we know that it was Ismail AS.
- The results of our sacrifices may not always be shown in this life.
 - Mus'ab bin Umair RA was one example of this.
 - He sacrificed his entire youth, beauty, wealth, and luxury but he never enjoyed a day in this life.
 - He passed away in uhud.
- Ibrahim AS was given the order to sacrifice Ismail AS

فَلَمَّا بَلَغَ مَعَهُ السَّعْيَ قَالَ يُبْنَىٰ إِنَّي أَرَىٰ فِي الْمَنَامِ أَنِّي أَذْبَحُكَ فَانْظُرْ مَاذَا تَرَىٰ قَالَ يَآبَتِ افْعَلْ مَا تُؤْمَرُ سَتَجِدُنِي إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الصَّابِرِينَ (37:102)

And when he was old enough to go about and work with him, (one day) Abraham said to him: "My son, I see in my dream that I am slaughtering you. So consider (and tell me) what you think." He said: "Do as you are bidden. You will find me, if Allah so wills, among the steadfast."(37:102)

- Ismail AS told him to do as he was ordered to do.
- When they both surrendered, Allah SWT said:

فَلَمَّا أَسْلَمَا وَتَلَّهِ لِلْجَبِينِ (37:103) وَنَادَيْنَاهُ أَنْ يَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ (37:104)
قَدْ صَدَّقْتَ الرُّؤْيَا إِنَّا كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ (37:105)

So when they both submitted (to Allah), (Abraham) put him down upon his forehead. (37:103) And We called out to him saying: "O Abraham"! (37:104) You have indeed remained faithful to the dream (you have fulfilled the dream). Surely thus do We reward the Muhsinîn (good-doers). (37:105)

- Anyone that sacrifices will be given the reward for it like Ibrahim and Ismail AS.
- Ibrahim AS asked for 3 things when he left his family:
 - Make them establish the prayer
 - Make the hearts of the people attracted to this location
 - Give them an economy so they may be grateful

- A majority of the world was plagued by shirk at this time.
- This was the worst era of humanity in the history of the world because there was no leadership for so many years.
 - After Isa AS, there was a period of 570 years until the birth of the Prophet SAW.
 - This meant there were 610 years without revelation.
 - In these 6 centuries, the religion of christianity was diluted and changed.

- Several religions were created including:
 - Arabian Polytheism
 - Christianity
 - Judaism
 - Zoroastrianism: Fire worshippers from Persia
 - Haneefism: Those who had pure belief of Allah SWT.
 - Includes Waraqa bin Nawfal

|| — Three Distinct Groups of Arabs — ||

- The Pure Arabs
 - They were the people of Yemen
- The Perished Arabs
 - The descendants of 'Aad and Thamud
 - They were destroyed in the floods and punishments of Allah SWT.
- The Arabized Arabs
 - They were called the Arabized Arabs because Ismail AS married a woman from the tribe of Jurhum, which was the first tribe to migrate to Mecca when Ismail and Ibrahim AS went there.
 - This tribe spoke Arabic while everyone in Mecca spoke Hebrew or Aramaic.
 - Through the marriage of Ismail AS, the language of Arabic was ingrained into the culture of Mecca.
 - There were only 4 prophets who were sent to Arab nations:
 - Salih AS
 - Hud AS
 - Shoaib AS
 - Prophet Muhammad SAW

Positive Traits

- Hospitality
- Kept promises
- Simple lives
 - Romans and Persians had elaborate lifestyles while the Arabs were simple.
 - When Islam came they would become even more simple
- Language
- Memory
 - They would memorize poems right when they heard them.
 - When the Quran was revealed they would be able to memorize it immediately.

Negative Traits

- Gang-like clans
- Treatment of women
- Marital rights, inheritance, burying their daughters
 - Adultery and fornication was very common
 - Women never inherited anything
- Gambling
 - They would even gamble their own families
- They were heavy drinkers

|| — Pre-Islam: Quraysh Tribe and Control of Mecca — ||

- Fihir coined the name of Quraysh.
 - Under Quraysh there were several tribes.
 - Quraysh: A creature from the sea which devours any creature that comes in its way.
 - They were given this title because they were very powerful and no one would beat them.
- Qusayy was the great great grandfather of the Prophet SAW.
- Lineage of the Prophet SAW: Muhammad bin Abdullah bin Abdul Muttalib bin Hashim bin Abdi Manaf bin Qusayy bin Kilab bin Murrah bin K'ab bin Mu'ayy bin Ghalib bin Fihir bin Maalik bin Nathar bin Kinanah bin Khuzaymah bin Mudrika bin Ilyas bin Mudar bin Nazzar bin Ma'ad bin Muqawim bin Naahur bin Tayrih bin Ya'rab bin Yashjib bin Naabit bin Ismail bin Ibrahim AS.

|| — Prophet Muhammad's SAW Lineage — ||

Hashim bin 'Abd Manaf

- He was one of the leaders of Mecca.
- He would treat people very well and he was very generous.
- They were in charge of feeding those who came for Hajj.
 - The rituals of Hajj were diluted before Islam.
- His actual name was 'Amr.
 - He was called Hashim because when Mecca went through drought, he would cook food in a way that more people would eat.
 - The word **هَشَمَ** means to crush.
 - He would crush bread and spread it around with meat so that more people could eat it.

- He was known for sending 2 trade caravans in the year.
 - One to Yemen in the winter
 - One to Syria in the summer
- Allah SWT speaks about this journey in the Quran in Surah Quraysh:

إِيْلَافِهِمْ رِحْلَةَ الشِّتَاءِ وَالصَّيْفِ

Their covenants (covering) journeys by winter and summer (106:2)

- Hashim traveled to Madinah and married a woman named Salma.
 - Salma was originally from Yemen.
- After they got married, they continued their journey to Gaza and on the way, Hashim passed away.
 - Salma was pregnant with their son, Shaybah.
- Shaybah was the grandfather of the Prophet SAW.
- Hashim had a brother who was named Muttalib.
 - He lived in Mecca while Shaybah and Salma went back to Madinah after Hashim passed away.
- Eventually, Muttalib came to Madinah and asked Salma if he could take Shaybah back with him to Mecca so that he could grow up and be a leader like his father was.
- Salma agreed and Muttalib took Shaybah with him to Mecca.
 - When they arrived in Mecca, Shaybah had dust and dirt all over him from the desert and Muttalib was ashamed to tell people that he was his nephew so he said that he was his servant.
 - For that reason people began to call him Abdul Muttalib (the slave of Muttalib).
 - In Mecca he was never called Shaybah. He was always called Abdul Muttalib.

- His famous qualities include:
 - He made alcohol forbidden upon himself.
 - He made things that were haram in Islam forbidden for him before Islam even came.
- He rediscovered the water of Zam Zam.
 - He was sleeping near the Ka'bah and he saw a dream in which he was told to dig up 'taybah'. He asked what taybah was but the voice disappeared.
 - The next day the same thing happened but the voice told him to dig 'barra'. He couldn't figure out what this was so he went back to sleep. A voice came to him again and told him to dig up 'al-mathnoonah'.
 - The Prophet SAW said: The difference between a Muslim and a hypocrite is that a Muslim is never satisfied by drinking Zam Zam and a hypocrite would become overwhelmed after drinking it.
 - A believer always enjoys Zam Zam and makes them want to drink even more.
 - On the fourth night he heard a voice tell him to dig up Zam Zam. He asked what Zam Zam was and the voice said that this is a well that when you drink it's water it will never finish. The voice told him the location of Zam Zam.
 - He took his eldest son, Haarith, and they went to the location and began to dig.
 - No one would support him or help him because they thought he was crazy.
 - He became discouraged due to the lack of support so he made a vow that if he had 10 sons, he would sacrifice one of them.

- They were able to dig up Zam Zam and eventually, Abdul Muttalib had 10 sons.
- Additional special qualities:
 - When there would be a drought in Mecca, he would hold onto the curtains of the Ka'bah and make dua and rain would begin to fall.
 - He would put food in places where animals may get stuck so that they could eat.

|| — Prophet Muhammad's SAW Parents — ||

- Abdullah ibn Abdul Muttalib was his SAW father.
- Abdul Muttalib had 10 children so he had to fulfill his commitment to Allah SWT and sacrifice one of them.
- He was going to sacrifice Abdullah and many people went against him and told him not to do it.
- He went to a scholar of the time for advice and the scholar told him to put all of his son's names in a basket and draw lots.
 - Every time he did this Abdullah's name was pulled out and the people continued to tell him not to kill him.
- Then the scholar told him to write 10 camels on one lot and Abdullah's name on the other. Every time the 10 camels are drawn he would have to sacrifice 10 camels but if Abdullah's name was drawn he would not have to sacrifice.
 - He continued to draw lots and the ballot of 10 camels came up 10 times.
 - He had to sacrifice 100 camels and Abdullah's life was saved.

PRE-ISLAMIC ARABIA

|| — Prophet Muhammad's SAW Parents — ||

- Later on, Abdullah got married to Aaminah bint Wahab.
 - The Jews would say that there were several signs in this family that a prophet would be coming from them.
 - They were all handsome and beautiful
 - They were generous
 - One Jew scholar from Rome said that his name would be Muhammad.
 - For this reason, people in Mecca began to name their sons Muhammad.
- Abdul Muttalib said that he would name his next grandson Muhammad.

BIRTH AND EARLY LIFE

|| — Abraha and the Army of Elephants — ||

- Abraha was the king of Yemen.
- He did not like that all of the money and economy was going to Mecca so he built a structure in Yemen in competition with Mecca.
- A man in Mecca heard about this and he went to Yemen and disgraced this structure by relieving himself in it.
- Abraha became extremely angry about this and he said that he would not be satisfied until he destroyed the Ka'bah.
 - He went from Yemen to Mecca with an army of elephants.
 - Anyone that he saw on the way would either have to join him or they would be killed.
 - The people of Mecca had never seen elephants so they were shocked.

- Abraha had heard about Abdul Muttalib and how noble he was and he wanted to meet him.
- At the same time, Abdul Muttalib had lost 200 of his camels and he wanted to speak to Abraha about this. He was connected to Abraha by Nafisa.
 - Abraha would build a tent which was like a palace everywhere he went.
 - Abdul Muttalib came to this palace and the minute that Abraha saw him, he was stunned by his beauty and demeanor.
 - Abraha stood up for him and wanted to honor him.
 - Rather than allowing him to sit on his throne, Abraha sat on the floor with Abdul Muttalib.
 - Abdul Muttalib told Abraha that his camels were stolen by some of his army and he wanted them back.
 - Abraha responded: When you came in I had this great respect for you, but I came to destroy the Ka'bah and you are not in defense of the Ka'bah.
 - Abdul Muttalib Responded: I am the owner of my camels and there is an Owner of the Ka'bah and He will protect His Ka'bah.
- Abdul Muttalib was given back his camels and then he went to the Ka'bah and held on to it's ring and recited a poem.
- He said: Oh Allah you are the One that can stop anyone. You are the one who is responsible for stopping Abraha. Oh Allah do not let these Christians who worship Jesus come and destroy Your house. And if You allow them to do this, it is Your place and I ask You to protect.
- He then ordered all of the people of Mecca to evacuate the city and go into the mountains.

- The next day, the elephant of Abraha refused to take a step forward.
 - When his elephant did not move, the other elephants got up and moved forward.
 - Allah SWT speaks about this incident in Surah Al-Fil.
- After this, Abdul Muttalib became well known and people from other cities knew the people of Mecca are the people of Allah.
- This incident occurred 50-55 days before the birth of the Prophet SAW.