

Siratul Mustafa

The Incident Of The People Of The Elephants, Continued.

With this evil intention, he set out to attack Makkah. En route to Makkah, the tribes who put up resistance were subdued with the might of the sword. Together with his formidable army of men, he was also accompanied by a herd of elephants. The livestock of the Makkans were grazing on the outskirts of Makkah. Abrahah's army seized all the grazing animals, which also comprised of two hundred camels belonging to Rasulallah ﷺ's grandfather 'Abdul-Muttalib. At that time, 'Abdul-Muttalib was the appointed leader of the Quraysh and a trustee of the K'abah. When he obtained intelligence of Abrahah's wicked intention he gathered the Quraysh asking them to remain calm. "Do not worry," he advised, evacuate Makkah, nobody will be able to demolish the K'abah. This is the sacred house of Allah Ta'laa and He will protect it."

Accompanied by a few leaders of Quraysh, 'Abdul-Muttalib set out to meet Abrahah. Before he set out, 'Abdul-Muttalib conveyed a message of his imminent arrival to Abrahah. Abrahah welcomed 'Abdul Muttalib respectfully and graciously. Allah Ta'laa had blessed 'Abdul Muttalib with unparalleled

handsomeness, remarkable eminence, imposing awe, refined dignity and arresting majesty that left all who came into contact with him utterly spellbound. Abrahah was also left awestruck with the imposing personality of 'Abdul-Muttalib leaving him no choice but to welcome his guest with absolute respect and reverence. He found it inappropriate to seat anyone on or in line with his throne. So instead, he descended from the throne in deference to 'Abdul-Muttalib. During the course of their conversation, 'Abdul-Muttalib requested Abrahah to release all his camels detained by Abrahah's army. Astounded by this request, Abrahah exclaimed: "It is quite startling to hear you requesting for your camels but I see that you have not mentioned a word about the K'abah, which is a focal point of the Din of you and your forefathers." 'Abdul-Muttalib calmly responded: "I am the owner of the camels whilst the owner of the K'abah is someone else who will take care of it." Following a few moments of rapt silence, Abrahah ordered the release of all the camels. Taking delivery of his camels, 'Abdul-Muttalib returned to his people and asked them to evacuate Makkah. He then pledged all two hundred camels as a sacrifice for the protection of the K'abah. Next, accompanied by a few people who would earnestly weep before Allah Ta'laa, he presented himself before the door of the K'abah to make dua.

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To be continued إن شاء الله.....

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