

(3) Preachings And Initial Struggle

He preached Islam, as ordained by God
Pure and simple is the MESSAGE of Lord
"There is no God but God,
Muhammad is the Messenger of Lord!"
A most practical religion of selfless love is Islam
To develop body and soul, without causing anyone harm
Most rational and logical in concept
Viewed from every angle, even in depth.
Five fundamental principles he, steadfastly proclaimed
Ten holy commandments he, unambiguously, named
Monotheism, Divine Justice, Prophethood, Imamah
And the day of Resurrection, were the five pillars of Islam's Hut
Five times Namaz, one must pray
A month's fasting, during the day
Zakat, Khums, Pilgrimage, for them, he ordained,
Who fulfilled the conditions, he proclaimed.
Defend the honor of Islam and self, he commanded
Disassociate yourself from its enemies, he demanded
Pursuit of missionary activities, out of love and not hate
Love and loyalty, he sought, for his "Ahle-bait".
He taught them the 'Unity of God'
And the diverse attributes of the Lord
He was the giver of daily bread
On the Judgement Day, He would raise all dead.
God is the focal point of all life
Through Him flows peace, driving out strife
If man joyfully submits himself to Him,
This life, and hereafter, he would win.
God created human beings, out of His Grace

Best of creation was the human race
He endowed it with such guiding light,
To discern the wrong from the right.
A heavenly reward for the doer of good
And for those, who for truth stood
A blazing hell for the doer of evil
Who shall dwell with the king of the devils.
He cultivated the values of life
Equal partners were man and wife
A man was brother, one to another
Respect they should, their father and mother.
Those who look after the needy orphans,
The anger of God would be softened
Those who care for the uncared widows,
Can aspire for heaven's meadows.
And those who treat their slaves well,
Shall not normally taste the fire of hell
Those who free them from bondage,
Shall generally be immune from hell's rage.
Truth was the base of all his teachings
Unity of God, a constant theme of his preaching
Charity, love and faith were to him most sublime
Brotherhood, was his solution for the ills of mankind
His offer was not of sensual heaven,
As alleged by biased heathens
But a bliss of highest spiritual essence
Of enjoying the radiance of Divine presence.
Live in this world and yet be out of it
Self discipline; not celibacy is the holy writ
Physical body is, indeed, perishable but not the soul
Service before self should be life's goal.
He first invited his near if kin
And declared to them his mission
He asked whether he had ever told a lie
"No never"! In one voice, was their reply.
He invited them to the path of 'truth'
A path which in heaven had its roots
Blessed would they be, in this world and the next
Most fortunate possessors of the Divine text.

"Who, among you, will be my brother and heir
And with me God's mission share."
They exchanged glances; they ridiculed and scorned
Only Ali stood by him, alone and forlorn.
Thrice did he repeat his request
Each time only Ali rose to his behest
Holding him by his hand, he declared,
"Behold, he is my brother and heir!"
In public he now started to preach
But soon a stage was reached
When like a fugitive he was stoned
And place to place, forced to roam.
For years was thus his plight
Only Ali aided him in his fight
Far and few were the conversions
So fierce was the persecution.
In burning sand, with stones on his chest,
A new convert stood his gallant test;
"Ahadun! Ahadun!" (One God) Bilal cried,
But refused his faith to be decried.
Such were the tortures they had to face,
For believing in God and the new faith
Handful were they, old men, mostly slaves
With courage, all difficulties they braved.
A day soon came, when it was declared
That those who could, to Abyssinia, should migrate
Few persons made up the small group
Ja'far, Ali's brother, commanded this troop.
The Quraish were furious; they sent their envoys
They requested the king to return the exiles
The king was just; he rejected their plea
He sheltered the poor Muslim refugees.
The wrath of Quraish reached the boiling point
To murder Muhammad, they planned conjoint
They chose a person, one from each tribe
So that no vengeance could take the Hashemites.
The plans to Muhammad, God soon revealed
And desired, that he should ward the evil
And leave for Medina, the same very night

Letting Ali sleep in his bed and aid his flight.
Soon was the house surrounded by those,
Armed cap-a-pie were each of the foes
With handful of dust, Muhammad blew his fist
And calmly walked through their midst.
They raided his house, ere it was morn
Surprised to see Ali, the bed adorn;
"Where is Muhammad?" they demanded, "where is he?"
"Did you entrust him to me, that you ask of me?"
Foiled in their attempt, they started a search
"Dead or alive, capture him", they urged
Thus started a hunt, for three days long
They searched all over, including caves.
The Prophet's companion became scared
As enemies' shouts increasingly filled the air
"We are lost, we two", helplessly, he cried
"No! We are three, for God is with us". Muhammad replied.
Tired and forlorn, he slept under a tree
When rushed a foe: " who will now save thee?"
"God", was the reply; it thunder struck the foe,
Trembling, he dropped his sword and bowed.
"Who will now save thee?" Muhammad cried
"Alas, none!" the foe imploringly replied
"Learn from me to be merciful" he said
As was his want, he pardoned him instead.
He reached Medina, a poor fugitive
Except a new way of life, he had nothing to give
Yet, he was welcomed with open arms
This was a turning point for Islam
He paired them, one with the other
And showed the brotherhood, how to further
Himself with Ali, he lovingly paired
Because the same heavenly light, they shared.

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