

HADRATH JUWAIRIA (R.A)

BINT-E-HARITH

Like Safia Bint-e-Haye, Juwairia was also captured by Muslims in a battle; and like Safia she was also daughter of the Chief of an enemy tribe. This battle in which, Juwairia was taken prisoner is called battle of Mariseeh. This battle was fought in the fifth year of Hijra with the tribe of Banu-Mustalaq, in the presence of a peculiar socio-political background.

After the establishment of Islamic state in Madina, Muslims were trying to foster good relations with the neighboring tribes. The basic strategy of the newly born Islamic state was to deal with one enemy at a time and calm the rest for a specific period. Following this principle, the Holy Prophet (SAW) made conciliatory moves with the neighboring tribes living in the vicinity of Madina. Negotiations were held with the tribes of Banu-Nadeer, Banu-Quraiza, Banu-Khuza 'ah and Banu-Mustaliq which was a sub-tribe of Banu-Khuza 'ah. Messages of peace were also sent to the Jews living in Khyber (*A place situated in North of Madina about two hundred fifty kilometers away*). This was done with a view to pacify all hostile forces to combat the Meccans. But this effort failed because the Chiefs of the tribes living around Madina felt jealous of the rising power of the Islamic state of Muslims. This was a direct threat to their status in Arab society and so they started conspiring against the Holy Prophet (SAW), his followers and the newly born Islamic state. Banu Mustaliq were leading in this matter. The news of preparing for a war from Banu-Mustaliq reached Madina in the 5th year of the Hijra. The Holy Prophet (SAW) sent Burida Bin Alhabib Salma to Banu-Mustaliq's territory for confirming the news. About nine miles away, there was a place called Fara. This place was near the fountain of Mariseeh around the territory of Banu-Mustaliq were camping in the area. The Chief of the tribe, namely Harith Bin Farar was instigating the people of other tribes against the Muslims. He had sent messengers to other tribes for launching a joint attack against the Muslims. The situation had come to such a crisis where all the enemies of Islam were going to annul the peace treaties they had signed with Muslims of Madina.

On hearing about this development, the Holy Prophet (SAW) appointed Hadrat Zaid Bin Harith as his deputy at Madina and led a small detachment of Muslims himself till they reached near the fountain of Mariseeh. The intention was to check their advance at the very outset. This instant reaction of the Muslims bewildered the Banu-Mustaliq and other tribes. In utter confusion, some of the Jews and other tribes fled away but

Harith Bin Farar and his more than seven hundred companions decided to confront the Muslims.

Before the start of the battle, the Holy Prophet (SAW) divided his army into sections. One section was led by Hadrat Abu Bakr Siddique consisting of Muhajireen (*The Muslims who had migrated from Makkah to Madina*). Hadrat Sa'ad Bin 'Ibada was leading the section of Ansaar (*The Muslims of Madina who hosted the emigrants of Makkah were called Ansaar. This word means the helping brothers*). A few moments before the start of the battle, Muslims sent a message for conciliation between the belligerents. When the offer was turned down by the Jews, the battle started. Within no time, the Muslims won. About twelve Jews were killed. The moment, Musafih (*Musafih was the first husband of Barra. The name of Barra was later changed into Juwairia by the Holy Prophet (SAW) after marrying her*) Bin Safwan was killed, Banu-Mustaliq fled from the field along with their Chief Harith Bin Farar. Rest of the tribe laid down their arms. Harith's family including women and children were also among the prisoners of war. On reaching Madina, the spoils of the war were distributed among the Muslims. Barra, the daughter) Bin Safwan was killed, Banu-Mustaliq fled from the field along with their Chief Harith Bin Farar. Rest of the tribe laid down their arms. Harith's family including women and children were also among the prisoners of war. On reaching Madina, the spoils of the war were distributed among the Muslims. Barra, the daughter of Harith Bin Farar and wife of Musafih was given to Thabit Bin Qais as a slave girl. Thabit Bin Qais hailed from Banu Khuza 'ah and these two tribes had very cordial social relations with each other. Barra declined to go with Thabit Bin Qais and appealed for release in the name of her father's social status. Being kind, Thabit Bin Qais agreed and demanded nine ounces of gold as ransom for her releases. Barra was aware of the bountiful nature of the Holy Prophet (SAW). She approached the Holy Prophet (SAW) and pleaded, "I am quite impressed by the Islamic Society and the character of your followers in Madina. I have already embraced Islam. Although, at present, I am no more than a prisoner of war but I deserve some kind treatment being the daughter of the tribal Chief. Thabit Bin Qais has agreed to set me free on payment of nine ounces of gold or equivalent money as ransom. I want freedom. Please help me".

The Holy Prophet (SAW) appreciated her plight and paid the ransom out of his own pocket. After her release, Barra wanted to serve the Holy Prophet (SAW). The Holy Prophet (SAW) blessed her with this opportunity and married her. After the marriage, he changed her name from Barra (*In Arabic it means lamb sign of Zodiac*) to Juwairia.

When the Muslims of Madina came to know about this marriage, great celebrations were held. Feelings now swayed in favor of Banu-Mustaliq as they had become in-laws to the Holy Prophet (SAW), hence it now looked awkward to keep Banu-Mustaliq in bondage. So, as a gesture of goodwill, all the captives of Banu-Mustaliq were freed and spoils of the battle were returned to the tribe of Hadrat Juwairia. Thus the marriage of Hadrat Juwairia turned out to be a blessing for her tribe. The kind behaviour of the Muslims inculcated a sense of indebtedness and gratitude in Banu-Mustaliq and most of them embraced Islam.

After a few days of this marriage, Harith Bin Farar, proceeded to Madina to buy the freedom of his daughter carrying many valuables for payment as ransom. He was quite un-aware, that Hadrat Juwairia now belonged to the Holy family of the Holy Prophet (SAW). While on his way to Madina, at a place called Atiq, he hid two camels. These two camels were very dear to him and he apprehended that these camels might not be confiscated by the Muslims. Reaching Madina, he approached the Holy Prophet (SAW) and said:

“My daughter is in your captivity. Please take the required ransom and release her. I want to take her with me”.

With these words, he offered the ransom to the Holy Prophet (SAW). In a subtle manner, the Prophet said:

“Where are those two camels, which you have hidden in the mountain passes of Atiq”.

Harith was very surprised and embraced Islam. He came to know that his daughter for whom, he had come all the way, was no longer a Jew. She had not only embraced Islam but had become the mother of the faithful. He fell extremely happy on the status conferred upon Hadrat Juwairia. After spending some time with her daughter, he returned accompanied with all the released captives of Banu-Mustaliq. The freedom of the captives of Banu-Mustaliq was the enviable dower (*The money paid by a Muslim to his wife before consummation*) of Hadrat Juwairia, Hadrat Juwairia was between twenty to twenty-five years when married to the Holy Prophet (SAW). She was quite young and beautiful. As two hundred captives of war were released and awarded their freedom, due to the marriage of Hadrat Juwairia, Hadrat Ayesha used to say, “Juwairia’s marriage was a great blessing for her tribe. The whole tribe was freed of the chains of slavery because of this marriage. I have never known a woman more auspicious for her people than her”.

Hadrat Juwairia was very beautiful. Hadrat Ayesha once commented about her beauty in these words:

“Juwairia was fair and attractive. Whoever met her felt an attraction towards her”. She had a great self-respect and was very careful in dealing with others. This fact can be judged from her initiative which she took after being taken as war captive. She struggled bravely for her freedom. She was blunt and out spoken. She was a brave Islam-loving woman. In the battle of Yarmook (*This battle was fought during the reign of Hadrat Umar, the second Caliph, against the Romans*), she physically fought against the enemy along with her Muslim brethren.

Hadrat Juwairia was very pious and regularly offered prayers, five times a day. Apart from offering prayers, she used to recite Quran and preach Islam to others. One day, in the morning, the Holy Prophet (SAW) came to Hadrat Juwairia. She was busy in praying. Again he checked her at noon and she was still busy in her prayers. The Holy Prophet (SAW) asked, “Juwairia, Are you busy in your prayers all along since morning?”

"Yes" Hadrat Juwairia replied.

It shows that she had a deep interest in prayers and worship of Allah.

Hadrat Juwairia had reported many traditions of the Holy Prophet (SAW). She narrated that the Holy Prophet Hadrat Mohammad (SAW) came to me one Friday in my closet. I was fasting that day. The Holy Prophet (SAW) asked, "Were you fasting yesterday"?

"No" Hadrat Juwairia replied.

"Do you want to fast tomorrow?" The Holy Prophet (SAW) asked.

"No", Hadrat Juwairia replied.

"Then break your fast", the Holy Prophet (SAW) said.

This narration proves two things: one, that fasting on Friday only in the ordinary days other than Ramadan is not very commendable. Two, it shows that a wife has to obey to her husband even by breaking her non-obligatory fast.

The Holy Prophet (SAW) loved Hadrat Juwairia very much. One day he came to her room and asked:

"Have you got something to eat".

"My bond-maid had brought some meat given to her in Sadqa (*Charity not permissible for the kith and kin of the Holy Prophet (SAW)*). Only that is available and nothing else". Hadrat Juwairai replied.

"Please bring it as Sadqa had reached to Allah".

The Holy Prophet (SAW) said.

This narration tells that religion should not be misinterpreted for the inconvenience of the average man. Irrelevant religious austerities should be discouraged. The Sunnah (*The tradition of the Prophet*) of the Holy Prophet (SAW) negates all this.

Hadrat Juwairia died during the reign of Hadrat Muavia in the 56th year of Hijrah. She was then seventy years old. Her funeral prayers were led by Marvan Bin Hakam, the Governor of Madina. She was laid to rest in Jannat-ul-Baqee'. She was a great lady. May Allah reward her.