

Battle of Badr

Arabic pronunciation: [yazwatu badr]), also referred to as The Battle of Badr (Arabic pronunciation: [jawm'ul fur'qa:n]) by Muslims, took place on 15 March 624 (Ramadan 19, 2 AH), near the present-day city of Badr, Al Madinah Province in Saudi Arabia. Muhammad, commanding an army of his Sahaba, defeated an army of the Quraysh led by Amr ibn Hishām, better known among Muslims as Abu Jahl. The battle marked the beginning of the six-year war between Muhammad and his tribe. Before the battle, the Muslims and the Meccans had fought several smaller skirmishes in late 623 and early 624.

Initially receiving no significant opposition from the people of Mecca, who were indifferent to his proselytizing activities, Muhammad began attacking their beliefs, causing tensions. Some time later, Muhammad brought his followers to migrate to Medina after successfully negotiating with the Banu Khazraj (the tribe his great-grandmother was from) and the Banu Aws to mediate their tribal conflicts. In that city, he took a keen interest in raiding Meccan trade caravans and plundering their goods. Prior to the battle, he had just obtained rich plunder from a caravan raided by his men at Nakhla. Later, he learned that a large Meccan caravan transporting abundant goods was returning from the Levant. He then sent over 300 men to intercept it at Badr, taking them seven days to get there. Abu Sufyan, who led the caravan, got wind of his plan and sent messengers on a fast journey to Mecca for help.

In response to the request, Amr ibn Hisham set out, bringing a force reportedly numbering about 950 men, and encamped near Badr behind a hill out of sight of Muhammad's position. At the time when the caravan had safely escaped using another route, a number of the Quraysh army chose to withdraw, but the rest remained after being persuaded by Amr. In the evening, Muhammad became aware of their presence after capturing their water-carrier drawing water from the wells of Badr. He then ordered his army to cover up the wells with sand,

leaving only one for him and his men, thus forcing the Quraysh to fight for the water. The battle began with duels between the warriors of both sides, which caused the deaths of many leading Meccans, including Amr himself. The battle then continued with a general melee which turned into the flight of the Meccans. Muhammad himself did not take part in the battle, as he spent much of the time praying in a shelter nearby.

This defeat was disastrous for the Quraysh people; a number of their experienced and influential men were killed, their prestige was shaken, and their old enemies, such as the Hawazin, started aiming at them again. While on Muhammad's side, this victory drew all eyes to him; he used this victory as evidence of his prophethood. Support from inside and outside Medina for his next raids grew, as did those who wanted to participate and to convert to his religion.

Hawazin	هوازن
Medina	المدينة
the Meccans	المكيون
Quraysh	قريش
Sahaba	الصحابة
prophethood	النبوة