MIFTAAH SEMINAR

THE STORY OF THUMAMA

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SESSION 1

Introduction

- **The 6th Year After Hijra**
  - The Prophet ﷺ migrated from Mecca to Medina after 13 years of preaching under hostile conditions in Mecca.
    - Examples of persecution include:
      - Bilal (RA) being tortured.
      - Sumayya (RA) being martyred.
      - Ammar (RA) being burned on coal.
  - Towards the end of the Meccan period, companions began migrating to Medina.
  - The Quraysh planned to assassinate the Prophet ﷺ by having 40 men from different tribes stab him simultaneously, sharing the responsibility.
  - The Prophet ﷺ was commanded to migrate to Medina, marking the beginning of the Islamic (Hijri) calendar.
- **Key Events Leading to the 6th Year After Hijra**
  - **The 2nd year after Hijra**: The Battle of Badr – confrontation between 313 Muslims and 1,000 Quraysh.
  - **The 3rd year after Hijra**: The Battle of Uhud.
  - Islam continued growing, with treaties signed and peace slowly established.

The Prophet's Initiative: Sending Letters to Monarchs

- In the 6th year after Hijra, amidst relative peace, the Prophet ﷺ sent **eight letters to monarchs and rulers**, inviting them to Islam.
    - **Key Lessons from this Act**:

1. **Purpose and Responsibility**:
    - Muslims have a duty to share the message of Islam and guide others.
    - Sharing Islam saves people from difficulties in this life and the hereafter.
2. **Targeting Influencers**:
    - Icons and leaders influence large groups.
    - The Prophet ﷺ strategically reached out to influential figures to maximize impact.
    - Modern parallels: influencers like athletes or celebrities can spread awareness of Islam, such as Khabib Nurmagomedov.

The Story of Thumama ibn Uthal

- **Who Was Thumama?**
    - Leader of Banu Hanifa, a significant tribe in Arabia.
    - A prominent figure, respected across tribal boundaries—an uncommon feat in tribal society.
- **The Prophet's Letter to Thumama**
    - Thumama's reaction:
        - His pride and attachment to polytheism fueled rage.
        - He killed the messenger who delivered the Prophet's letter.
        - He initially plotted to kill the Prophet ﷺ, but his uncle advised against it.
        - Thumama's actions resulted in the Prophet ﷺ declaring his blood lawful (he could be captured or killed).

- **Thumama's Capture**
  - A group of Muslims captured Thumama while patrolling and brought him to Medina.
  - Thumama was tied to a pillar in the Prophet's mosque, awaiting the Prophet's decision.

The Prophet's Treatment of Thumama

1. **Hospitality and Compassion**
   - The Prophet ﷺ ordered:
     - Thumama's camel was brought morning and evening so he could see it, symbolizing hope.
     - Thumama be provided with fresh camel milk morning and evening.
2. **Creating a Safe Environment**
   - The Prophet ﷺ delayed meeting Thumama to allow his emotions to settle.
   - **Lessons in Emotional Intelligence**:
     - Avoid addressing someone when they are distressed or angry.
     - Give them time to calm down, enabling rational thought and dialogue.
     - This principle applies in parenting, workplace interactions, and personal relationships.
3. **Engaging Thumama**
   - After a day, the Prophet ﷺ met Thumama and began with a simple question:

     "مَاذَا عِنْدَك يا ثمامة؟"

     (How are things with you, O Thumama?)
   - Thumama's expectations of harshness were met with kindness, disarming his hostility.

- Thumama's response was:

فقال: عندي يا محمد خير، إِنْ تَقْتُلْ تَقْتُل ذَا دَمٍ، وَإِنْ تُنْعِمْ تُنْعِمْ عَلَى شَاكِر، وإن كنت تريد المال فَسَلْ تُعْطَ مِنْهُ مَا شِئْتَ

(I have good, O Muhammad. If you kill, you will kill someone who has committed bloodshed, and if you do good, you will do good to someone who is grateful. If you want money, ask and you will be given as much of it as you wish.)

Lessons from the Prophet's Approach

1. **Dawah Requires Patience**
   - Even the Prophet ﷺ faced rejection, ridicule, and harm in his mission.
   - Setbacks and challenges are part of the process; remain steadfast.
2. **Wisdom in Timing and Delivery**
   - Address individuals when they are ready to listen.
   - Prioritize emotional intelligence and create an atmosphere of safety and trust.
3. **Compassion as a Tool for Change**
   - Treat others with kindness and generosity, even if they oppose you.
   - The Prophet ﷺ's treatment of Thumama demonstrates the power of compassion to transform hearts.