

# The Battle of Badr: *Allāh Supports the Righteous*

## Objective of the Lesson:

Battle of Badr is an important event that changed the history of Muslims. If Muslims had lost this battle, their progress or even survival would have been very difficult. The aim of this lesson is to briefly describe the incidents that led to this battle, and explain how Muslims were successful against a much larger and well-equipped troop.

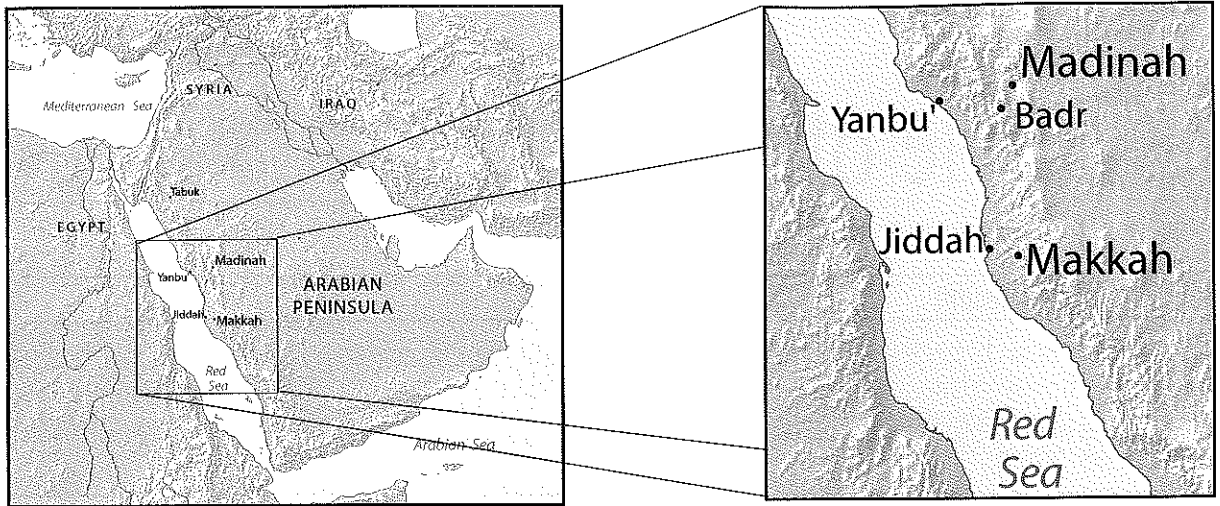


In the year 622 CE, Prophet Muhammad (S) migrated from Makkah to Madīnah to freely teach the message of Islam. The polytheists in Makkah wanted to kill him for teaching Islam. When they learned that Prophet (S) was teaching Islam from Madīnah, they did not like it. They wanted to stop the teaching and kill all Muslims.

The polytheists planned a battle to stop the Muslims. The chance to fight came in the year 624 CE—two years after the migration. This battle is known as the **Battle of Badr**, named after the battlefield. Sūrah Anfāl discusses the battle and its result. It was the first important battle that the Muslims had to fight.

**Caravan of Quraish:** In the summer of 623 CE, the Quraish sent a large caravan to Syria to do business. A caravan is a group of travelers journeying together. The leader of the caravan was **Abu Sufyān**, who, at that time, was an enemy of the Muslims. His business in Syria was very successful and profitable. From Syria he bought camel-loads of goods to sell in Makkah. While returning, he realized there was a problem—the road from Syria to Makkah passed by the side of Madīnah, where Muslims were living.





Just as Abu Sufyān did not like the Muslims, the Muslims also did not like him. The Muslims knew Abu Sufyān would use the profit from the business to build his army to fight the Muslims. The Muslims decided to capture Abu Sufyān's caravan when it passed by Madīnah, but some one tipped off Abu Sufyān. Instead of going by the side of Madīnah, Abu Sufyān moved his caravan to the west side—towards Yanbu. Then he sent a person to Makkah with a message asking everybody to help him.

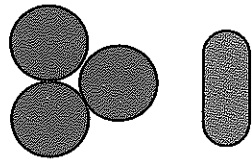
**Makkan army prepares:** When the Makkan polytheists came to know about the plans of Muslims, they were furious. Immediately they formed an army of about 1,000 men. They collected many horses and camels in the army. The army was strong and the soldiers were expert in warfare. They marched from Makkah northbound, to secure the caravan and to crush the Muslims.

**Muslim army prepares:** When the Muslims realized that the Makkan army was coming to attack them, they quickly formed an army. Somehow they managed to form an army of 313 men. The army included many youths and elderly people who did not know how to fight a battle. It was a weak army. The Prophet (S) knew Allāh was on their side. Allāh would help the Muslims. To avoid a battle in Madīnah, the Muslims came to a place called Badr. This place is about 80 miles away from Madīnah. When the polytheists reached Badr, Abu Sufyān joined the Makkan army.

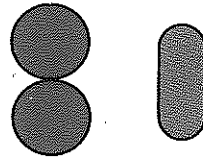
**Actual strength not realized:** After the Muslims and the Makkan polytheists reached Badr, something strange happened. Both of the parties could not determine each other's strength. The Makkans were scattered around

#### Points to Remember

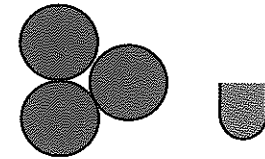
- The Battle of Badr was the first major battle fought by the Muslims.
- The battle was fought 2 years after the migration of the Prophet (S).
- The Muslims had 313 men army against 1000 men Makkan army.
- The cause of the battle was Muslim plan to attack a Makkan caravan.
- The caravan was returning from Syria with camel loads of supplies.
- The battle was fought around the wells in Badr.
- The Makkans were totally defeated in the battle.



**Actual Strength**  
3 enemies for 1 Muslim



**Muslims thought**  
2 enemies for 1 Muslim



**Enemies miscalculated**  
Small Muslim army

the high spots. When the Muslims saw them, they thought the enemies were about twice their number. In reality, the enemies were about three times larger than the Muslims. When the polytheists saw the Muslims, the Muslims appeared to be just a few.

Because the Muslims did not realize the actual strength of the enemies, they thought the battle would not be difficult. On the other hand, the polytheists were confident about their victory because they thought the Muslims were fewer in number. They underestimated the Muslims, and thought they could easily defeat the Muslims.

**Actual battle:** The battle started around noon. The Muslims began the battle thinking that each of them needed to fight just two enemies because they thought the enemies were twice their number. They were fighting bravely. Allāh helped the Muslims by sending 1,000 angels. Neither did the Muslims nor the polytheists see the angels. The Muslims never thought they could fight so well. With every swing of the sword, some enemy was hurt or killed. The polytheists were surprised to see a much larger Muslim army than what they had initially thought. Their attacks on the Muslims were not effective. The enemies realized too many of their soldiers were getting killed. They lost hope and started running away. At noon the battle had started, and within a few hours, it was over.

**Muslim victory:** The Muslims won the battle. When they counted their losses, they found only fourteen brave Muslims died in the battle. The loss of the enemies was much larger. About seventy of the enemies were killed, and another seventy were taken in as prisoners. Their biggest loss was death of Abu Jahl, the polytheist leader, who was one of the most notorious enemies of the Muslims.

The battle of Badr showed that Allāh always helps those who stand up for His cause. This battle made the Muslims stronger. They realized they were not weak any more and could protect themselves from the enemies. The non-Muslims in Madīnah started to respect the Prophet (S) and the Muslims. The Muslims established themselves as a major power in Madīnah.