

Manner Of Secret Invitations Toward Islam And Its Consequences

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Abstract

The biographers, historians, and writers on the history of the Muhammadan preaching agreed that the preaching in Mecca passed through two main phases: The secret preaching stage: It took three years from the age of the Meccan preaching according to most historians and scholars. Then came the command to preach openly with what he said in Surat Al-Shu`ara: { وَ أَنْذِرْ عَشِيرَتَكَ الْأَقْرَبِينَ } , So the Messenger, peace be upon him, started openly preaching to the pagans of Arabs, and the stage of the secret preaching ended and the stage of the open preaching began. There are many golden aspects to the prophet's (S.A.W) secret preaching methodology. The Prophet (S.A.W) makes sure that when any person embraced Islam, He keeps their faith in privacy and make sure their security. He formed initial groups in connection with the secret invitation. He started preaching to people close to him. During those three years, he kept it a secret. This article discusses the same point of view regarding the actions of the Holy Prophet (SAW) at that time and their consequences. The key points are as follows.

- Preaching to the closest one.
- Security measures for secret invitations
- Dividing people in different groups.
- The consequences of the measure for secret preaching.

Keywords: Prophet, Makkah, Secret preaching, the beginning of preaching, its consequences.

Over view:

The state of the world before the Prophet's revelation the authors of the Encyclopedia Britannica wrote that: Even among the self-proclaimed Christians, the Christian religion was very weak. In the Arabian Peninsula, all kinds of infidelity and polytheism that could be imagined were common. The religious beliefs of the polytheists were completely different from each other. So there was a need for something more simple and definite¹.

Sir William Meyer admits in clearer words: “There had never been such a misguidance before the advent of the Holy Prophet. And there has never been such complete guidance as when the Holy Prophet was leaving”.² So much for admitting that all the credit for this goes to Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

Introduction:

For fifteen years after the marriage, the Prophet led a life that won him the love and respect, not only of his wife but also of his town-folk. But as he grew old he used to spend most of his time in solitude and in meditation. He used to go to a mountain cave called Hira, three miles from Makkah. There he spent his Time in prayer and meditation. He was in search of truth, as he was not satisfied with the beliefs and Habits of his people. Idolatry, dishonesty, murder, civil strife, gambling, robbery, usury, and drinking of Wine were common in those days.³ But the Prophet did not indulge in any of them, as these evils were foreign to his nature. One night, in the month of Ramadan, 609 A.D., when he was praying in the cave he received the revelation from Allah almighty.⁴ He knew that now it's his duty to preach the mankind. He started preaching when he received the following verses:

”يَأْتِيهَا الْمَدِينُ فَمَنْ فَانْذِرْ“⁵

The prophet (S.A.W) Began to preach the people. There are two stage of preaching in Makkah: firs is secret preaching and the second is open preaching.

Definition of secret preaching:

The secret preaching is the first stage of the Islamic preaching, and it lasted for a relatively long period of time, three years,⁶ when the ALLAH Almighty commanded the Messenger, (S.A.W) to call for his monotheism six months after the descent of Gabriel, peace be upon him, As ALLAH mentioned in Qur'an:

”يَأْتِيهَا الْمَدِينُ فَمَنْ فَانْذِرْ“⁷

It should be noted that secret preaching does not mean concealment. Rather, use methods

of encouragement and warn others about the commands of ALLAH to follow and other means and methods, with the repeated request, giving advices and counsel, Show goodness and righteousness to the invited. The preacher wants to achieve their interest.⁸ Secret preaching is an essential stage that the prophets – “peace be upon them” - pass through in their preaching. It was mentioned in his saying about Noah (blessings upon him):

” ثُمَّ إِنِّي أَعْلَنْتُ لَهُمْ وَأَسْرَرْتُ لَهُمْ إِسْرَارًا“⁹

This shows that the preaching was secret in the beginning, just as Pharaoh's wife hid her faith.¹⁰

Duration of the secret invitation:

The preaching of the Prophet (S.A.W) lasted secretly for three years, and the preaching to Islam was divided into two phases.¹¹

- The Meccan period: It lasted for thirteen years, and was divided into two phases.
- Secret preaching stage: and it lasted for three years, and ended by saying:

” وَ أَنْذِرْ عَشِيرَتَكَ الْأَقْرَبِينَ“¹²

So the Prophet ascended to Mount Al-Safa calling the people of Makkah.

- The stage of the public call: And was only in the tongue, and it started from the fourth year of the mission until the time of the migration to Medina

The wisdom of secret preaching:

- Mecca was a great place before Islam. Because of its religious position among the Arabs. Because the Kaaba is in it, and the people of Mecca were based on serving the Ka'ba, Therefore, the transformation and change of religion was a great matter which need for secrecy at the beginning of the

preaching. Confidentiality has had many pearls of wisdom:¹³

- Building the first foundations of the call, from those who do and believe in it, so that they will be the driving force for any confrontation.
- Following the approach of peaceful resistance, do not allow enmity among the arrogant. And advocating to win hearts.
- Delivering the preaching to all Arabs coming from outside Mecca in different seasons.

Secret Invitation Features:

The secret preaching was distinguished by a number of characteristics, including the following:¹⁴

- It was the beginning of the spread of the Islamic religion, and therefore it was necessary to teach the entrants to Islam the truths of monotheism, establish faith in their hearts, and educate them on the morals of Islam.
- Prayer was initiated in the secret invitation, and it was two units of prayer in the morning and the same in the evening and the Companions - may God be pleased with them - used to pray secretly, away from the eyes of people: lest they be known by their faith.
- The number of Muslims was increasing day by day, until a nucleus of the believing Muslim community was secretly formed, despite the torment and sacrifices offered by the first companions, until the command came to speak out the open preaching, and then a new stage began.
- The secret invitation was also distinguished by its comprehensiveness: It is for all people, with no difference between individuals according to race, color, or gender.¹⁵

Necessity of the secret preaching:

We come out of the position of the Messenger ﷺ at the beginning of the call with an important rule: that preachers are required to preserve themselves and their lives, not for fear of death, for death in the cause of God in itself is an end. But be careful about religion and Islam, and to continue the mission. Raghīb has given an example of a jurisprudential principle here, “It is a sin for a Muslim to show himself if hiding is necessary at that stage”¹⁶ the jurists taken the above principle from the Quranic verse :

” فَإِنْ يَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ مِائَةٌ صَابِرَةٌ يَغْلِبُوا مِائَتَيْنِ أَوْ إِنْ يَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أَلْفٌ يَغْلِبُوا أَلْفَيْنِ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ“¹⁷

(But (even so), if there are a hundred of you, patient and persevering, they will vanquish two hundred, and if a thousand, they will vanquish two thousand, with the leave of Allah).

In explanation of the verse the jurists mentioned that: if the number is more than double, it is permissible to flee to save the life of the Muslims. The behavior of the Messenger of Allah and the Muslims in such situations also makes it clear that you keep it secret when it's necessary at that stage.

The necessary steps of the prophet during the secret preaching time:

There are many steps taken by the prophet (S.A.W) during the secret preaching stage. As we discuss those steps below:

Selection of the people:

As it is mentioned in the hadith:

”خياركم في الجاهلية خياركم في الإسلام إذا فقهوا“¹⁸

(Those who are better in pre-Islam are also better in Islam, if they create understanding of religion.)

So the holy prophet (S.A.W) chose those people who were better in pre-Islamic era, as like

khadijaj (R.A), Abubkr (R.A) and other companions.¹⁹

Privacy of believers:

The Holy prophet (S.A.W) kept in secret about the believers because it is mentioned about the Ali (R.A) when he saw to performing the prayer of prophet (S.A.W) and Khadija (R.A),²⁰ he asked them about that. Holy Prophet (S.A.W) told him all about the Islam and preached hi to accept the Islam. At that time he replied I will ask to abu-Talib, The holy prophet (S.A.W) disliked that and said:

“يا علي إذا لم تسلم فإتكم هذا”

"But the next day Ali (R.A) embraced Islam. So this shows that the holy prophet (S.A.W) kept in secret."

Starting from Family:

The holy prophet (S.A.W) started his mission from his family and the first person who accepted Islam was Khadija (R.A)²¹. After her acceptance of Islam Hazrat Ali (R.A) was the second person who accepted Islam.²²

Dividing into Groups:

The holy prophet (S.A.W) divided the believers in different groups. The Holy prophet (S.A.W) monitored by his self. As it is mentioned in the story of A'mar bin absa. He narrated his story of Islam when he came to the prophet (S.A.W) for accepting Islam, he saw with the prophet (S.A.W) two other persons and he asked about them. The prophet (S.A.W) replied: "حرٌّ وعبد"²³ at that time Abubkr and bilal (R.A) was with him and they were going outside of Makkah to learn something about Islam. Their also mentioned in the story of Umar (R.A) to embraced Islam. The Holy prophet (S.A.W) made a group of three people which contained on the sister of Umar bin khattab, her husband and Khabbab (R.A) who learned the Quran from holy prophet (S.A.W) and then Khabbab (R.A) taught them.²⁴

Consequences

- Preached those people who were batter in the pre-Islamic era. So the result of preaching them is that most of them converted to Islam. As it is mentioned Raghil Al-sarjani in his book about Abu-Bakr (R.A) and others.²⁵
- The second step taken by prophet (S.A.W) to keep secrecy of the believers, so that we can experience by the different statements of the believer's. As Au-Zar (R.A) narrated his story of Islam and he made himself fourth of Islam²⁶ and same thing Amar bin a'basah narrated himself too.²⁷ This statement shows that no one knew not who embraced to Islam first.
- Starting the preaching from his own family were had a great results. When the prophet (S.A.W) preached to his wife Hazrat Khadija (R.A). She accepted without hesitating.²⁸ Muhammad Husyn Hykal said: "Muhammad (S.A.W) was the first hero in his family."²⁹ All the family of prophet (S.A.W) embraced Islam except Fatima (R.A) she was Born 2nd of nabawi.³⁰
- Groupings also played a basic roll in the spreading and in learning of basics of Islam. As it is mentioned above in the story of Umar (R.A) when he accepted Islam.³¹ Also in the story of A'mar bin a'basah narrated about three people (prophet (S.A.W), Abu-Bakr and Bilal) they were going outside of Makkah to learn something from the Holy prophet (S.A.W).³²

Conclusion:

1. The Prophet (S.A.W) tried his best to keep the preaching secret in that stage.
2. He kept the faith of all Muslims in complete secrecy, except those who revealed themselves.

3. Complete arrangements were made to inform the Muslims about the rules in case of grouping.
4. The Holy Prophet initially preached those on whom he had full confidence that they would accept his preaching.
5. The Prophet (S.A.W) did not hide Islam at all, but sometimes offered prayers in front of people in his way.
6. One of the purposes of the secret invitation was to protect the Muslims from any harm and they succeeded in it as long as the preaching remained secret.

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