

The purpose of Ghazwat-e-Nabvi was to establish peace. Explain.

① INTRODUCTION

Peace and mediation have always been the Prophet Muhammad's ideal route. However, he had to fight against the aggressors and oppressors to protect the Muslim community. He (PBUH) had no personal vendetta against any party, but was entrusted with guarding religious freedom and places of worship. The wars prophet (PBUH) fought had been defensive, with established moral codes to govern combat. Prophet (PBUH) exhausted all peaceful avenues before resorting to battle. The ^{purpose} ~~outcome~~ of his (PBUH) battles was to challenge tyranny and establish peace for all regardless of their faith. Battles like Badr, Uhud, and the Trench were purely undertaken with reluctant necessity in the face of existential threats.

② Defensive Ghazwaat of Prophet's Life

(I) Battle of Badr (624 CE)

Muslims in Makkah were facing severe persecution by Quraysh. Muslims' properties at Mecca were confiscated by Quraysh. Muslims planned to intercept the caravan led by Abu Jahl returning from Syria. Despite being outnumbered, the Muslim's strong faith and strategic planning led them to victory.

(2) Lessons from Battle of Badr

- (a) The Muslims sought justice, not vengeance
- (b) Prophet (PBUH) initiated acts of reconciliation and forgave many of the Quraysh captives.
- (c) One of the prisoners of war, Azir bin Umair was given bread by a poor Ansari family.
- (d) The prophet (PBUH) asked prisoners to earn freedom by teaching literacy to Muslim kids.
- (e) Prophet (PBUH) offered a shirt to one of the prisoners of battle, Al Abbas, who was also his uncle.

Battle of Uhud

Before the battle, the Prophet (PBUH) positioned the Muslim army at the foot of Mount Uhud with 50 archers on a hill to protect the rear. However, when Muslims thought that they had won the battle, the archers left their position to gather war booty violating the prophetic orders.

Lessons from the Battle of Uhud

- (A) War was framed as a test from Allah of one's faith and character.
- (B) After the setback, Prophet did not seek revenge.
- (C) The ethics of warfare were strictly followed by the Prophet (PBUH).
- (D) The mutilation of dead bodies was considered sinful.
- (E) Prophet (PBUH) asked his companions to protect non-combatants.
- (F) Despite the setback, the Prophet (PBUH) showed perseverance and patience.

(III) Battle of Khaybar

Despite the necessity of self-defense, Prophet's (PBUH) intentions were always rooted in peace. After the expulsion of Banu Nadir Jews from Medina in 625 CE due to their betrayal, they allied with hostile factions, plotting against the Muslims. The prophet (PBUH) had to wage the war to ensure future potential attacks on Medina were prevented. Around 93 Jews were killed while 20 Muslims were martyred.

Lessons from the Battle of Badr

- (a) The victory consolidated the political position of Muslims in Medina, paving the way for 'just and ethical governance system'.
- (b) Prophet initiated treaties and alliances with neighboring tribes.
- (c) He encouraged forgiveness and reconciliation even with those who opposed Islam.

(IV) Conquest of Makkah

The Quraysh of Mecca had persistently opposed Muslims and forced them to migrate. Quraysh continued their hostile behavior despite successive setbacks in Battles of Badr and Uhayd. The Quraysh violated the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah (628 CE). The Prophet (PBUH) aimed for reconciliation, not revenge, showing mercy and clemency.

Lessons from Conquest of Mecca

- (a) Makkah was conquered without any bloody resistance by the Quraysh.
- (b) Prophet (PBUH) forgives many of his enemies who planned his murder.
- (c) Despite the betrayal, the Prophet granted amnesty to the Quraysh.
- (d) Prophet (PBUH) wrote letters to leaders like Byzantine Emperor Heraclius and the Persian King Khosrow II inviting them to Islam.

Battle of Tabuk

Though it was an offensive battle, Prophet had to stop a potential Byzantine invasion of Northern Arabia. The Prophet (PBUH) mobilized 20,000 men and showed their strength near the Gulf of Aqaba to deter the invasion of enemies. Prophet strengthened ties with surrounding tribes, demonstrating peaceful coexistence.

Siege of Taif

Prophet wanted to consolidate Muslim rule in the city of Taif. Muslims besieged the city for many weeks, but the people of Taif remained resistant in their stance. Eventually, Prophet lifted the siege, preferring peace over confrontation. Even if it might seem offensive, the ultimate goal was to establish peace and justice.

Prophet's Way to Peace

(1) Diplomacy First, War as Last Resort

Prophet (PBUH) resorted to battles only after exhausting all avenues of peace-making settlements. Even when he had the upper hand, he still preferred diplomacy over unnecessary bloodshed.

(2) Precise Use of Force

Prophet (PBUH) and his companions never used force aggressively even on the worst enemies of Islam. Prophet's military actions were controlled and measured to ensure minimum or zero bloodshed. For instance, the conquest of Mecca was a peaceful conquest and granted amnesty, even to his fiercest opponents.

(3) Military Ethics in Warfare

Prophetic rules of military engagement were rooted in morality and ethical principles. No harm to civilians, non-combatants (women, children, elderly)

was to ensure deterrence, not total destruction of enemies of Islam.

(4) Deterrence without combat

At Tabuk (630 CE), Prophet (PBUH) led a massive army as a show of military strength. He (PBUH) had no intent to combat, but wanted to deter aggression. He was wary of a potential Byzantine threat, undertaking proactive military posture.

(5) Conflict as Means to Justice

Battles were aimed at restoring justice, defending the oppressed, and safeguarding the fledgling Muslim polity. They were never about dominance or expansion.

(6) Winning Over Hearts through Compassion

He unified communities through winning their hearts and minds. He did not rule by force, but by his mercy.

and compassion. Those who opposed him
earlier embraced Islam after
witnessing his leadership and compassion.

Strategic Peace Treaties

Prophet enabled expansion through
alliances. The Treaty of Hudaibiyah
was a key example where the Prophet
accepted seemingly unfavorable conditions
to avoid war. It was later described in
Qur'an as a manifest victory. It allowed
him to forge wider peace and alliances.

Conclusion

Thus, it could be concluded in the end that
Prophet (PBUH) was a great peace-maker,
who even in pre-emptive wars, ensured
justice and mercy for even his fiercest
opponents. He treated prisoners of war
humanely and laid down ethics of
war to protect civilians and non-
combatants. He led many defensive

war and ensured minimum or zero bloodshed. He used military postures to forge peace treaties and alliances, not to show aggression. His (PBUH) main aim was to win the hearts and minds of his opponents, not dominance or expansion.

"Prophet's military actions were not ends in themselves, but were means to secure lasting peace." — Dr. Hamidullah (Introduction to Islam).