THE STRIVING

MUSLIM ACADEMY

Islamic and Academic Education

ISLAMIC EDUCATION · TEXTBOOK

Seerah
Semester One

The Makkan years: Arabia before him, the first revelation, the secret and open call, the persecution, Abyssinia, the boycott, Ta'if, al-Isra and the pledges.

WHAT IS INSIDE

- How this book is used beside the workbook
- Four units, twelve lessons, each one taught in two pages
- Worked examples, and the words of every lesson
- What the workbook asks of you, week by week
- The curriculum this book is built on, in full

The Striving Muslim Academy

Built on the Academy's own Islamic Education Curriculum, and keyed to the workbook of the same semester, week for week.

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WEEK TWO

The Quraysh, and the elephant

The Quraysh, the Ka'bah, and the year of the elephant

The Quraysh and the Ka'bah

The Quraysh held custody of the Ka'bah and the privileges that came with it, and their standing in Arabia rested on that and on trade.

Which matters for what follows: the message came to a man of the tribe that held the sanctuary, and it attacked the idols in it. The opposition was not only religious, and a student who sees only the religious dimension will not understand the Makkan years.

The year of the elephant

An army came against the Ka'bah with an elephant and was destroyed. Surah al-Fil records it.

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَٰبِ ٱلْفِيلِ ۝ أَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ كَيْدَهُمْ فِى تَضْلِيلٍ ۝ وَأَرْسَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ طَيْرًا أَبَابِيلَ ۝ تَرْمِيهِم بِحِجَارَةٍ مِّن سِجِّيلٍ ۝ فَجَعَلَهُمْ كَعَصْفٍ مَّأْكُولٍ

AL-FIL 105:1-5

That the event happened is in the Qur'an. The details, the names, the course of it, are from the historians, and the reports differ. Keep the two apart.

Dating it

It is commonly said that he was born in the year of the elephant. The historians give this and the dating has been discussed; ask your teacher what is established and what is estimated.

And notice something about the surah. It is addressed to the Quraysh as a people who saw this happen, and the surah after it reminds them of the security they enjoy because of the sanctuary. Your Tafseer course would read the two together, and so should you.

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WEEK SEVEN

The tortured, and the steadfast

The tortured and the steadfast, named

Named people

Bilal, Sumayyah, Yasir, Ammar, Khabbab, Abu Fukayhah and others are named in the sources as having been tortured. Sumayyah is reported as the first to be killed for this religion.

Learn the names. A persecution described without names is an abstraction, and the sources preserved the names precisely so that it would not become one.

What Khabbab reported

Khabbab ibn al-Aratt reported coming to the Prophet ﷺ while he was resting in the shade of the Ka'bah, and asking him to seek help, or to make du'a for them. He answered by describing those before them who were sawn and combed with iron and did not leave their religion, and said that this matter would be completed, and that they were being hasty.

In **Sahih al-Bukhari**; get the number from your teacher. This is a sound narration and it is the most important text in this unit.

What the answer was not

He did not say the suffering would stop. He said the matter would be completed and that they were being hasty.

Students expect consolation to be a promise of relief. The answer recorded here is a promise of outcome with no date, and the instruction was patience. Your Tafseer course found the same shape in ash-Sharh.

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10 WEEK TEN
Ta'if

Ta'if, and the du'a he made there

What happened

He went to Ta'if to present the message and was refused, and the reports describe him being driven out and pelted.

This is from the biographical works and from some reports in the collections; ask your teacher what is established, because the famous details vary between accounts.

The supplication reported there

A supplication is widely reported as having been made by him at Ta'if, complaining of his weakness to Allah and asking as long as He is not angry with him.

Its chain has been discussed by the scholars and some have criticised it. Ask your teacher directly about this one. It is among the most quoted passages in the whole seerah and a student who has studied this course should know its status, whatever that status turns out to be.

What is established of his response

There is a sound narration, in **al-Bukhari** and **Muslim**, in which A'ishah asked him about the hardest day he faced, and he spoke of Ta'if, and of the angel of the mountains being sent to him, and of his declining to have the people destroyed, hoping that their descendants would worship Allah.

That is established and it is enough. He declined the destruction of a people who had just driven him out, for the sake of those not yet born.

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SAMPLE PAGES

You have read a few pages. The book is longer.

What you are holding is a short sample, taken from different parts of the book so that you can see the teaching, the exercises and the standard of the Arabic before you decide.

The complete book, and the rest of the set, are on our website. Nine subjects, four semesters each: a textbook that teaches the week and a workbook that examines it.

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If your child studies with us, you do not buy these.
Families enrolled in our Islamic Education classes, and members of the homeschool community, are given the current semester's books at no cost, inside the classroom their teacher already uses.

Our Islamic Education classes are free. These books are what pays the teachers who teach them.