

Islam's Perfect Man

Koran Chapter 33:21 states that Muhammad is the perfect man for Muslims to imitate if they want to meet Allah in paradise:

Indeed in the Messenger of Allah (Muhammad) you have a good example to follow for him who hopes for (the Meeting with) Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah much.

Beheaded 600 Jews in one day

In March 627 the Muslims conquered the Jewish Banu Qurayza tribe. It is well documented that Muhammad supervised the beheading of 600-900 of the captured Jewish males (including both combatants and non-combatants).¹ As it was later described:

The Messenger of God [Muhammad] breakfasted at the market and gave instructions for a furrow to be dug there [in which to bury those to be killed]...The Messenger of God sat with the distinguished among his companions. He called for the men of the Banu Qurayza, and they came out at a leisurely pace, and their heads were cut off.²

Muhammad had ordered that all of the males who had reached puberty were to be killed.³ As one pre-pubescent survivor later related:

It was narrated from Sufyan: "Abdul-Malik bin 'Umair narrated to us; "Atiyyah Al-Qurazi narrated to me, he said: I was among the captives of Banu Qurayzah, and they examined (us). Those whose pubes had started to grow were executed, and those whose pubes had not started to grow were not executed. I was among those whose pubes had not started to grow."⁴

It was a hot summer day, and eventually Muhammad felt some compassion for those waiting to be beheaded:

The Messenger of God said, "Be good to your captives. Let them rest; quench their thirst until they are cool. Then, kill those who remain. Do not apply both the heat of the sun and the heat of the weapons." It was a summer's day. They let them rest. They quenched their thirst and fed them. When they were cool the Messenger of God began to kill those who were left.⁵

What about the women and children of the Banu Qurayza? Muhammad divided up that tribe's "property, wives, and children" among the Muslims; but some of the women he sent to Najd and

to Syria to be sold for horses and weapons.⁶ Muhammad personally sold some of the other captured women:

I attended the Messenger of God who was selling the prisoners of the Banu Qurayza. Abu al-Shahm al-Yahudi bought two women, with each one of them three male children, for one hundred and fifty dinars.

Muhammad also personally sold “a portion” of the women and children to ‘Uthman b. ‘Affan and ‘Abd al-Rahman b. ‘Awf.⁷

¹ E.g., *The Life of Muhammad (Sirat Rasul Allah)*, p. 464; *The History of al-Tabari: The Victory of Islam*, p. 35; *Kitab al-Tabaqat al-Kabir*, Vol. 2, p. 93; *The Life of Muhammad: Al-Waqidi’s Kitab al-Maghazi*, pp. 252-254; *The Sealed Nectar*, p. 377; and *When the Moon Split*, p. 250.

² *The Life of Muhammad: Al-Waqidi’s Kitab al-Maghazi*, p. 252.

³ *The Life of Muhammad (Sirat Rasul Allah)*, pp. 465-466; *The History of al-Tabari: The Victory of Islam*, p. 38; *In Defence of the True Faith: Battles, Expeditions, Peace Treaties and their Consequences in the life of Prophet Muhammad*, p. 206; and *The Origins of the Islamic State*, p. 41. For general reports about all who had reached puberty being executed, see *The Life of Muhammad: Al-Waqidi’s Kitab al-Maghazi*, p. 254; and *Kitab al-Tabaqat al-Kabir*, Vol. 2, p. 95.

⁴ *Sunan Abu Dawud*, Vol. 5, No. 4404, p. 45.

⁵ *The Life of Muhammad: Al-Waqidi’s Kitab al-Maghazi*, p. 252.

⁶ *The Life of Muhammad (Sirat Rasul Allah)*, p. 466. This is also mentioned in *The Sealed Nectar*, p. 378; *Sahih Muslim*, Vol. 5, No. 1766, p. 186; and *The Life of Muhammad: Al-Waqidi’s Kitab al-Maghazi*, pp. 256-257.

⁷ *The Life of Muhammad: Al-Waqidi’s Kitab al-Maghazi*, pp. 256-257.