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Explain the importance of the Pledges of ‘Aqaba to the Prophet in the period leading up to the migration. [4]

Why was this migration important for the Muslim community? [4]
**Events of Migration of Yathrib**

After the pledges of Aqabah, as the people of Yathrib had invited the Prophet (PBUH) and his followers to Yathrib, family after the family left for Yathrib. When the Quraysh came to know about this, they increased their persecutions on Prophet (PBUH) and his followers. Meanwhile, nearly all the companions of Holy Prophet(PBUH) except Hazrat Abu Bakr(R.A) and Hazrat Ali(R.A) and their families succeeded in migration to Yathrib.

The Quraysh held a meeting at Dar-un-Nadwa, which was attended by Iblees in the form of an old man from Nejd. At first they contemplated tying the Prophet to a camel and exiling him but they knew that his words captivated people so decided against it. Then they thought about keeping him arrested in his home but they knew that his companions would get him out. Finally upon the advice of Iblees, in the form of the old man, they decided that one person from each tribe would be selected and that they would simultaneously attack the Holy Prophet(PBUH) and (God forbid) kill him. This way the Banu Hashim would not be able to avenge him as all tribes would be involved. The Holy Prophet(PBUH) was informed of this plan by Allah and was told to leave Makkah that same night:”Remember how the unbelievers plotted against you, to keep you in bonds, or slay you, or to get out of your home. they plot and plan and Allah too plans, but the best of planners is Allah.” The Holy Prophet(PBUH) asked Hazrat Ali(R.A) to sleep on his bed and to return valuables entrusted to Prophet (PBUH) by various people. Prophet (PBUH) came out from the house with Allah’s protection at his side, cast a handful of dust at the disbelievers and made his way through them while reciting the verses of Surah Yasin: “And we have put a barrier before them and barrier behind them and we have covered them up so that they cannot see.”

In the morning, when Hazrat Ali (R.A) rose up, he and Abu Bakr’s daughter Asma were questioned by the assembled assassins about Prophet (PBUH) and they denied any knowledge of his location. Abu Jahl slapped Asma. Meanwhile Prophet (PBUH) was led by Abu Bakr (R.A) to the cave of Saur instead of the usual way to Yathrib. After reaching, Abu Bakr (R.A) cleaned up the cave and Prophet (PBUH) laid his head on Abu Bakr (RA)’s lap and fell asleep. Meanwhile, an insect appeared before them and Abu Bakr (R.A) put his foot on the mouth of the hole from where the insect emerged and said it stung him. Due to severe pain, tears fell from his eyes to Prophet’s (PBUH) face which woke him. He then applied his saliva on Abu Bakr (RA)’s foot and the pain disappeared. Abu Bakr’s son ‘Abdullah brought them news of the Makkans, Asma brought them food and Abu Bakr’s slave ‘Amir bin Fuhaira covered their tracks with his herd of sheep and brought them milk.

On the other hand, Makkans used all their strength and wisdom to track them down. One day, they successfully reached the mouth of the cave and Abu Bakr (R.A) got frightened. Prophet (PBUH) said: “Abu Bakr, what do you think of those to whom the third is Allah?” The Quraysh said about this: “You help not (your leader), (it is no matter): for Allah did not give them to him, when the Unbelievers drove him out: he had no more than one companion, they two were in the cave, and he said to his companion, “Have you not seen Allah is with me? He sent down His peace upon him, and strengthened his heart with a word which you saw not, and humbled to the depths the word of the Unbelievers: the Word of Allah is exalted to the heights: for Allah is Exalted in might, Wise.”

When the Makkans saw the cave, they turned around because the entrance was covered with a cabweb and a pair of pigeons made a nest on its entrance. This happened just that the Makkans that it convinced the Makkans that the cave was empty when they saw the branches of a tree that covered the mouth of the cave nearby. After this incident, they departed from the cave and continued their journey after staying in the cave for three days. Abu Bakr hired a guide named Abdullah bin Uraqi that brought two camels, one of which was Qaswa. A tracer named Suraqah bin Malik nearly caught up with the prophet and Abu Bakr but failed due to Allah’s help in the form of Suraqah’s horse’s hooves getting stuck in the sand. Suraqah apologized and informed them of a bounty of 100 camels on the head of the Prophet (PBUH) set by the Quraysh. He offered them food which they denied. Going ahead, Holy Prophet (PBUH) and Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) saw two isolated tents. There lived an old woman named Umm-e-Mabud who had a goat which could not give milk. Prophet (PBUH) touched its udder and it began to provide milk. The group then refreshed by drinking milk and set to their journey to Medina. Afterward, Prophet (PBUH) met Buraidah bin al-Husab with 80 men. All of them accepted Islam and performed Salah with Prophet (PBUH) and Abu Bakr (R.A).

On 8th Rabi-ul-Awal, the 14th year of Prophethood, Prophet (PBUH) reached Quuba. They established the first Islamic masjid and also met Hazrat Ali (R.A) there while staying for 14 days. The Prophet (PBUH) left for Yathrib on a Friday and prayed Friday prayers in the quarters of the Banu Saleem. The Muslims of Yathrib anxiously waited for Prophet (PBUH) but the heat of the day forced them to return to their homes. One of the Ansar was quoted as saying: “The Prophet (PBUH) arrived when we were inside our houses, and the first to see him was a Jew who knew we were awaiting his arrival. When he saw him, he shouted: ‘O people! He has arrived.’ So we came out to greet the Prophet (PBUH) as he was hiding under palm leaves shielding himself from the sun and was accompanied by Abu Bakr (R.A).” Upon the arrival of Prophet (PBUH) at Yathrib, the first important step that he took was the building of a masjid. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said that he would stay at the place where his camel would stop and settle. People tried to grab the lieu of the camel but the Prophet (PBUH) stopped them by saying “Let her go for she has her orders!” The camel sat on a plot which belonged to two orphans, Sohl and Sohail, of the Banu Najdul. They wanted to give the land to him for free but the Holy Prophet (PBUH) paid them for it. Holy Prophet (PBUH) himself worked hard along with his companions to complete the construction of mosque which was later named as ‘Masjid-e-Nabvi. Meanwhile he stayed at the house of Abu Ayub Ansari. Yathrib was renamed to Madina-tun-Nabi. Later shortened to Madina.