



Content for Essay Writing Competition for Intermediate / Degree & Post Graduate students

Invitation to Kings and Leaders

On the first of Muharram 7H, the Prophet ﷺ sent letters inviting world leaders to Islam. These letters included the verse:

يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ ... (Aal-e-Imran)

“O People of the Book! Come to a common word between us and you, that we worship none but Allah and associate nothing with Him.”

Some notable conversions and responses:

1. **Najashi of Abyssinia:** Accepted Islam and received the Prophet ﷺ's message warmly.
2. **King of Bahrain:** Converted, along with much of his subjects.
3. **Rulers of Oman:** Accepted Islam through correspondence via Amr bin Al-As.

Other rulers like the governor of Damascus and Yamamah either rejected Islam or delayed conversion.

Anonymous King of Alexandria

(6) Jarih bin Mati, also called Maqawqas, the King of Alexandria and Egypt, was of the Christian faith. Hatib bin Abi Balta'ah had gone to him as an envoy. The Prophet ﷺ had written at the end of the letter that if he rejected Islam, then the sin of the Egyptians (the People of the Copts) not being Muslims would be upon his neck.

Besides delivering the letter, the envoy explained to the king in these words:

“Sir! Before you, there was a person in this country who used to say ‘أَنَا رَبُّكُمْ الْأَعْلَى’ (I am your supreme Lord), and Allah gave him disgrace in this world and the Hereafter. When Allah's wrath was aroused, neither the country nor anything else remained. So, observe others and take a lesson, lest others take a lesson from you.”

The king said: “I follow my own religion; I will not abandon it until a better religion appears.”

Hazrat Hatib said: “I invite you to the religion which is sufficient with all its aspects.”

The Prophet ﷺ has invited everyone to Islam; the Quraish opposed, and the Jews were hostile, but among all, the closest in duration and affection were the Christians. Just as Allah gave glad tidings of Prophet Isa to Hazrat Musa, similarly Prophet Isa gave glad tidings of Muhammad ﷺ. The call of the Qur'an we give to you is just as you gave the Injil's call to the People of the Torah.

Whichever nation a Prophet is sent to, that nation is considered his community; therefore it is incumbent upon you to obey the Prophet whose era has reached you and understand that we invite you to the same faith as Hazrat Masih.

Maqawqas said: “I have pondered this Prophet; as yet I feel no inclination, although nothing desirable stops

him. I know that he is a harmful magician, has no poor speech, and in him are signs of prophethood. I shall further ponder this matter.”

Then he had the Prophet’s ﷺ letter placed in an ivory box, sealed, and kept in the treasury. He also sent gifts for the Prophet ﷺ and wrote in his reply: “I know that a Prophet is yet to appear, but I always thought the Messenger would be in the land of Shaam.”

The famous dappled mule was sent as a gift.

Anonymous Heraclius, King of Constantinople

(7) Heraclius, the famous emperor of the eastern branch of the Roman Empire, was of the Christian faith. Hazrat Dahiya bin Khalifa Al-Kalmi had brought the blessed letter to him. This meeting occurred at the station of Bayt-ul-Maqdis. Heraclius held a grand court in honor of the envoy and inquired extensively about the Prophet ﷺ.

Afterward, Heraclius deemed further investigation necessary and ordered that if anyone from Makkah was present in the land, they should be presented.

By coincidence, at that time Abu Sufyan, along with other merchants, had come from Makkah to Shaam, were brought to Bayt-ul-Maqdis, and presented at court. Caesar told the accompanying merchants that he would question Abu Sufyan, and if he gave a false answer, they should inform him.

Abu Sufyan was then a sworn enemy of the Prophet ﷺ. He himself states that if he had not feared that those with him would expose his lies, he could have fabricated many things, but in Caesar’s presence he had to tell the truth.

Question and Answer Session:

Caesar : What is Muhammad ﷺ’s family and lineage like?

Abu Sufyan : Noble and great.

Hearing this, Heraclius said: “Indeed, the Prophet comes from a noble family, so that no one may resist obedience to him.”

Caesar : Before Muhammad ﷺ, has anyone claimed prophethood in Arabia?

Abu Sufyan : No.

Heraclius said: “If that were so, I would think he was imitating predecessors.”

Caesar : Before becoming a Prophet, did he ever lie? Was he ever accused of lying?

Abu Sufyan : No.

Heraclius said: “It is impossible for one who never lied to people to lie about God.”

Caesar : Did any of his forefathers hold kingship?

Abu Sufyan : No.

Heraclius said : “Otherwise, I would think he seeks kingship through the guise of prophethood.”

Caesar : Are the followers of Muhammad ﷺ mostly poor and humble, or leaders and powerful?

Abu Sufyan : Poor and humble.

Heraclius said: “The first followers of every prophet are always humble and poor.”

Caesar : Is their number increasing or decreasing?

Abu Sufyan : Increasing.

Heraclius said: “This is a characteristic of faith—it gradually grows to perfection.”

Caesar : Does anyone abandon this faith?

Abu Sufyan : No.

Heraclius said: “This is the effect of the delight of faith: once it settles in the heart and takes hold on the soul, it never leaves.”

Caesar : Does this person ever break oaths or promises?

Abu Sufyan : No. This year we made an agreement with him, see the outcome.

Abu Sufyan adds that he could only add so much to his answer, but Caesar paid no attention and said: “Prophets do not break promises; worldly people do. Prophets are not driven by worldly desires.”

Caesar : Have you ever fought with him?

Abu Sufyan : Yes.

Caesar : What was the outcome of the battles?

Abu Sufyan : Sometimes he won (at Badr), and sometimes we (at Uhud).

Heraclius said: “This is the condition of God’s prophets, but ultimately victory and help come only from God.”

Caesar : What is his teaching?

Abu Sufyan : Worship one God, abandon idol worship of forefathers, establish prayer, fasting, truthfulness, chastity, and uphold kinship ties.

Heraclius said: “These are exactly the signs we were told about the Promised Prophet. I thought a prophet would appear, but I did not expect he would be from Arabia. Abu Sufyan! If you have spoken the truth, he will one day rule the place where I sit (Shaam and Bayt-ul-Maqdis). I wish I could serve him and wash the Prophet’s ﷺ feet.”

After this, the Prophet’s ﷺ blessed letter was read. The members of the court expressed astonishment, and we were sent out of the court. Abu Sufyan says that from that day, he believed in his own humiliation and the future greatness of the Prophet ﷺ.

King Khosro of Iran

(8) Khosro Parviz, King of Iran (half of the eastern world), was of the Zoroastrian faith. Abdullah bin Hudhafa brought the blessed letter, which read as follows:

“In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful:

From Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah, to Khosro, the Great King of Persia: Peace be upon him who follows the straight path, believes in Allah and His Messenger, and bears witness that none is worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad ﷺ is His servant and Messenger. I invite you to Allah’s message. I am

sent to all of Adam's progeny so that those alive may fear the punishment of Allah and those who deny may face Allah's decree. Become Muslim, and you will be safe; otherwise, the sin of Majus will be upon you."

Khosro tore the letter in anger and said: "A lowly subject writes to me and puts his name before mine?" He sent instructions to his viceroy Bazan in Yemen to arrest the Prophet ﷺ. Bazan sent military officers, but when they arrived in Madinah, the Prophet ﷺ instructed them to return the next day. By the following day, Khosro had been killed by his son, Shiroya. Bazan investigated the Prophet ﷺ's character and teachings thoroughly, became Muslim, and much of the court and country converted.

Good Conduct with Disbelievers and Polytheists

Numerous incidents illustrate the Prophet ﷺ's noble character and peaceable conduct with disbelievers, even when Islam was strong and he had full authority.

- Abu Basrah Ghafari relates that when disbelievers were guests in Madinah, they drank all the milk of the house's goats at night, but the Prophet ﷺ did not object, while the household went hungry.
- Hazrat Abu Hurairah narrates a similar incident with guests drinking all available milk; the Prophet ﷺ remained patient.
- During Sulh Hudaibiyah, even Hazrat Asma's polytheist mother was treated with kindness on the Prophet's ﷺ instruction: "Do good to them."
- The Prophet ﷺ supervised all household affairs, finances, and charity, demonstrating trust, patience, and forgiveness, as seen with Hazrat Bilal and a debt incident.

Dealing with Hypocrites

- Abdullah bin Abi and his cohort sought to undermine Muslims. The Prophet ﷺ exercised patience, reprimanding only subtly when necessary, to avoid public scandal, as noted in the Qur'an (Al-Munafiqun: 27; 8).