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MADDE YAYIMLANDIKTAN
SONRA GELEN DOKÜMAN

MUHAMMAD

Islam's First Great General

Richard A. Gabriel

Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Araştırmaları Merkezi Kütüphanesi	
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BATTLE OF UHUD

March 625

The Meccan leadership had been decapitated, and one can only imagine Abu Sufyan's shock upon learning that so many of the city's leaders had been killed at Badr. Many of the old chiefs were quickly replaced by their less experienced sons, leaving Abu Sufyan the only Quraish leader of stature to direct the civic and military affairs of the city. The older leadership had been divided on how to deal with Muhammad, with many being reluctant to use force against him. The devastating defeat at Badr, the rise of the younger chiefs, and Abu Sufyan's public outrage and oath to take revenge changed that. Many Meccans were now convinced that Muhammad could be dealt with only by force. Within a month the Meccans assembled a raiding party of 150 to 200 men under Abu Sufyan's command to undertake a raid on Medina. The small size of the raiding party suggests that its purpose was mostly psychological, to serve notice that the Meccans were still a force to be reckoned with and were ready to fight. The point may also have been to send a message to the bedouin tribes who controlled the caravan routes and on whom the Meccan trade depended for its safe travel. The Meccans now regarded Muhammad as their archenemy.

In April 624 Abu Sufyan's raiders approached Medina. In Arab fashion they prepared to attack in the early morning, switching from