

# Medina - The Rise of Islam

Fair Use Educational Excerpt from

“Cartoon History of the UNIVERSE Vol III  
*From the Rise of Arabia to the Renaissance*”

by Larry Gonick

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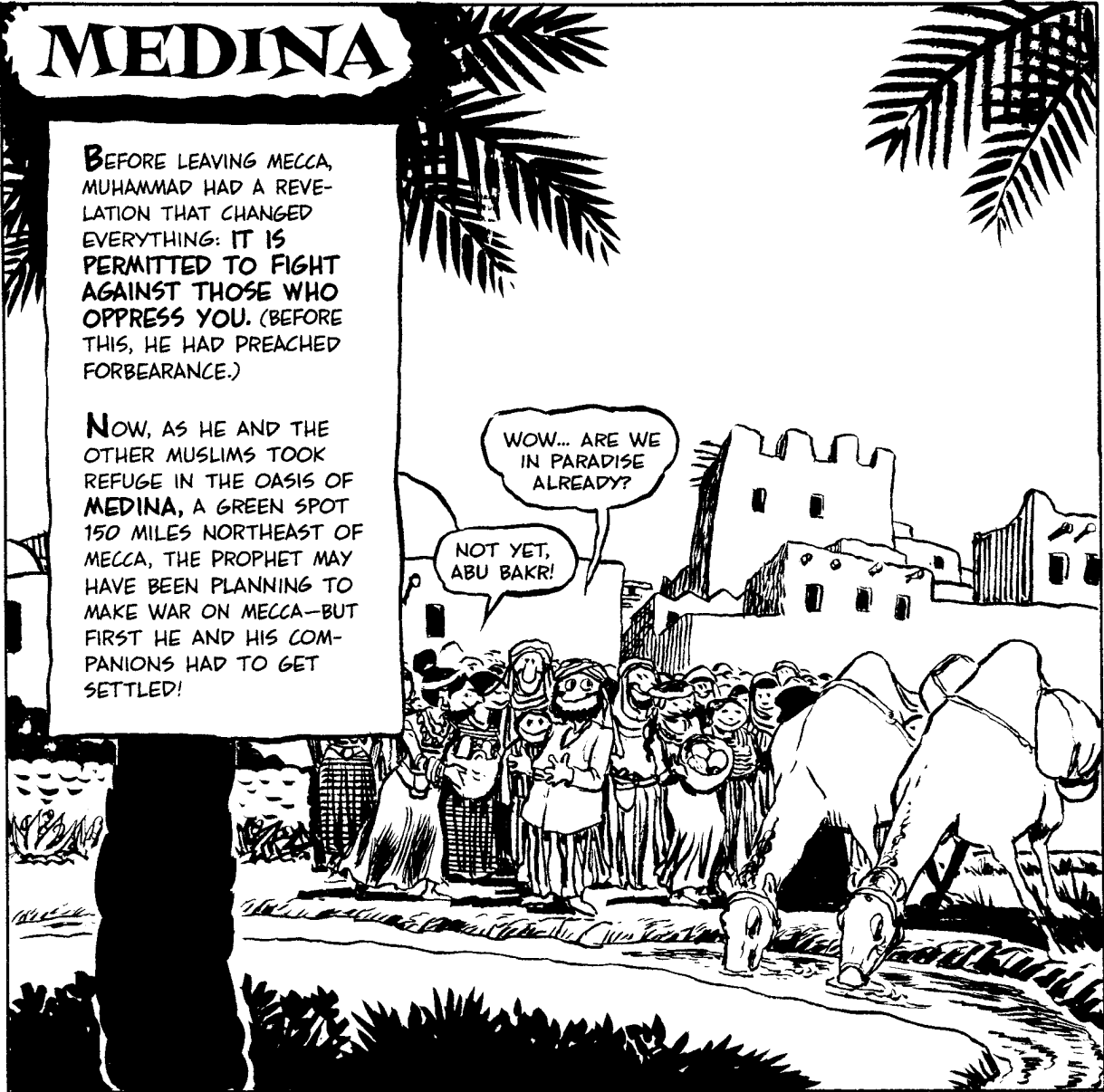
*“Non-biased, scholarly, and accurate history -  
highly acclaimed, educational, and well referenced”*

NOTE: To avoid offending the delicate sensibilities of nonAmericans, the authors have noted that a particular prophet remains “*permanently off camera*” in this series.

# MEDINA

BEFORE LEAVING MECCA, MUHAMMAD HAD A REVELATION THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING: IT IS PERMITTED TO FIGHT AGAINST THOSE WHO OPPRESS YOU. (BEFORE THIS, HE HAD PREACHED FORBEARANCE.)

NOW, AS HE AND THE OTHER MUSLIMS TOOK REFUGE IN THE OASIS OF MEDINA, A GREEN SPOT 150 MILES NORTHEAST OF MECCA, THE PROPHET MAY HAVE BEEN PLANNING TO MAKE WAR ON MECCA—BUT FIRST HE AND HIS COMPANIONS HAD TO GET SETTLED!



WOW... ARE WE IN PARADISE ALREADY?

NOT YET, ABU BAKR!

MEDINA HAD TWO TRIBES OF ARABS, UNTIL RECENTLY INVOLVED IN A BLOOD FEUD.



MANY OF THESE HAD CONVERTED TO ISLAM AS A WAY OF BRIDGING THEIR DIFFERENCES.

MUSLIMS ARE ONE COMMUNITY TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHERS...

SAID MUHAMMAD.



ALONGSIDE THE ARABS LIVED THREE TRIBES OF JEWS. TWO TRIBES FARMED, WHILE THE THIRD ONE MADE ARMOR AND JEWELRY.

UH-OH! WHAT'S WRONG? HAVEN'T YOU READ THE BOOK? PROPHETS ARE TROUBLE!



THE LOCAL MUSLIMS WELCOMED THE REFUGEES AS SPIRITUAL BROTHERS AND SISTERS...



COME IN... COME IN... WHAT'S OURS IS YOURS... ER... EVEN THOUGH WE OWN QUITE A LOT, AND YOU SEEM TO HAVE LOST, UM, EVERYTHING...

BUT AFTER A FEW MONTHS OF LIVING OFF CHARITY IN TIGHT QUARTERS, THEY BEGAN TO ACT LIKE REAL BROTHERS AND SISTERS!



GET OFF MY SIDE OF THE RUG!

HANDS OFF MY SHIRT!

WHO STOLE MY SPECIAL PILLOW?

MUHAMMAD HOPED TO EASE THE PAIN BY CONVERTING MEDINA'S JEWS. IF ONLY THE JEWS WOULD BECOME MUSLIMS AND SHARE THEIR PROPERTY...



HMMM? COME ON... HOW ABOUT IT...?

FOR SOME REASON, THE JEWS WERE NOT KEEN ON THIS SCHEME!



UM... WE ALREADY HAVE A PERFECTLY GOOD ONE-GOD TYPE THING GOING...

WHAT DO WE NEED WITH YOURS?

LOCKMAMIE AS IT SOUNDS TO US, ESPECIALLY...

PIQUED, MUHAMMAD CHANGED THE DIRECTION OF PRAYER FROM JERUSALEM TO MECCA AND CHANGED THE SABBATH FROM SATURDAY TO FRIDAY.



ABOUT FACE!

UM... I THINK WE JUST MADE 300 ENEMIES...

SO THE PROBLEM REMAINED: THE MECCAN REFUGEES HAD LOST THEIR HOMES, THEIR CAMELS, THEIR STUFF BACK IN MECCA...



GRR...

THE TIME HAD COME AT LAST... MUHAMMAD TOLD THE MUSLIMS TO PREPARE FOR WAR.



EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE TO BUY A SWORD, SOME ARMOR, AND THOSE EARRINGS FOR THE WIFE...

WILL THAT BE ON CREDIT AGAIN?

IN THE EARLY SPRING OF 624, THE MUSLIMS RODE OUT UNDER MUHAMMAD'S GREEN BANNER TO ATTACK THE KURAISH.



THEY AIMED TO LOOT MECCA'S GREAT CARAVAN, JUST THEN SETTING OFF WITH ABU SUFYAN IN THE LEAD.



SOMEHOW, WORD OF THE RAID LEAKED OUT AND REACHED ABU SUFYAN.



NEAR SOME WELLS, HE SPOTTED FRESH CAMEL DUNG. PINCHING IT BETWEEN HIS FINGERS, HE FOUND DATE PITTS... THESE MUST HAVE BEEN OASIS CAMELS...



HE IMMEDIATELY TURNED BACK AND SENT A MESSENGER AHEAD TO MECCA.



WHEN THE WORD ARRIVED, MECCA SPRANG INTO ACTION—IF "SPRANG" IS REALLY THE RIGHT WORD...



A MECCAN WAR PARTY RODE OUT TO FACE THE MUSLIMS. ABU SUFYAN MET THEM, POINTED THE WAY, AND TOOK THE CARAVAN HOME.



SO THE MUSLIMS MISSED THE CARAVAN, AND ABU SUFYAN MISSED THE BATTLE, WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MARCH 15, 624.

BY THE MOON GOD, THE SUN GOD, AND THE GOD OF LITTLE PEBBLES, I FEEL STRANGELY INHIBITED FROM KILLING YOU, MY KINSMAN...

BY GOD, I DON'T!!



THIS FIGHT, AT THE WELLS OF BADR, KILLED MANY OF MECCA'S OLD LEADERS, INCLUDING SOME OF THE MUSLIMS' WORST ENEMIES.



NOW THE MUSLIMS FELT BETTER! THEY HAD THE SPOILS OF BATTLE AND, LET'S FACE IT, A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT! WHY STOP NOW?

TEN YEARS THOSE DOGS PUSHED US AROUND!

YOU SHOWED 'EM!

MORE! MORE!! MORE!!!



SO THEY TURNED AGAINST THE JEWS...



MEDINA'S JEWS, AFTER ALL, RESISTED ISLAM... THEY MUST HAVE HOPED FOR MUHAMMAD'S DEFEAT... THEY MAY EVEN HAVE WARNED ABU SUFYAN... SO, IN SHORT ORDER, THE MUSLIMS ATTACKED AND OVERWHELMED THE METALWORKING TRIBE, THE BANU QAINUQA...

AFTER CONSIDERING A DEATH SENTENCE, MUHAMMAD SPARED THE BANU QAINUQA... WHAT BECAME OF THEM IS UNCLEAR... MOST MUST HAVE LEFT TOWN...

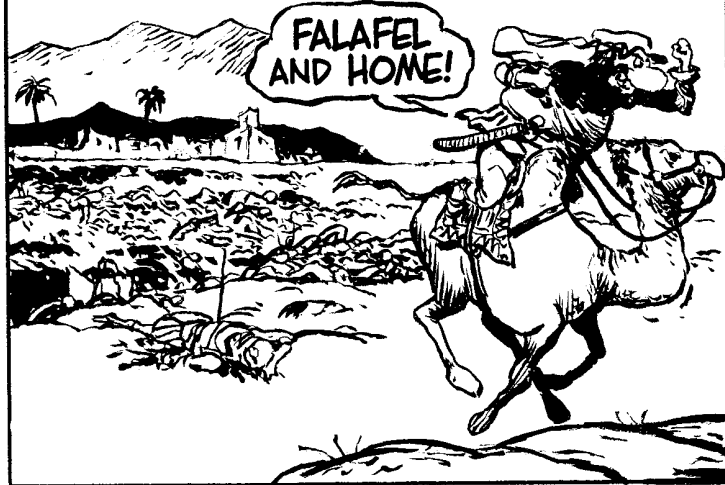
NOW SEVERAL JEWS WERE MURDERED IN THE STREETS... THE OTHER TWO TRIBES BARRICADED THEMSELVES IN THEIR FORTS...



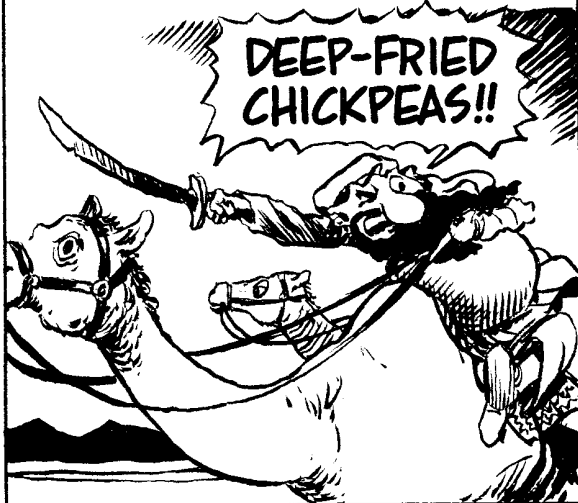
BACK IN MECCA, WITH SO MANY EL-  
DERS DEAD, ABU SUFYAN WAS NOW  
IN COMMAND. HE VOWED TO GIVE  
UP FRIED FOOD UNTIL THE  
DEFEAT AT BADR WAS AVENGED.



THE NEXT YEAR, ABU SUFYAN LED THE KURAISH TO VICTORY  
OVER THE MUSLIMS AT UHUD.



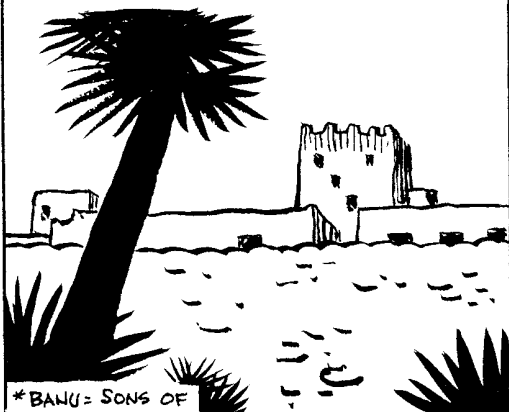
ABU SUFYAN FOLLOWED UP BY ATTACKING  
MEDINA ITSELF.



BUT THE MUSLIMS HAD DUG A TRENCH AROUND  
THE TOWN... THE KURAISH, HAVING NEVER SEEN  
SUCH A THING, GAVE UP AND WENT HOME.



WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW, AFTER EACH BATTLE  
THE MUSLIMS ALWAYS DID THE SAME  
THING: ATTACK THE JEWS. AFTER UHUD,  
MUHAMMAD BANISHED MEDINA'S SECOND  
TRIBE OF JEWS, THE BANU\* AL-NADHIR.



\*BANU = SONS OF

AFTER THE "TRENCH," THE MUSLIMS ROUNDED UP  
THE LAST JEWISH TRIBE, THE BANU QURAIZA,  
ENSLAVED THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND MAS-  
SACRED ITS 700 MEN. MEDINA WAS NOW 100%  
MUSLIM, MORE OR LESS.

