

Class 4- Week 15

Muslim community and Quraysh

Task 1: Watch and read the information below and create a poster on why the Quraysh opposed the muslim community.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYylo65INP4>

The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) preached his message at a time when the people of Mecca were enjoying an easy-going life with an abundance of affluence. The Quraysh were fearful for the loss of income from the pagan pilgrims, who would travel throughout the year to the city for religious purposes, because they relied heavily on the wealth they gathered through the pilgrims' constant visitation to the sacred house. They thought it would cut them off financially and they would become poor. Therefore, they tried to resist the message of Islam in order to secure their wealthy and economic status. Another reason for the opposition of Islam by the Quraysh was pride. The Quraysh enjoyed the high status of their forefathers who were very well known and respected throughout the Arabian Peninsula. And they hated to become different from them or to attribute flaws towards them. Another issue that bothered the Quraysh, particularly the wealthy leaders among them, was that the new message preached equality, tolerance, mercy, generosity and companionship between the strong and the weak, the rich and the poor, those of a high social class and those not so much, etc. This was a great concern for the Quraysh leaders because they thought of themselves as superior in comparison to such people. This is why the early converts of Islam in Mecca were mostly either the poor or "people who had fallen out of the first rank in their tribe or failed to attain it; and the weak, mostly unprotected foreigners." There was also a fear of the break up of the Meccan society. The Quraysh felt this new faith would break up the structure of their tribal society and would cause the Quraysh to turn on each other. The control of Mecca, the largest and most sacred city in Arabia, depended largely on the unity of the Quraysh, the largest tribe in Arabia