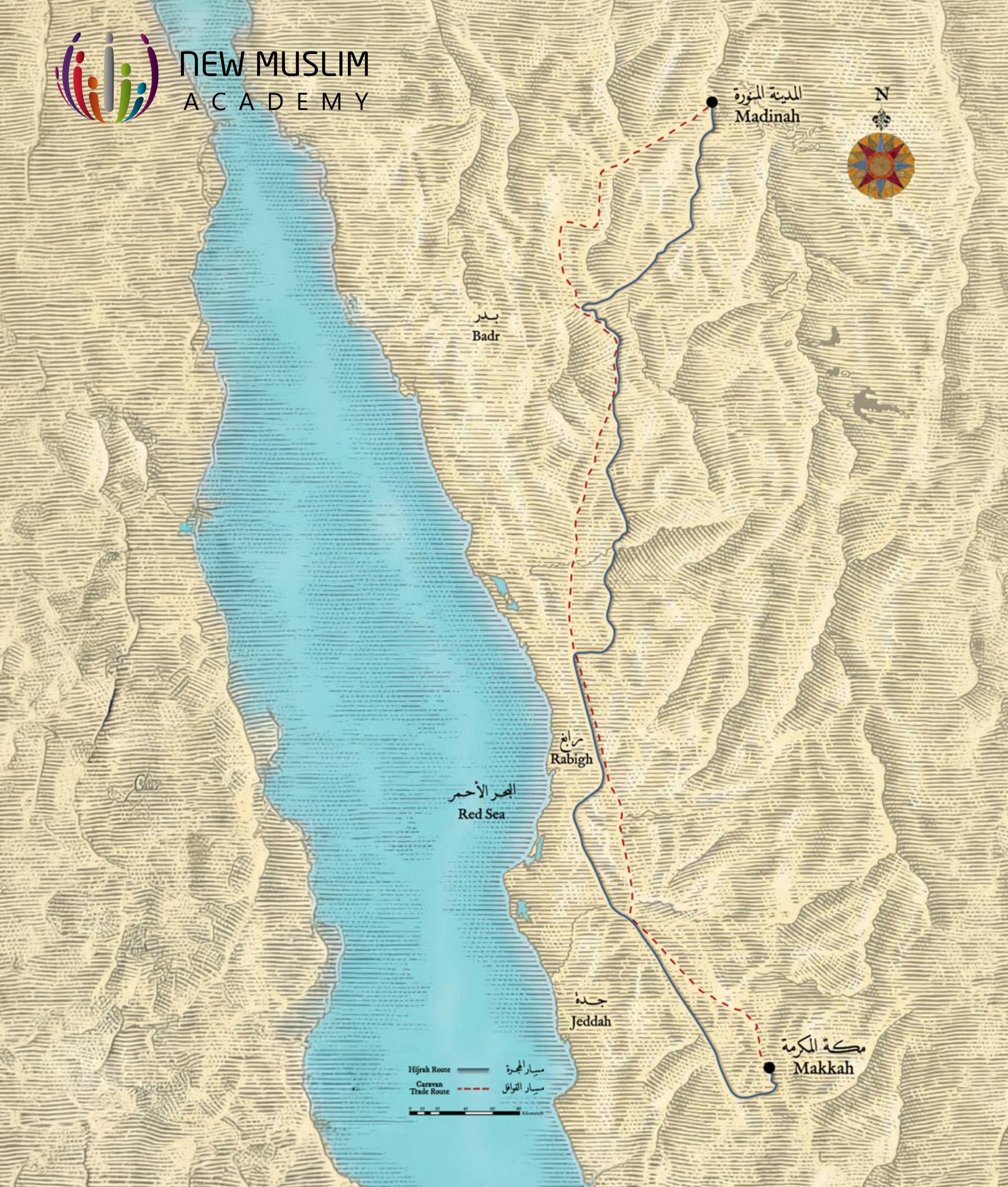




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Abu Bakr's Migration with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ

The migration of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ and his closest friend, Abu Bakr, from Mecca to Medina, is one of the most significant events in Islamic history. After years of persecution in Mecca, the Muslims were commanded by God to migrate to Medina, where they could worship God freely and establish a community of faith. The leaders of Mecca plotted to assassinate the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ before he could leave. God informed His Messenger ﷺ of their plot. To thwart the evil plot he instructed his cousin and foster son Ali, a devoted young man, to sleep in his bed that night while he quietly departed with Abu Bakr. This journey marked the beginning of a new chapter in the ministry of the Messenger ﷺ. This event, known as the Hijrah, was to become the starting point of the Islamic calendar.

Abu Bakr had long hoped to accompany the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ on this blessed journey. When the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ came to his house and informed him that God had granted him permission to migrate, Abu Bakr was overwhelmed with joy and wept. He had already prepared two camels for the journey, anticipating this moment.

Instead of taking the direct northern route to Medina, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ and Abu Bakr travelled south to misdirect those trailing them. This unexpected route threw the enemies off. The Meccans sent bounty hunters, who immediately began searching for the escapees. The Messenger ﷺ and his disciple remained hidden in the cave for three nights while Abu Bakr's family members secretly brought them food and information. Abu Bakr's son, Abdullah, gathered news from Mecca during the day and shared it with them at night, while his sister Asma delivered food for them. The family shepherd was tasked with taking his flock grazing to clear any evidence of footsteps on the ground.

Abu Bakr constantly placed the Messenger Muhammad's ﷺ safety above his own. As they entered the cave, he carefully inspected every corner and blocked any holes with pieces of his clothing to prevent harmful creatures from reaching the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ. While they were in the cave, a search party came so close that Abu Bakr became concerned for the Messenger Muhammad's ﷺ safety. He whispered that if any of the pursuers looked down at their feet, they would surely see them. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ calmly replied, "Do not grieve; indeed, God is with us." (9:40) God protected them, and the pursuers left without discovering them.

After three nights, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ and Abu Bakr resumed their journey with the help of a skilled desert guide, who though not a Muslim at the time, was an honest man with intimate knowledge of untreaded desert routes. Their journey across the desert was difficult, with scorching heat, rough terrain, and the constant threat of capture.

During the journey, an incident involving a bounty hunter occurred. He had hoped to capture the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ and Abu Bakr to claim the large reward offered by the Meccans. As he approached them, his horse repeatedly stumbled and sank into the ground by God's will. Realizing that the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was under Divine protection, the man asked to be allowed to return to Mecca and promised not to harm them. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ agreed and even foretold that one day this same man would wear the bracelets of the Persian King. Years later after the passing of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ, during the leadership of Umar, this prophecy was fulfilled.

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ first stopped just outside Medina, where he stayed for a few days and established the Mosque of Quba, the first mosque ever built by the new Muslim community. Abu Bakr remained by his side throughout this period. The mosque became a symbol of the new Muslim community, built upon worship, unity, and obedience to God, and the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ would continue to regularly visit this mosque weekly until his death.

The people of Medina had been eagerly awaiting the Messenger Muhammad's ﷺ arrival each day. They would go outside after sunrise, hoping to catch sight of him, and return home only when the midday heat became intense. At last, the news spread that Messenger Muhammad ﷺ had arrived. The believers welcomed him with immense happiness, grateful that God had brought His Messenger ﷺ safely to their city.

When the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ finally entered Medina, people lined the streets hoping he would stay in their homes. Rather than choosing himself, he allowed his camel to continue walking until it stopped on its own — trusting that God would guide it to the right place. There, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ settled and later built his mosque. Abu Bakr also settled in Medina, continuing to serve as one of the Messenger Muhammad's ﷺ closest advisers and companions throughout the rest of his life.

One important lesson from this story is the value of complete trust in God while taking the practical means to achieve your goals. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ relied fully on God, yet he carefully planned every detail of the migration, selected a safe route, arranged supplies, and chose trustworthy helpers. This teaches believers that reliance upon God does not contradict neglecting proper preparations; rather, the opposite is true.

Another lesson is the importance of sincere friendship and loyalty. Abu Bakr's devotion to the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was based entirely on faith and his love for God and the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ. He sacrificed his wealth, comfort, safety, and even his life without hesitation. His example reminds Muslims to choose righteous companions who strengthen their faith to support one another during both ease and hardship.

Finally, the migration to Medina teaches us that every sacrifice made for the sake of God carries immense reward. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ and Abu Bakr left behind their homes, possessions, and familiar surroundings to preserve their faith and serve God's Way. Their courage changed the course of history and laid the foundation for the growth of Islam across the world. Their story continues to inspire Muslims to trust God, remain steadfast in faith, and to remember that with sincere belief and perseverance, God always provides a way forward.



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