

Human Rights and the Madina Charter

The Masjid-e-Nabwi was a meeting place of the Muslims as well as headquarter of the administration. Madina was not an all-Muslim town; there were the Jews, too. To create harmony and mutual cooperation, a just and fair treaty was signed by the two parties, the Jews and the Muslims. Some of the important clauses of this treaty were:

- I. The Muslims and the Jews, the parties to this agreement, shall form one community.
- ii. The Jews who sign this pact shall be entitled to assistance by the Muslims, if needed and shall enjoy the same rights as the Muslims do.
- iii. Muslims shall join hands with the Jews to fight anyone who rebels or promotes enmity.
- iv. The Jews shall keep to their own faith and the Muslims to theirs.
- v. If a common enemy attacks Madina, joint resistance by the Jews and the Muslims shall be put up against the enemy.
- vi. All disputes shall be referred for decision to Allah and the Holy Prophet (ﷺ).

This Madina Charter goes far beyond granting equal rights to the minority. It not only granted them protection but also ensured complete liberty in observing their religious rites. They were to be equal partners in peace and war and enjoyed all human rights.

On August 11, 1947 the address of the the Quaid-e-Azam to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan also reflected the spirit of the Madina Charter. He declared the granting of equal rights to all the communities without any discrimination of caste, colour or religion. The incorporation of the clauses of the Madina Charter in the Charter of the Human Rights of the United Nations shows that Islam is the greatest protector of the Human Rights.

Words**Meanings**

treaty	agreement between enemies making peace
declare	announce
incorporation	act of incorporating (to combine into one mass)
create	make something new or original
harmony	agreement of opinion and feelings
mutual	shared
just	in accordance with what is right
fair	not showing favour to any person
clause	a section of a legal document
pact	agreement
entitle	give a right to
rebel	protest strongly
enmity	feelings of hatred or hostility
opposition	to stand against
dispute	controversy , argument
decision	choice made about something
refer	turn to, go to for information
ensure	make sure
observe	watch carefully
rite	religious ceremony
reflect	consider, think on
discrimination	unfair treatment of minority groups
caste	social class, rank

EXERCISES

1. Read the lesson and fill in the missing words to complete the sentences.
 - i. _____ was the meeting place of the Muslims and the headquarters of the administration.
 - ii. The treaty was signed by the _____ and _____.
 - iii. The treaty was meant to create harmony and _____ co-operation.
 - iv. The Madina _____ goes far beyond granting equal rights.
 - v. The Quaid-e-Azam delivered his address to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on _____ 1947.

2. Look up the meaning of these words in the dictionary.

administration	management
harmony	ensure
mutual cooperation	discrimination
treaty	incorporation
stress	resistance
clause	against
establish	dispute
rites	demonstration
observance	reflected
declared	caste

3. Choose the most appropriate (the best) answer.

- i. The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) was forced to migrate to Madina means:
- a) asked to shift b) willing to shift
c) compelled to shift d) unwilling to shift
- ii. The Jews of Madina were treated by the Muslims
- a) as outsiders b) as enemies
c) as equals d) as inferiors
- iii. Two main points of the Madina Charter are
- a) respect and honour b) promise and hope
c) equality and fraternity d) financial support and help
- iv. The main idea of the Quaid-e-Azam's address was
- a) "Develop Pakistan" b) "Equal rights for all"
c) "The Muslims have more rights"
d) "The minorities shall not be given preference"
- v. If an enemy attacks Madina
- a) the Jews will not be permitted to fight.

- b) the Jews and the Muslims shall fight together.
- c) the Muslims will only defend the Muslims.
- d) the Jews will fight for the Jews only.

4. Tick (✓) the statements as true or false.

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|-------|
| i. | Masjid-e-Nabwi was the meeting place of the Muslims. | True | False |
| ii. | Madina was an all Muslim town. | True | False |
| iii. | The Treaty of Madina was signed by the Jews only | True | False |
| iv. | The minorities in Pakistan have to be treated differently. | True | False |
| v. | 'Fraternity' means freedom. | True | False |
| vi. | The Treaty of Madina demonstrates the practical application of the principles of Islam. | True | False |

5. Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions, selecting from these given below.

(to; in, into, with, for, by)

- i. The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) was forced _____ migrate _____ Madina.
- ii. The cases shall be referred _____ decision _____ the Holy Prophet (ﷺ).
- iii. Let us begin to work _____ that spirit.
- iv. The Jews were admitted _____ the Muslim society as equal partners.

6. Use the correct form of the verbs.

- i. An agreement was (write) down.
- ii. The Treaty granted protection and (ensure) equality.
- iii. He has (do) his job to the satisfaction of his superiors.
- iv. The agreement (be) between the Muslims and the Jews.

7. Answer the following questions.

- i. How should enemies be treated according to the Holy Quran?
- ii. Mention any two clauses of the Treaty of Madina.
- iii. What is meant by 'mutual cooperation'?

8. Punctuate the following.

madina was not an all muslim town there were jews too to create harmony and mutual cooperation a just and fair treaty was signed by the two parties the jews and the muslims