

Nadhr ibn Harith, Cousin of the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam)

Great Deceiver and Distracter

Nadhr ibn Harith was very close to the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). In fact, he was the Prophet's cousin so he knew the Prophet very, very well. He tried to instigate the people against the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) through misinforming them and misleading them.

One day, in order to get the attention of the people, he stood amongst them and said, "O people of Quraysh! By Allah, a very serious matter has descended upon you! You will not be able to get out of this situation so easily. Muhammad was a young man who grew up before your eyes. He was a promising young man whom you had high hopes about. He was the most truthful and trustworthy of people. Until now that he has come to you and claimed Prophethood you say that he is a magician.

No, by Allah, he is not a magician. We have seen magicians and their sorcery. (Muhammad doesn't do any of that.)

Then you said he is fortuneteller. But he is not that either, because we know their actions also. (Muhammad doesn't do any of that.)

Then you said he is a poet. But Muhammad does not recite any poetry. The word he recites does not resemble anything like poetry.

Then you said he is a madman. But we have seen madness and Muhammad has none of that.

O people of Quraysh! Look into this matter very seriously, because it is such a matter that you have never dealt with before!"

All this was said by Nadhr to instill more fear into the Quraysh and instigate them against the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) and his teachings. He tried to mislead them into thinking that the Prophet was very intelligent and that he had some secret plan to use his good qualities to trick the people into following him.

He knew that he could not say anything bad about him so he used the Prophet's good qualities to scare the Quraysh.

Distracting the People through Mythical Stories and Fables

Nadhr ibn Harith was well-traveled and very knowledgeable with the different cultures around the world. Once, when he was on the journey to Persia and Rome, he came across their mythical tales of the kings of olden times.

He brought those stories from Arabia with him. When he came back he told the Arabs, "O people! Don't listen to Muhammad and his Qur'an! The stories I am going to tell you are much better than his stories!" It is said that he would play the guitar and sing Persian melodies to them about the kings of old.

Whenever the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa salam) would sit down to recite the beautiful words of the Qur'an to the people, Nadhr ibn Hairth would appear and distract the people from the message of guidance saying, "Come to me everyone! I will relate to you the fantastic tales of the kings of Persia, Rostam and Isfandyar."