



إدراك



— I D R A A K —

The Nusra of Allah

October 2024

As we bid farewell to the month of Rabi'ul Thani, the war machine of Israel continues to spread death and destruction across Gaza. While things may seem hopeless, we ought to remember that Allah is Al-Nasser, The Helper, and there is no Nusra without Him. Join us in this month's Issue as we look back across history and remember the great generals like Khaled ibn Walid, Tariq ibn Ziyad and Sallahudeen, who, by the will and help of Allah, spread and defended Islam. We make dua that Allah may once again send us righteous warriors who will defend our brothers in sisters where the enemies of Allah spread corruption and mischief. Ameen.

Did you know?

During the battle of Al-Qadisissyah, the Rashidun soldiers came face to face with a cavalry of elephants led by the Sassanid army. While this was a new threat faced by the Muslims in war, they did not let it weaken their faith and resolve. In a moment of creativity, the Muslims disguised their camels as strange monsters as a means to counter the psychological fear being caused by the Persian elephants.

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THE TRUSTWORTHY GUARDIAN

For a nation to be successful, it needs leaders who have one very important quality: trustworthiness. The companion who received that distinction was the great companion Abu Obaidah ibn al-Jarrah. He was the one about whom the Prophet PBUH said “Every nation has a trustworthy guardian, and the trustworthy guardian of this Ummah is Abu Obaidah ibn al-Jarrah.”¹ Abu Obaidah showed his love and preference for Islam when, on the battlefield of Uhud, he chose to kill his hostile

polytheistic father for the sake of Allah. This commitment to the cause of Islam was recorded by Allah in verse 22 of surah Mujadilah, where He said, “You will not find a people who believe in Allāh and the Last Day having affection for those who oppose Allāh and His Messenger, even if they were their fathers or their sons or their brothers or their kindred.”

This great companion participated in many of the

early and famous events in the history of Islam. He fought in the Battle of Badr and witnessed the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah. Later on, he led the armies of Islam in the lands of Shaam against the Byzantines, conquered many cities, and accepted the surrender of many others. However, despite the temptations of wealth, power, and rulership being dangled in front of his eyes by those he conquered, he never once gave in to these temptations and remained faithful to the title which the Prophet PBUH granted him: the Trustworthy Guardian of this Ummah.

Through Abu Obaida, we learn one of the most crucial qualities that a leader must have if his nation is to succeed and not be overcome with corruption or

greed is trustworthiness. Not just in the general sense, though it is important, but rather in being trustworthy enough to put the interests of Islam and the people ahead of your own personal interests. Abu Obaidah could have taken the lands of Shaam for himself and rule over them like the self-righteous and self-interested conquerors before him, such as Caesar and Alexander, thereby inspiring greed and corruption among his soldiers and the masses. Instead, Abu Obaidah remained loyal to Allah, Islam, the Khalifa, and the Muslims, embodying the teaching of the Prophet PBUH when he said, “The religion is sincerity,” and when it was asked, “To who?” he responded, “To Allah, his

Book, His Messenger, and to the leaders of the Muslims and their common folk.”²

Therein lies one of the most critical problems we have with our “leaders”: no trustworthiness or integrity to put the cause of Allah ahead of their interests. Where are those leaders who are ready to sacrifice their worldly comforts for the sake of Allah, Islam, and the Muslims? Where are those leaders willing to remain faithful to the trust which Allah has given them? Where are those leaders who will happily fulfill their covenant with Allah even if a painful death awaits them? May Allah revive such leaders within our struggling Ummah! Ameen.

Did you know?

Masjid al-Aqsa and al-Quds and the land of Shaam are mentioned in the Holy Quran well over 70 times. The importance of al-Aqsa is such that not only did the Holy Prophet (SAW) visit it during the Journey of the Night (Isra), but it was also the site of the original Qibla. While all three Abrahamic religions lay claim and importance to Jerusalem, only under Muslim control has the Holy Land seen periods of growth, prosperity and peace.

BURN THE SHIPS

When we think of Muslim lands, we often picture countries in the Middle East, like Saudi Arabia or Iraq or in Asia, like Pakistan and Indonesia. However, one modern-day country we tend to forget was once also Daar ul Islam is Spain. While mentioning modern-day Spain may bring to mind things like bullfights and the architecture of great cathedrals, Spain was once a bustling Caliphate known as Al-Andalus.

In the year 711(CE), Muslim armies of the Umayyad

Caliphate led by commander Tariq ibn Ziyad crossed into the Iberian Peninsula from what is now modern-day Morocco. Crossing the sea, Tariq and his armies landed at the foothills of a mountain, later known as Jabal Tariq (Mountain of Tariq, or Gibraltar). It is here where, according to historian Al-Maggari, Tariq ibn Ziyad famously burned his ships as he beckoned his troops, saying, “Oh my warriors, whither would you flee? Behind you is the sea, before you, the enemy.

You have left now only the hope of your courage.” This faith that Tariq placed in Allah was driven only by the will to spread Islam, for he knew there were two options: shariah or shahadat.

Though outnumbered in battle, the army of Tariq defeated the Visigoth King Rodrick. It was only through the Nusrah of Allah that Hispania came under the banner of Islam. Before the battle, Tariq told his troops, “Remember that I place myself in the front of this glorious charge which I exhort you to make. At the moment when the two armies meet hand to hand, you will see me, never doubt it, seeking out this Roderick,

tyrant of his people, challenging him to combat, if God is willing.” Unlike today’s leaders, Tariq was on the frontlines of this battle, leading his armies towards victory. Tariq’s aim was not land, leadership or riches; it was simply to spread the word of Allah and the message of the Holy Prophet (SAW).

Understanding how the Caliphate of Al-Andalus began, we must now question how it treated its subjects. Unlike the Visigoth kingdom, which persecuted Jews, the Caliphate of Al-Andalus allowed Judaism to flourish into a golden age of scholarship. Many historians have argued that

the conquest of Tariq essentially saved Judaism in Spain and allowed Christianity to continue in its practice. The same, of course, cannot be said for the barbaric Reconquista, which aimed to exterminate Muslims without a shred of humanity and mercy. Much like Israel, which forgets the mercy and friendship extended by Muslims throughout history as it attempts to fulfill its bloodlust at the cost of Palestinian lives.

We can only make dua that Allah will once again give us courageous leaders like Tariq ibn Ziyad who bring motivation and victory to the Muslims and dedicate their lives and struggles to spreading the deen and establishing the law. Ameen.

Did you know?

In an early battle with the Sassanid empire, spies were sent by the Persian commander Rostam to observe the habits of the Muslim forces. The Muslim forces were seen by spies cutting down a miswak tree and distributing its pieces among their men. Not knowing this was a sunnah of the Prophet (SAW) being observed, the Persian spies mistakenly thought the Muslims were eating the tree and reported their findings back to Rostam causing a surge of fear and bewilderment among Sassanid troops who believed the Muslims would in turn eat their enemies.



Tangier Morocco. (By Al Mahmud @theihsanway)



In the 16th year after Hijra (638 CE), al-Quds (Jerusalem) was conquered by the Muslims under the leadership of the second Khalifa of Islam, Umar ibn al-Khattab, and it remained part of the domain of Islam until 492 AH (1099 CE) when the Crusaders tore it from the Muslims in a bloody and barbaric manner. It would not be returned to Muslim hands until 583 AH (1187 CE) at the hands of Salahideen al-Ayyubi by the Grace of Allah.

The history of Quds coincides with the upswings and downswings of the ummah. Whenever the ummah was far from Allah, weak, and divided, they lost or were about to lose al-Quds; when they turned back to Allah, strong and united, they retook al-Quds or retained control over it against the odds. The story of Salahideen is emblematic of the struggle which the ummah has faced and continues to face up until this time, with the people of

Palestine being besieged and genocided, and al-Quds facing destruction at this very moment; may Allah bring victory to them and the Muslims!

The story begins in 532 AH (1138 CE) with a young boy who is born in Tikrit, modern-day Iraq, who is named Yusuf ibn Ayyub and will grow up to be the famous Muslim leader known by his more common name, Salahideen. Despite what one might expect of such a successful political and military leader, the young boy had a very academic upbringing, where his father had him focus on the Islamic sciences and memorizing the Quran. Later, he would serve under his great predecessor, Nur al-Din al-Zengi, where he would distinguish himself as an effective and intelligent commander and

eventually take the title of Sultan after his mentor's passing.

When we think of Salahideen's main achievements, we usually think of the reconquest of al-Quds and his main adversaries, the crusading European Christians, but the true challenge was much greater and the foe more dangerous. The true challenge that Salahideen had to overcome early on as the Sultan was the internal enemies posing as Muslims. During his time, the Shia Fatimids, who proclaimed they were Muslim, allied with the Crusaders in their fight against the Abbasids and Turks on many occasions. It goes without saying that knowingly aiding non-Muslims in fighting and killing Muslims removes one from the fold of Islam either

due to disbelief or Nifaq (hypocrisy), never mind participating in a war against the Muslims! It was these internal enemies who caused division and disunity within the lands of Islam and made it difficult for the Muslims to overcome the invading Christians. Subduing these enemies was the first critical step to achieving any lasting victory for Islam.

We would be wise to reflect on this history and the current situation of our Ummah. Despite being nearly two billion strong and possessing vast resources and wealth, we are still unable to aid our brothers and sisters in the Levant, nor are we able to effectively stand up to the European Zionist colonial and genocidal entity and free Al-Aqsa from their stranglehold. Is

it perhaps because our priorities are backwards? Are we focused on the correct threat, the enemy masquerading as brothers in faith? We would do well to root out those individuals, groups, cults, and governments who are directly or indirectly supporting the genocide in Gaza and oppose any effort to resist this most horrific of crimes. Those who claim to be from the people of the Quran and Sunnah, yet they only offer condemnation and insult to any who resists the genocidal regime. Reflect and act before it's too late!



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SWEET ROMAN BLOOD

Photo By Al Mahmud @theihsanway

Imagine in the modern day, a small tribe of Inuit folks from Alaska, with limited manpower and resources, single-handedly toppled the armies and governments of both America and Russia within the span of a few years. This is perhaps the closest contemporary example one can give of how a small Arab tribe came from a barren desert, went to war with two of the biggest and most powerful empires at the time (the Byzantines and Sasanians) and created a dynasty that would

thrive and continue to expand for centuries.

Under the Khilafah of Umar ibn Al-Khattab (RA), the great general and Sahabi Khalid ibn Waleed (RA) led the armies of Islam to swift victory. Perhaps one of the most well-known battles which Khalid ibn Waleed led was the battle of Yarmuk. Syria had been under Roman-Christian control for over seven centuries when Khalid led his armies to the river of Yarmuk to face the Byzantine

forces. At this time, the Byzantines had already previously fought the Persian Sassanids, who were much more advanced and well-equipped than the Muslims in manpower and weaponry. Being one of the strongest empires at the time, the Byzantines did not initially see the armies of the Rashidun Khilafah as a substantial threat. Furthermore, the Muslim army was outnumbered 140,000 to 24,000. Only those who carried firm faith in the help of Allah would have had any hope for a Muslim victory.

When Khalid ibn Waleed came face to face with Vahan, the Byzantine general, the Muslim forces were met with ridicule and dismissal. Having been seen only as poor bedouins from barren lands, Vahan did not take the threat of Khalid ibn

Waleed's forces seriously. Vahan, with great underestimation, arrogantly said, "We know that hardship and hunger have brought you out of your lands. We will give every one of your men 100 dinars, clothing, and food if you return to your lands, and next year, we will send you a similar amount if you vow never to return." In response and outrage to the pride and arrogance shown by the Roman commander, Khalid famously replied, "It was not hunger that brought us here. What brought us out of our lands is that

we Arabs are a people who drink blood, and we are told the blood of the Romans is the sweetest of its kind."

Khalid ibn Waleed's rebuttal to the Byzantine pride and ego is said to have struck fear into the hearts of Vahan's soldiers. The battle of Yarmuk lasted only six days, and due to the strength, ferocity, and courage of Khalid and his soldiers, a large number of Byzantine troops abandoned their posts and fled, leading to swift victory in the name of Islam and the eventual downfall of the once-great Roman empire.

When facing one of the largest and most well-equipped militaries at the time, what else could drive the soldiers of Allah if not their Eman and Tawaqul? The same can be seen in our brave Mujahideen fighting in Palestine today; with outdated weaponry and guerilla tactics, they continue to fight against one of the most well-equipped and heavily armed military forces in the world. As

Muslims, we should remain consistent in making dua to Allah so that He may give aid to those fighting for the lives and well-being of our brothers and sisters in the Ummah. Furthermore, we should make dua that Allah may bring forth warriors like Khalid ibn Waleed, who fear none but Allah, Ameen.

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Al-Ansaar: 1 (855) 633-6222

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Info@Alansaar.ca



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