

Chapter – 16

'Amr bin al-'Aas

(605 - 663 AD)

His name is 'Amr and his Kunnyias are Abu 'Abdullah and Abu Muhammad. His father's name is 'Aas and mother's name is Nabgha. His stature was small but he was having very strong built. His body was capable of bearing all kinds of labor. His forehead was wide open and eyes were black and big. By his face he looked like belonging to a prominent family.

Shortly before the conquest of Makkah, both 'Amr bin al-'Aas and Khalid bin Walid reached Madinah together to see Allah's Prophet and they requested for allegiance and converted to Islam. Since before accepting Islam, 'Amr was one of the fiercest opponents of it, so on this occasion 'Amr was feeling embarrassed. So he said to the Noble Prophet, "*O Messenger of Allah! Please forgive my past sins*". The Prophet said, "*Amr! Pledge allegiance and do emigrate. Islam pardons past sins*".

The Prophet was pleased with 'Amr by his acceptance of Islam. The Noble Prophet had full confidence on his intelligence and military abilities as well. That is why he sometimes chose him as the leader of the battlefield. Sometimes he gave him the responsibility for demolition of idols, and sometimes he made him as envoy of Islam and gave the task of preaching. 'Amr bin al-'Aas had successfully carried out every assignments and met the trust of the Noble Prophet. As a result

of his preaching, two ruling brothers of Oman state became Muslims. On this, the Prophet was very much delighted with him and assigned him for the work of teaching of the Qur'an and Islam in Oman.

When the Caliph of Abu Bakr came, he summoned 'Amr bin al-'Aas from Oman to Madinah and entrusted him with the task of dealing with the apostates tribe of Banu Qazayah. For this, 'Amr had to go for a customary fight with these apostates. He defeated them and received Zakat from them and restored them to Islam. Then he returned to Oman. In the year 13AH/635AD, Abu Bakr gave him the expedition to Palestine. Since the Roman army was very large in numbers, therefore soldiers of Khalid bin Walid and Abu 'Abeedah were also dispatched to assist them. After the intense battle the Muslims got victory.

During the reign of 'Umar when the Muslims had captured Syria then keeping in view the Egypt's prosperity, its fertile land and its important trade centers, 'Amr bin al-'Aas suggested 'Umer not only to move towards this land but also requested for himself to assign on this expedition. When his request was granted 'Amr bin al-'Aas first went to the famous Egyptian city of Ferma. Here the Romans were already prepared for this war so they fought, but finally the Romans were defeated. Then 'Amr proceeded to Alexandria and besieged the city. This city was so stable that despite two years of siege, there was no result. Eventually, their fortresses were raided and then the whole city was conquered in a single attack. Thus, the second Roman capital came under the control of the Muslims. Under his command, strong and well-known cities like Baraka, Zoila, Tripoli and Sabruta were also conquered. In this way, 'Amr bin al-'Aas became the "Conqueror of Egypt",

after which 'Umar made him the Governor of Egypt. 'Amr bin al-'Aas remained in this position till the time of 'Uthman.

In the year 27AH/658AD, Hazrat 'Uthman deposed him and appointed 'Abdullah Ibn Sa'ad as Governor of Egypt, so he had to come back to Madinah. Here, when 'Amr bin al-'Aas felt uncomfortable, he left Madinah and went to Palestine.

When Amir Muawiyah's reign began, then 'Amr bin al-'Aas was restored to the Governorship of Egypt. After that he spent the rest of his life there. He died in 42AH/663AD.

'Amr bin al-'Aas did not have any comparison in respect of controlling the emotions. He didn't care about his emotions more than the intellect. He was of the opinion of :

***"When a man gives his opinion and at that time if he controls
his personal desires then he is really powerful, and
when a man removes his ignorance with his benevolence
then he is truly brave."***

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