

Chapter – 23

Musa Bin Naseer

(640 - 716 AD)

Musa Bin Naseer was born in 19AH/640AD in Kafarmara, a Syrian village. Musa was the slave of Abdul Aziz bin Marwan. Abdul Aziz freed him in 78AH/697AD and sent him to Africa with a small group of soldiers. Musa bin Naseer first reached to Egypt and then traveled to other parts of Africa. Growing up as an ordinary soldier with his extraordinary abilities, he became a Commander and eventually joined in the list of Muslim conquerors.

Musa bin Naseer remained between 86AH/705AD and 94AH/713AD with the army of Umayyad ruler Walid bin Abdul Malik. Initially, he was engaged in a war with the African barbarians. He first took control of them and then capturing their cities he reached to Tanja. After that, Musa wanted to conquer the coastal cities, so he took further steps in this regard. With the permission of the Caliph, he proceeded to al-Andalus. First, he headed for a small island of Andalus. The island was virtually the boat house for Andalus people. This place was having major factories of boats. Here Musa achieved victories and here he got such a large booty that he had never seen before. This victory helped in increasing the moral of the Muslims.

Andalus was a developed country in those days and the whole area was very green and prosperous. This place was in

the rule of the Gath family for centuries. Their governance had also reached to its peak. In respect of grandness and grandeur, they were also considered to be the successor of the Roman Empire. In this background, Musa bin Naseer wished more to move forward towards Andalus. Julian, the Greek Countess of Constantinople, also wanted to join the Muslims in attacking Andalus. So Musa bin Naseer informed his Caliph Walid all about the situation. The Caliph allowed him to proceed forward. But, for this purpose, Musa bin Naseer considered it appropriate to first send an army under the command of Tariq bin Ziyad. In 92AH/711AD, he sent Tariq bin Ziyad to Andalus, under the supervision of Count Julian, with an army of seven thousand. The army departed on four ships and crossed Tariq Strait and reached Jabal Tariq (*Gibraltar*).

Tariq bin Ziyad fought against the army of Theodomir of Gath and succeeded. But nearby Roderick's large army reached immediately for the aid of Theodomir. When Musa bin Naseer came to know about this, he also sent extra reinforcements to help his army. There was a heavy attack on the banks of the river between the two armies in the valley of Kadis. Despite the small number of Muslim army, they fought and succeeded with the unity and fighting spirit. They all went ahead and conquered Astaja as well.

A few months later, Musa bin Naseer also met with Tariq. Count Julian continued to help Muslims. After the battle of Astaja, he advised both of them that they should now move to Qartaba, Granada (*Garnata*), Malaga and Murcia. So a new strategy was planned and accordingly a separate army was deployed for these places. Ultimately, the whole of Andalus was conquered.

The stay of Tariq bin Ziyad in Andalus was about three and a half years, while Musa bin Naseer stayed there for two

and a half years. Both of them returned from Andalus in 95AH/714AD. In this short period, here the Islamic rule was established on a large area.

For the whole of Andalus, the coastal region of Ishbiliya was made the capital, and Abdul Aziz, the son of Musa bin Naseer, became Emperor. Prior to the departure of Musa bin Naseer he made Count Julian as the ruler of the province of Murcia and its vicinity for his services.

Musa bin Naseer left Damascus with the intention of Hajj in 97AH/716AD. Undoubtedly his achievements have been prominent on the pages of East and West history. Musa bin Naseer was one among *التابعين* "*the follower of the Companions*". He had the company of the Senior Companions and get benefitted. He also used to narrate hadith. Musa bin Naseer was also distinguished by his faithfulness, righteousness and knowledge.