

Chapter – 25

Muhammad Bin Qasim

(695 - 715 AD)

Mohammed bin Qasim was a Syrian Arab. Shortly after the death of his father, his mother was responsible for his upbringing. In addition to her personal hard work, she arranged for his education and supervision through high-quality teachers. Hajjaj Bin Yusuf, the uncle of Muhammad bin Qasim, also cared him very much. Mohammed bin Qasim's extraordinary intelligence was evident on all from his childhood. His uncle further enhanced his skills with his training and made him more skillful. Muhammad Bin Qasim was still a boy when his uncle handed him over to Qutaiba bin Muslim for his military training.

The period of Muhammad bin Qasim's youth was such that the Islamic empire was already spread over a vast area. The Umayyad Caliphate was ruled by Walid bin Abdul Malik. Damascus was the capital city of that throne. In those days Hajjaj bin Yusuf was the Governor of Iraq. His son-in-law, Mohammad bin Qasim, was made as a governor of Persia at the age of just 16, because of his God-given abilities. He too proved himself to be a great administrator.

In those days, Arabs used to travel by sea for trade. Once, on way back from Lanka a ship arrived at Debal, the port of Sindh,. The Sindh dacoits attacked on that ship and took away all their belongings. There were also women in that ship who

were stopped by those robbers. Earlier, with these Arabs, there had been more incidences in Sindh as well. When all of these things were reported to Hajjaj Bin Yusuf, and after the recent incident, he demanded Raja Dahir of Sind to the return of Arab women. Raja Dahir refused, that led to the decision of Hajjaj bin Yusuf to invade Sindh.

Hajjaj first thought that a small attack would be enough to deal with Raja Dahir. So he attacked once, but his guess turned out to be wrong. After that, it was found inevitable to go for a complete armed preparations and have a proper fight. For the second time, a large army led by Muhammad bin Qasim was sent to Debal. In 92AH/711AD, Mohammed bin Qasim reached Debal. As soon as the people of Debal heard about this issue, all of them first closed themselves in the fort. So Muhammad bin Qasim besieged the city, and dug the trenches all around and installed the nails. The people of the city defended for months. Then Hajjaj sent his orders that they now start throwing stones on the Debal wall without wasting any time. so they did so. No sooner the dome of the wall broke the courage of the people of Debal also gone down. Then the Muslim army climbed on the fencing wall, and as a result the entire city came into occupation. King Dahir of Sindh ran away.

Mohammed bin Qasim then turned towards Niron from Debal. The King of this place was already under the influence on the victory of Muslims over Debal, so he found it appropriate to surrender and reconcile. After that, the Islamic army proceeded onward. They first conquered Bahraj. Then came the turn of Suistan. After that, Sesum and Ishihar also came in to their custody. Then the river Indus was indented to be crossed. For that a bridge of boats was immediately built and then river crossed. The capital city of King Dahir was also

attacked. On all these places, a continuous resistance of Raja Dahir's army had to be faced. But on every step constant victories were accomplished. After a final battle at Rawar, in the month of Ramazan, 93AH/712AD, Muhammad Bin Qasim got the victory over Sindh completely, .

Evidences from history indicate that Muhammad bin Qasim arrived in Sindh at the age of 17 and he remained here only for three and a half years. In this short period, not only he conquered the whole of Sindh, but here he formed such a fair government that even enemies also acknowledged with their praise. Whatever area he conquered, after accepting obedience, he generally restored them in the government. The local Hindus continued to serve in the administrative positions. However, in order to get better management and fair justice, he appointed his own representatives in sensitive positions. Traders and farmers were also affected by the war, so compensation was paid. The taxes were waived off for the farmers. Anyways, such immediate reforms were imposed that led to the appreciation for the arrival of Muslims. The local people were so impressed by Mohammed bin Qasim himself that they started to come under the shadow of Islam voluntarily. In the history of Sindh, Maulai Islam Deebli is remembered as an elderly person who became Muslim under the pledge of Muhammad bin Qasim.

On the contrary, the irony of history is that Walid bin Abdul Malik died in 96AH/715AD, and Suleiman bin Abdul Malik took over the charge. He strongly disliked Hajjaj bin Yusuf, and consequently Mohammed bin Qasim could also not be escaped with his resentment. In his place, Yazid ibn Kabshah was sent as Governor of Sindh. He arrested Mohammad bin Qasim and imprisoned him and tortured him. As a result, at the age of 21 only, the youngest conqueror of the world history was suffered by the aggression his own people,