

Chapter – 50

Nooruddin Zangi

(1118 - 1174 AD)

The last period of the eleventh century was the period in which the religious conflict between Christians and Muslims began in the form of the Crusade wars. There were subsequent 8 Crusade wars and these wars continued until the year 1270AD, and. The services of the two Emperors of Zangi family, Emaduddin Zangi and his son Nooruddin Zangi, of the Mosul, are considered worthy of being written in golden letters to lead the Muslim nation in the second Crusade war.

Nooruddin Mahmood Zangi became the ruler of Hulb in 1146AD after the death of his father. Within a short time, he had to show his power to a rebellion led by Christian Jocelyn of Odessa, and he got success in it. In 1150AD, Nooruddin fought against the Christians of Antakya and defeated them as well. One year after, he also conquered Afamia. Then Nooruddin Zangi advanced towards the Christian castles in Syria, resulting in the conquest of several forts. Then the clashes began in Damascus which eventually ended in its occupation. In 1155AD, the Abbasid Caliph, Muqtazi, was inspired by the spirit of Nooruddin Zangi for his Jihad against the British and gave him the title of "Malik Adil" and offered him the Kingdom of Egypt as well. In 1164AD, there was another important event of him with the Crusaders in Syria. In this, all the Christians of Syria had gathered for the battle. Even their Priest came out to

fight. After three months of bloody war, the crusaders were defeated and their prominent nobles were arrested.

Sultan Nooruddin Zangi was very concerned about the interests of Muslims. He did not charge war tax in their occupied areas. During his tenure, he performed many works of public welfare. In all the occupied countries, he built roads, hospitals, inns, monasteries and fort-walls. Nooruddin was not only a soldier, but he was very keen in getting the knowledge and writing as well. He collected hadiths related to the subjects of justice, charity and mercy, and also compiled a book named "Fakhr al-Noori" on these subjects. He was well aware of the Fiqh of Imam Abu Hanifah. At different places, he built many Madrasa of Hanafi Jurisprudence and Shafii' Fiqh as well.

An important event of the year 1162AD of Nooruddin Mahmood Zangi is also recorded in the history. According to the book "History of Madinah al-Munawwara", the details of this famous event are such that one night Nooruddin Zangi had a dream wherein he saw the Noble Prophet. The Noble Prophet pointed him out to two men with blue eyes and said, "*Protect me from both of them*". Immediately upon receiving this order of the Prophet, Nooruddin arrived in Madinah from Egypt. On arrival, an announcement was made in the city for a get together. In this invitation, the Sultan met each and every individual of the city and he also honored the people with royal awards. On this occasion, he also kept watching every man with a keen eye and sought the specific faces that he saw in the dream, but he did not succeed. He asked that if there was any another person left in the city, he should also be called. It was reported that there are two major pious devotees who live in a solitary place. They were also invited by the order of the Sultan. When the King saw them, he recognized that they were the

persons. When they started investigating about them nothing could be revealed except their piety, courage and generosity. Out of the blue the king thought that his place of worship should be seen in detail. When the sack of his room was detached, a suspicious stone was encountered. When it was removed, a tunnel appeared that was going towards the holy tomb. After that, both of them had no other way except to tell the whole truth. They said that they were Christians and that their king had given them extraordinary wealth with the task to bring the body of the Noble Prophet from Madinah. After this confession, they were immediately killed. Then Sultan Nooruddin Zangi built a lead wall all around the room of the graves, so that no such reckless daring could be thought of in the future.

Nooruddin Zangi died on 6th May 1174AD. He was considered an upright person and a ruler conforming to justice. To answer for his people, he would appear in the judge's court and insist that justice should be done without any regard to his position. He used to spend very less amount for his owns. He was very careful about trust. In the eyes of the public, he was a treasure of virtues and uprightness. Even the Crusaders were overwhelmed with his high character.