

## Chapter – 51

## Salahuddin Ayubi

(1138 - 1193 AD)

The Ayubi family is genetically a branch of the Zangi family. These people belonged to the Kurdish nation. The Kurds lived in ancient times in the mountainous region between Iran and Asia Kochak. They were very similar to the Arabs in tribal life, hospitality, patriotism and the protection of their honor. Salahuddin was born in 1138AD at the place named Tikrit. His father's name is Najmuddin Ayub.

In 1138AD, Emaduddin Zangi conquered Baa'lbek, after which Salahuddin's father was made the Governor of Baa'lbek. Later, his son Nooruddin Zangi also retained Najmuddin Ayub as his deputy. So Salahuddin's childhood and youth was mostly spent in Damascus.

Salahuddin Ayubi began his practical life with a Ministry in Egypt. He received this post in 1169AD after the death of Sher Koh. Salahuddin, with his intelligence and generosity, soon made the Egyptians as their favorite. In the very first year, he had to fight against the Christians in Gaza and Eila, in which he got the victory. The second attack was made on Alkirk, for which he received the support of Nooruddin Zangi as well. Alexandria was attacked by Christians in 1174AD, and they were defeated. The same year Nooruddin Zangi passed away. As a result, Salahuddin had to take action to crush the revolts in Mosul and Hulb. Until that time, Salahuddin already had full

control over Egypt and its surrounding areas, but after these recent measures, he became the ruler without sharing for Damascus, Homs, Qore and Hama. In this way, after the death of Nooruddin Zangi, Salahuddin was recognized as the most powerful ruler from Egypt to Baghdad.

In 1175AD, Salahuddin Ayubi formally declared his Kingdom and kept the title of "Sultan". This year, in Syria and Egypt, his name was incorporated in the Friday Sermons, and prayers were begged for him. Coins of his name (*Al-Malik al-Nasser Yusuf bin Ayub*) were also issued. Caliph of Baghdad also endorsed his royal authority, and he was given formal orders and honors as King of Egypt and Syria.

In 1182AD Salahuddin moved his station from Egypt to Syria. By 1186AD, Sultan Salahuddin Ayubi not only fully managed the internal affairs of the empire, but by then all the Islamic states around it had also been submissive to him.

Prince Reginald had already clashed with Muslims more than once. It was his ambitions that somehow he could destroy the main Muslim's centers i.e., Makkah and Madinah. Salahuddin was getting news of fresh preparations of battle from the European Prince, Reginald. So he started gathering armies from all sides. According to the new situation, he set the center of its high command in Damascus. By early 1187AD, he had made all preparations to tackle for any kind of war.

In the month of July, there was a strong raid on the sites of Tibriya and Hatien and Salahuddin got success in it. The prisoners of this massacre included King Giudy Tousgton and Prince Reginald. The Crusaders occupied Jerusalem in 1099AD. Not only this, they also dealt with brutal atrocities with Muslim prisoners. So Salahuddin immediately turned towards Jerusalem, and until September 1187AD, here too, he laid the flags of his victory.

Success was achieved, but at the same time, the circumstances of the Third Great Crusade were initiated. Since after the defeat in the last two Crusades, the Christian priests had already set fire against Muslims throughout Europe. Now, they decided to make a major war with the Muslims. For this war, the Christian army was gathered at the site of Akka. This Third Crusade took place from 1189AD to 1191AD in three phases. Throughout the history of the Crusades so many commanders had never participated in any war. The war lasted for complete three years. During this period, according to Machad, there were more than 100 battles and 90 major clashes took place. Sultan Salahuddin Ayubi fiercely contested the Allied forces of Europe and did not allow them to reach the wall of Akka.

The third phase of the Akka war was the period on which one can say that this was the end of the Crusade wars. Because this war was unique of its own in terms of numbers. History also tells that Salahuddin Ayubi, despite his constant conquest and with all his might, he always treated very well with the Christian prisoners. For that, even the European historians also acknowledge this fact.