

Our Spain and Ramadhaan

We spoke about many spiritual aspects of Ramadhaan and we will continue to do so Inshaa Allah Ta'aala. However, just as Ramadhaan was the month of worship, it was also the month of some of the greatest Islamic victories and some very important historical events occurred in Ramadhaan.

The victory of Badr (the one that is called the criterion in the Qur'an):

...يَوْمَ الْفُرْقَانِ يَوْمَ التَّقْيِ الْجَمْعَانِ... ﴿الأنفال: ٤١﴾

The Day of criterion (between right and wrong), the Day when the two forces met (The Battle of Badr). (Surat al-Anfaal: 41)

The battle that Allah honoured Islam with took place in Ramadhaan.

The conquest of all conquests (the entry to Makkah) took place in Ramadhaan.

إِنَّا فَتَحْنَا لَكَ فَتْحًا مُّبِينًا ﴿الفتح: ١﴾

Verily, We have given you (O Muhammad sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) a manifest victory. (Surat al-Fath: 1)

The Battle of 'Ayn Jaaloot (عين جالوت) and many other historical events took place in Ramadhaan. One of the greatest Islamic victories after the Prophet Muhammad sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam and the Sahaabah, was a great victory that took place in Ramadhaan ninety two years after the Hijrah. It was a great victory that many Muslims do not know about (especially the young youth growing up), and many of the others who do know about it do not take pride in it.

The roots of it was during the time of Uthmaan Ibn Affaan – he attempted to conquer Qustanteeniyyah (قسطنطينية) but he was not able to. At-Tabari, Ibn Katheer and al-Humyari (historians) said when Uthmaan was not able to enter Qustanteeniyyah (which is Constantinople), he gave advice as to how it would be opened. He said it needs to be opened through the waters – you can only get there through the waters. That was the goal of many Muslim leaders and it was an honour for them to go and conquer Qustanteeniyyah. Uthmaan Ibn Affaan radhiyallahu 'anhu said whoever conquers Spain (Andalus) will be a partner in reward for whoever conquers Qustanteeniyyah. Why did he say that? Because it is the path to Qustanteeniyyah.

When the Muslims reached North Africa (by Morocco), there was a governor there in North Africa called Musa Ibn Nusayr. He was born during the time of Umar Ibn al-Khattaab radhiallahu 'anhu, and he is one of the greatest Islamic heroes. He wanted to expand and there were two directions they could go in – they could go to the desert or they could go to Andalus. They chose Andalus because they wanted to liberate people and deal with people – Muslims deal with people, not with sand. He wanted to conquer Andalus but he faced many obstacles and difficulties. First of all, the water – there was 13km of water they had to cross before they got to Andalus, and him and his army did not have ships. They were also facing the obstacle of crusaders on islands behind them. Before they got to the main enemy, there were little islands behind them and he feared they may attack them from the back if they reached Andalus. He did not have enough Muslim soldiers to face the massive crusader army, and he also had no idea about the geographic details in Andalus. However, he was determined and those obstacles and more only made him even more determined. That is when he began to build ships and he learned that from Mu'aawiyah Ibn Abi Sufyaan radhiallahu 'anhu, because he lived around him and he saw how they build ships. His father was also a close friend of Mu'aawiyah Ibn Abi Sufyaan radhiallahu 'anhu. So he began to build the ships eighty eight years after the Hijrah, which would be about 706 in the western calendar.

If you look at Musa Ibn Nusayr, his biggest accomplishment in preparing was teaching Muslims Islam (especially the new reverts). Do not minimise the structured teaching of Islam. That is the path to victory and without it many get moved by emotions, which he could have done. If you look at Noor ad-Deen and the category of Noor ad-Deen, they prepared men through knowledge and Halaqaat. Many do not know those people. Salah ad-Deen did not just wake up one day, take an army and go fight the crusaders. There was a lot of work done behind the scenes (in teaching) that many do not know about – teaching Islam, Qur'an, Tajweed, Fiqh, Usool and everything.

Musa Ibn Nusayr established intensive Islamic study (what you would call courses today) to teach the non-Arabs (Barbar Amaazeegh (بربر أمازيغ)). He wanted to teach them and he wanted Islam fully rooted in their hearts. The Barbar Amaazeegh are among the most difficult people to deal with and they are more difficult to change, but by the will of Allah and the strategy of these Halaqaat, they changed. In fact, you see the affect of that change generations after that. When the French occupied Algeria for a hundred and thirty years, they tried to get them away from their religion in every possible way they could. However, during that time and after that time, they were more firm, enthusiastic and loyal to Islam than they were before the occupation.

Musa Ibn Nusayr taught the Amaazeegh Islam – 'Aqeedah, Tawheed, Fiqh and so on through a structured curriculum. It was very easy for Musa to give a couple of fiery Khutbahs and move the masses by emotion, and they probably could have got victory like that. He could have inspired them and got victory like that, but what happens? Over time emotions fade, evaporate and change, so you do not want men led solely by emotions and that is an epidemic today. After the

structure and the foundation, then yes emotions. The Barbar who only five years ago fought Islam, were now soldiers prepared to do one of the greatest conquests in the history of Islam.

Musa Ibn Nusayr chose a general and another hero – Taariq Ibn Ziyaad – a man who died a hundred and two years after the Hijrah. Taariq Ibn Ziyaad was not even an Arab – he was a Barbar Amaazeegh. Musa Ibn Nusayr put him over other Arabs. Why? Because this Arab and non-Arab issue did not work with him. Tribalism, nationalism, secularism and racism does not work – it is Laa Ilaaha Illallah Muhammadar-Rasoolullah.

...إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ... ﴿الحجرات: ١٣﴾

Verily, the most honourable of you with Allah is that (believer) who has At-Taqua [i.e. one of the Muttaqoon (pious)]. (Surat al-Hujuraat: 13)

Not only was Taariq a non-Arab, but he was a revert. He embraced Islam at the hands of Musa Ibn Nusayr and he was a revert raised by him. Over fifteen years ago, I said that legends raise legends and cowards raise cowards. That is the general rule, there are some exceptions but rules are not based on exceptions. Today you see western deluded sell outs raising their likes – western deluded sell outs produce western deluded sell outs and that is an epidemic. So legends raise legends and cowards raise cowards.

A non-Arab, a revert and an ex-slave, but according to the standards of today Taariq Ibn Ziyaad was an 'Aalim. He memorised the Qur'an at a young age and he learned Fiqh. I am not saying it based on assumption or because of what he did, I am saying this based on what history says about him. Ninety two years after the Hijrah in Ramadhaan, Taariq Ibn Ziyaad took an army of twelve thousand (some say eighteen thousand but I believe it is really twelve thousand), they crossed the waters and as soon as they landed, he gave a long eloquent speech starting off:

أيها الناس ، أين المفر ؟ البحر من ورائكم ، والعدو أمامكم ، وليس لكم والله إلا الصدق والصبر

O people, where are you going to flee to? The water is behind you, the enemy is in front of you, and all you have is to be truthful with Allah and be patient.

Some of the more recent history books say that he burned the ships in order to avoid anyone fleeing and so that they will be determined. I believe that is an exaggeration because I read the original books on al-Andalus and what happened there, and none of the early first generation books that wrote about this state

this fact. They mentioned more details than this and this is such a huge fact that is not mentioned, so I assume it did not happen.

Taariq fought many battles and the final one was on the 28th of Ramadhaan, ninety two years after the Hijrah. Nine thousand of his troops were Barbar Amaazeegh and the rest were Arab, and three thousand Muwahhideen generously irrigated the precious lands of al-Andalus with their blood. In the middle, Taariq had covenants with them and there was not a single covenant or promise that he breached, even with those he was fighting. In fact, the crusaders were forcing Jews living under their rule to turn to Christianity at the age of seven and they were confiscating their property, so to the Jews he was a hero and a liberator. If the ignorant knew the justice of Islam and the rule of Allah on this earth, they would be the first to call for it.

You would be even more amazed at how Muslims treated the Jews at the downfall, eight hundred years after this country was taken away. They went to extreme measures to preserve the lives of the Jews who were under the Muslim rule (Ahl ath-Thimmah). Compare that with when they got the upper hand. When Muslims went to lands, they went to liberate them from oppression, because Muslims are in charge of mankind. Allah put Muslims in charge of mankind.

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ... ﴿آل عمران: ١١٠﴾

You [true believers in Islamic Monotheism, and real followers of Prophet Muhammad sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam and his Sunnah (legal ways, etc)] are the best of peoples ever raised up for mankind. (Surat Aali 'Imraan: 110)

Never did they force anyone to say Laa Ilaaha Illallah. How dare a Muslim force anyone to say Laa Ilaaha Illallah, when we believe as a principle of Islam that his Laa Ilaaha Illallah is not accepted. Anyone who is forced, coerced or pressured – his Laa Ilaaha Illallah is not accepted.

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ... ﴿البقرة: ٢٥٦﴾

There is no compulsion in religion. (Surat al-Baqarah: 256)

There are many proofs on that. Let me tell you who really forced others to embrace another religion. When a country imposes on another country to change their Islamic curriculum and take things out of their curriculum in the name of getting along with others and democracy, and those who spend billions to spread interfaith (the Kufr religion) and get people to embrace interfaith – they are the ones who are forcing people to embrace another religion.

Many battles continued beyond ninety two years after the Hijrah. In ninety three and ninety four years after the Hijrah, these battles were in Ramadhaan too. At a

point, Taariq Ibn Ziyaad and Musa Ibn Nusayr were ordered to stop their advance because of the deputy Khaleefah at the time (Sulaymaan Ibn Abdul-Malik). The Khaleefah back then was al-Waleed Ibn Abdul-Malik, but he was on his deathbed. Sulaymaan Ibn Abdul-Malik wanted them to slow their pace down so the Khaleefah can die, and the conquest will be attributed to his name. Musa Ibn Nusayr and Taariq Ibn Ziyaad did not listen to him and kept advancing. When Sulaymaan was finally the Khaleefah, he harmed and oppressed Musa Ibn Nusayr and Taariq Ibn Ziyaad very badly. They say that Musa Ibn Nusayr made up with him later on and in fact he took Musa Ibn Nusayr to Hajj, but Taariq Ibn Ziyaad lived a lonely life after the conquest.

He returned to Damascus and he lived lonely and secluded – away from the spotlight, away from politics and away from everything. What melts a heart is not only did he live a lonely life, but some books that I read said he was found dead in front of a Masjid alone, and prior to that he was spotted begging. They left him alone. Taariq Ibn Ziyaad was worthy of being the governor of Andalus, just like Amr Ibn al-‘Aas was the governor of Egypt – he conquered Egypt and he was the governor there. Taariq was worthy of being the governor in Andalus, but he was a man sincere with Allah. He did not care about the spotlight – he turned and went on his own and died alone.

The world changed after the conquest of Andalus. We saw men pop up like Ibn Khaldoun, Zahraawi, Ibn Rushd, Ibn Hazm and other scholars in geography, space, engineering, math – in every field and most importantly in every Islamic science you can imagine. It started in Spain and it affected all of Europe. A non-Muslim French writer wrote about this and he said Muslims changed the region. He mentioned a few examples and one of them that I remember was that the Muslims made a lot of Europe civilised. He said women in the northern part of Europe (they were called Saqaalibah (صقالبة)) used to cut their hands and faces with knives and harm themselves when they were widowed. Some of them went to an extreme of hanging themselves when they were widowed, to show their love for their husbands. They would then burn the husband and the wife and bury them in the same grave. When they saw how Muslims dealt with matters like this, they changed.

Islam went to liberate, to remove oppression and to make them humans. This French man writes that there was an area where they did not take a shower but once or twice a year. It was a ritual or a belief, I cannot remember what he said. When they saw the Muslims making Wudhoo’ five times a day and bathing regularly, it changed them. They taught them how to clean, how to deal with one another, and they taught them about mercy. It is amazing to read that Muslims installed streetlights back then. It is amazing to read that Muslims decorated the main avenues of Andalus with flowers and trees. It came to a peak when Abdur-Rahmaan an-Naasir took leadership. He became very popular and strong, and he had an effect on everyone. In fact, in 1961 on the one thousandth anniversary of his death, the non-Muslims celebrated his achievements and accomplishments that overwhelmed the whole region, in honour and respect to him. Many Muslims would not even know who this guy is. What is sad is that our bright

Ummah's legacy has been forgotten, and that brings about a defeatist mentality and surrenderist cowards.

In Qurtubah (قرطبة) there was a library and it was the biggest in the world – it had half a million books in it and they did not have copy machines and printers back then. If there was a library bigger than that, it would have been the one in Iraq – the one also owned by Muslims and under the rule of Muslims in Baghdad. It is the one where the Tartar took the books and poured them in the ocean of Dijlah (دجلة), to the point that it changed the colour of Dijlah. There was also Daar al-Hikmah in al-Qaahirah (القاهرة) – another huge library. Those were the only three major ones back then, but the one in Qaahirah died in history.

When the crusaders entered Andalus, one of the first things they did was burn the books. When they conquered Andalus, a bishop with his hatred to Islam took eighty thousand books to the public square of Qurtubah and burned them all in one day. Then in 646 after the Hijrah, they burned the rest of the books for the Muslims. Why? Because they knew affirmatively that this is what uplifts this Ummah – knowledge and mainly we are talking about the knowledge of the Sharee'ah and the sciences of Islam. As long as they have this knowledge, this Ummah will remain strong. They wanted to or they thought that they can take the Ummah away from this knowledge and away from its roots by burning their books. Little did they know the outline for the Ummah is in our hearts, and that they can never get to. It is not in ink and paper, it is in our hearts.

As time went by, the Muslims began to go astray. They went astray from the teachings that Allah gave them victory for. From competing over memorising the Qur'an, Bukhari and Muslim, and competing over knowledge, it was now competing over girls. From filling the houses of Allah and the Halaqaat, to now spider webs on the houses of Allah and the Halaqaat, and clubs being livened up. Now there was a generation that had a deficiency in Tawheed, Walaa' and Baraa', Fiqh and Islamic sciences, which divided the Islamic Ummah in Andalus to twenty two kings – just like the Muslim world today. I think today there is twenty two, so it is the same thing.

One of the leaders Ibn al-Ahmar was a king in Andalus and he brought non-Muslims to fight his opponent – his Muslim brother in Islam called Ibn Hud. In return, Ibn Hud gave those non-Muslims thirty of his strongholds to side with him against Ibn al-Ahmar. The final king of Spain (Abu Abdullah as-Sagheer) once blocked a Muslim army that was heading to the territory of Maalqah (مالقة), to help Muslims there that were besieged by the crusaders. When the crusaders defeated the Muslims (because he blocked the army going to help the Muslims), they changed a Masjid into a church. Abu Abdullah as-Sagheer sent them a letter congratulating them on the victory. He thought he was scoring points with them and they promised him, so he thought they were going to keep him in power. He

thought that is how victory and honour is achieved, and that is the disease of the hearts.

فَتَرَى الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَرَضٌ يُسَارِعُونَ فِيهِمْ يَقُولُونَ نَخْشَى أَنْ
تُصِيبَنَا دَائِرَةٌ... ﴿المائدة: ٥٢﴾

And you see those in whose hearts there is a disease (of hypocrisy), they hurry to their friendship, saying: "We fear lest some misfortune of a disaster may befall us." (Surat al-Maa'idah: 52)

He sought victory by putting his faith in the hands of the enemy, over his brothers. He did get temporary victory, but when you seek honour in other than Allah, your end is definite humiliation. Right after they used him and made him think he is going to remain in power, they turned on him and took over his territory. Abu Abdullah as-Sagheer (the last king in Spain) surrendered the final stronghold in Ghurnaatah (غرناطة) (Granada). He gave it to the crusaders, then he walked in on his mother crying and his mother told him the famous quote:

أبكي مثل النساء ملكا لم تحافظ عليه مثل الرجال

Cry on a kingdom you did not save like a man.

Andalus is occupied territory just like Falasteen is occupied territory. Abul-Baqaa' ar-Rundi the famous poet from Andalus spoke about Andalus in a long poem. He spoke about how Andalus was – the knowledge there, the beauty of it and how the whole world used to go there to learn. He wrote about how the massacre of the crusaders was, how the traitors of the Ummah were, how Muslims neglected each other and how the young beautiful girls were raped by the crusaders. Then finally, at the end of the poem he says:

لمثل هذا يذوب القلب من كمد إن كان في القلب إسلام وإيمان

The heart melts with sorrow at such [sights], if there is any Islam or belief in that heart!

That which Allah gave them victory with ninety two years after the Hijrah (which was their holding and clinging on to the rope of Allah), when they left it they were defeated in the month of Ramadhaan as well.